



2024



THE INVESTITURE OF EMILY W. MESSER, Ed.D.

21ST PRESIDENT OF TEXAS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY, APRIL 26



SCHEDULE *of* EVENTS

PROCESSIONAL	“Fanfare and Processional” by James Barnes <i>Wesleyan Wind Ensemble</i> <i>Directed by Thomas Willmann, Ph.D.</i>
NATIONAL ANTHEM.....	Gabrielle Little <i>Senior, Business Major and Music Minor</i>
INVOCATION.....	Tom Locke <i>Texas Wesleyan Board of Trustees</i>
PERFORMANCE.....	“O Aula Nobilis” by David Brunner <i>Wesleyan Chamber Singers</i> <i>Directed by Will Chandler, DMA</i>
WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS.....	The Honorable Glenn Lewis '81 <i>Chairman, Texas Wesleyan Board of Trustees</i> Hector Quintanilla, Ph.D. <i>Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs</i>
GREETINGS FROM THE TEXAS WESLEYAN COMMUNITY	Karen Surita '01 <i>President, Texas Wesleyan Alumni Association</i> Brooklynn Rowe <i>President, Texas Wesleyan Student Government Association</i> <i>Senior, Exercise Science Major</i> Angela Rainey '97 <i>Staff Council Representative</i> Terri Kane MHS '99, DNAP '15 <i>Texas Wesleyan Faculty Chair</i> Vickie Stevens '80 <i>Vice-Chairwoman, Texas Wesleyan Board of Trustees</i>
PERFORMANCE.....	“The Last Words of David” by Randall Thompson <i>Wesleyan Chamber Singers</i> <i>Directed by Will Chandler, DMA</i>
GREETINGS FROM GREATER FORT WORTH AND THE STATE OF TEXAS	John H. Robinson <i>Executive Vice President, Amon G. Carter Foundation</i> Mayor Mattie Parker JD '12 <i>Mayor, City of Fort Worth</i> Commissioner Roy C. Brooks HON '15 <i>Tarrant County Commissioner, Precinct 1</i> Senator Kelly Hancock <i>Texas State Senator, District 9</i> Representative Ramon Romero <i>Texas House of Representatives Member, District 90</i> Congresswoman Kay Granger '65, HON '92 <i>U.S. Congresswoman, Texas District 12</i> <i>Texas Wesleyan Board of Trustees</i> Congressman Marc Veasey '95 <i>U.S. Congressman, Texas District 33</i> <i>Texas Wesleyan Board of Trustees</i>

<p>INTRODUCTION OF THE 21ST PRESIDENT OF TEXAS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY</p>	<p>Don Killingsworth, Ed.D. <i>President, Jacksonville State University</i></p>
<p>THE INVESTITURE OF PRESIDENT EMILY W. MESSER, Ed.D.</p>	<p><i>The University Bible</i> Gladys Childs, Ph.D. <i>University Chaplain</i></p> <p><i>The Texas Wesleyan University Charter</i> Vickie Stevens '80 <i>Vice-Chairwoman, Texas Wesleyan Board of Trustees</i></p> <p><i>The University Mace</i> Terri Kane MHS '99, DNAP '15 <i>Texas Wesleyan Faculty Chair</i></p>
<p>THE CONFIRMATION OF OFFICE</p>	<p><i>The Chain of Office</i> The Honorable Glenn Lewis '81 <i>Chairman, Texas Wesleyan Board of Trustees</i></p>
<p>THE PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE</p> <p><i>Hail to thee dear Texas Wesleyan, from the heart I give my praise. In the paths of high endeavor, fame and fortune crown your days. Streaming forth a line of splendor, sons and daughters all declare, Living testimony render, to the worthy name you bear.</i></p>	<p>President Emily W. Messer, Ed.D. <i>21st President of Texas Wesleyan University</i></p>
<p>ALMA MATER - WORDS BY J.C. DENNEY</p>	<p>Wesleyan Chamber Singers</p>
<p>BENEDICTION</p>	<p>Gladys Childs, Ph.D. <i>University Chaplain</i></p>
<p>RECESSIONAL</p>	<p>"Joyant Winds" by Ed Huckleby <i>Wesleyan Wind Ensemble</i> <i>Directed by Thomas Willmann, Ph.D.</i></p>

[*The flags you see around the room represent the countries of Texas Wesleyan students.*]

PLATFORM PARTY

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Tarrant County Commissioner, Precinct 1
Texas Wesleyan Board of Trustees

Gladys Childs, Ph.D.
University Chaplain

Congresswoman Kay Granger '65, HON '92
U.S. Congresswoman, Texas District 12
Texas Wesleyan Board of Trustees

Terri Kane MHS '99, DNAP '15
Texas Wesleyan Faculty Chair, Program
Director and Professor, Nurse Anesthesia

Don Killingsworth, Ed.D.
President, Jacksonville State University

The Honorable Glenn Lewis '81
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Texas Wesleyan Board of Trustees

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21st President of Texas Wesleyan University

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District 90

Brooklynn Rowe
President, Texas Wesleyan Student
Government Association
Senior, Exercise Science Major

Vickie Stevens '80
Vice-Chairwoman,
Texas Wesleyan Board of Trustees

Karen Surita '01
President, Texas Wesleyan Alumni Association

Congressman Marc Veasey '95
U.S. Congressman, Texas District 33
Texas Wesleyan Board of Trustees

DELEGATES

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Tarleton State University Fort Worth

Michael Cinatl
Tarrant County College Southeast Campus

Debbie Cottrell, Ph.D.
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Ravi Dubey
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Don Killingsworth, Ed.D.
Jacksonville State University

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Texas A&M University Commerce

Teresea Madden
University of Texas at Arlington

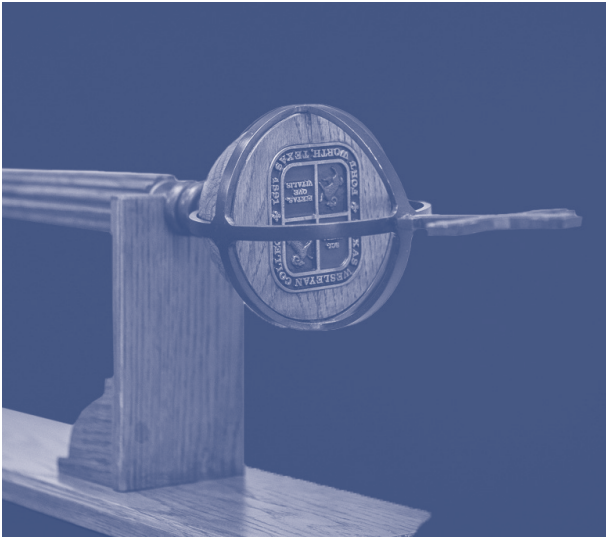
Jake Schrum, M.Div.
Yale University

Frederick G. Slabach, JD
The University of Mississippi

Sylvia Trent-Adams, Ph.D.
University of North Texas Health Science
Center at Fort Worth

Shannon Ydoyaga, Ph.D.
Weatherford College

SYMBOLS OF OFFICE



MACE

A university mace is a ceremonial staff used in academic events like graduations. It symbolizes the authority and tradition of the institution. Typically ornate and decorated, it's carried by a university official during processions, adding grandeur to the occasion. Originating from medieval times, it signifies the importance of scholarship and learning within the university community.

CHAIN OF OFFICE

The Chain of Office worn by Texas Wesleyan University presidents holds significant ceremonial and symbolic value within the institution. It serves as a tangible representation of the president's authority and leadership. Adorned with elements such as the University seal, the medallion embodies the rich history, values and traditions of Texas Wesleyan.

The medallion serves as a powerful emblem of continuity, passed down from one president to the next, symbolizing the enduring legacy and commitment to excellence at Texas Wesleyan. As a tangible link to the past, present and future of the University, the Chain of Office not only honors the office of the president but also represents the collective aspirations and achievements of the entire Texas Wesleyan community.



PROCESSIONAL CROSS

The processional cross at Texas Wesleyan University holds a significant place in academic ceremonies, symbolizing tradition, faith and continuity. Crafted with meticulous attention to detail, it serves as a visual anchor during important university events such as convocations, commencements and presidential investitures. As it guides ceremonial processions, the cross not only provides direction but also fosters a sense of unity and community among attendees, regardless of their diverse backgrounds or beliefs.

Beyond its ceremonial function, the processional cross is meant to stir moments of contemplation and reflection, encouraging individuals to consider the deeper significance of their academic pursuits and personal journeys within the broader context of the university's mission. In this way, the cross symbolizes the integration of knowledge, personal growth and the pursuit of excellence that defines the Texas Wesleyan experience. It serves to remind the university community of its commitment to intellectual curiosity, personal development and the pursuit of high ideals.



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Athletic Director

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President
Senior, Exercise Science Major

Nicole Perez
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Senior, Criminal Justice Major

Keaira Cook
Administrator
Freshman, Biology Major

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Kathryn Keaton '04
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Jorge Vivar '76
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PRESIDENT EMILY W. MESSER, Ed.D.



Dr. Emily W. Messer, Texas Wesleyan University's 21st President and its first woman leader, is a distinguished educator, visionary and advocate for academic excellence. With over two decades of experience in higher education, her leadership combines comprehensive expertise in university advancement, enrollment management and student life, marking a pivotal chapter for the University.

Before her role at Texas Wesleyan, Dr. Messer served as Vice President for Advancement and Enrollment Management at Jacksonville State University in Alabama. Her tenure there witnessed remarkable successes, including record enrollments and philanthropic achievements. Dr. Messer's leadership propelled the university's fundraising efforts, notably contributing to the establishment of the Randy Owen Center for the Performing Arts campaign. Before her time at JSU, she held significant leadership positions at Shorter University in Rome, Georgia, where she was Vice President of Enrollment Management and Assistant Dean of Students.

Dr. Messer's presidency infuses Texas Wesleyan with renewed energy and innovation. Her strategic focus on student success, university philanthropy and the development of new academic programmatic offerings is set to meet the dynamic needs of today's rapidly changing economic landscapes. Drawing from her extensive background in student services, enrollment management and university advancement, she is well-equipped to lead the university into the future.

Moreover, since moving to Fort Worth, Dr. Messer has actively engaged in community initiatives, serving as a board member of the Mary I. Gourley Scholarship Foundation and participating in organizations such as the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, the North Texas Commission Higher Education Council and the Fort Worth John Roach Executive Roundtable. Through these endeavors, she collaborates with local business leaders to provide pathways for students to enter the workforce successfully, thereby fostering economic growth within the region. Dr. Messer has also embraced Fort Worth's vibrant

culture by representing Texas Wesleyan University at the iconic Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo, further solidifying the university's presence within the local community and fostering connections with residents and stakeholders alike.

Driven by her commitment to higher education, Dr. Messer shapes an environment where students thrive academically and personally. Her emphasis on student success reflects her unwavering belief in individual potential, fostering a future where every achievement resonates across generations, strengthening families and communities. She is committed to shaping students into engaged, well-rounded individuals.

Dr. Messer's tenure is marked by her profound commitment to inclusivity and her deep-rooted belief that education is a catalyst for change. Through her visionary leadership, she empowers students from diverse backgrounds to realize their full potential, just as she did herself. Her focus on student success and experience is a testament to her belief in the enduring impact of education, both for individuals and the communities they serve.

With Dr. Emily W. Messer leading the way, Texas Wesleyan University enters a new era marked by boundless possibilities and transformative experiences. Her first-hand understanding of the transformative power of education, combined with her strategic vision for student success and experience, positions the University to continue its legacy of excellence while propelling students toward a future of limitless potential. Under her guidance, Texas Wesleyan is poised to foster growth, ignite forward momentum and redefine the boundaries of what students can achieve.

Dr. Messer obtained a Doctor of Education in higher education administration from the University of Alabama and a Master of Public Administration and Bachelor of Arts in English from Jacksonville State University. Dr. Messer finds joy in spending time with her family and friends, traveling, reading and outdoor activities. She shares these experiences with her husband, Chris, and their two daughters, Madelyn, 13 and Camille, 9.



COMMENDATIONS



Ricky Dotson
Athletic Director

Dr. Messer,

On behalf of the Athletic Department, I want to express a warm welcome to you and your family. Your energy and enthusiasm are contagious and we are extremely excited for the future of Texas Wesleyan University. Your support of our teams is greatly appreciated and we look forward to working with you as you lead our university to new heights and greater successes. We tip our caps to you as we celebrate this wonderful occasion.



Gidalti Chi Fernández
Rambassador and New Student Mentor
Senior, Marketing and Religion Major

It is my absolute pleasure to wholeheartedly congratulate Dr. Messer on her inauguration as the first female president of Texas Wesleyan University.

I still remember your speech about peanuts and how small things can so easily be taken for granted. Your words had an impact on me because it made me feel that every action, moment, or detail, no matter how minor we believe it is, matters if we have the passion to take it further. We give what we have, and I see that in you too. You have demonstrated humility, enthusiasm, and dedication to driving students to success throughout your time at Texas Wesleyan University. I admire your kind and loving attitude towards the students. I respect the way you listen and value our opinions. Thank you for creating this environment where we feel connected with our leader, for making the environment where we can communicate with you, and for showing that you want to be there for us and among us. I recognize you; I see what you do, and I value it.

It is important to commemorate this event as it represents more than just a leadership position in an educational program; it is leadership to shape the future. Today's leaders have the power to inspire and create the geniuses of tomorrow. May God bless you in every decision you make. I look forward to seeing the transformation of this university into something extraordinary under your leadership.



Dennis Hall, Ph.D.

Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students

On behalf of the Division of Student Affairs, I am privileged and humbled to offer congratulations to President Emily Messer on her presidential investiture.

As we continue to provide transformational experiences to our students, we are excited for the future of TXWES with President Emily Messer's vision and leadership at our helm. We must evolve to meet the needs of a changing student body and President Messer is poised to do just that. Her leadership will guide us to deepen the mission of our wonderful university.

We are excited for the next chapter as we join you in celebration of this milestone.



Terri Kane MHS '99, DNAP '15

Faculty Chair, Program Director and Professor, Nurse Anesthesia

On behalf of the faculty, I would like to congratulate you on becoming the 21 st President of Texas Wesleyan University.

Having had the privilege of working with you for the past nine months, it is easy to see the qualities that you bring. Your desire for academic excellence and your passion for the students have already set a barometer by which to measure decisions. Your emphasis on family, togetherness, and communication set an example for students, staff and faculty alike.

The faculty and I are excited to move forward guided by your leadership. We join with you in celebrating your investiture. Congratulations! God bless you and God bless Texas Wesleyan University.

COMMENDATIONS

(continued)



Hector A. Quintanilla, Ph.D., CPA

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

On behalf of the Academy, it is my honor to congratulate and welcome President Emily Messer, Ed.D., and her family to Texas Wesleyan University. For over 130 years the faculty of Texas Wesleyan has helped students achieve their personal, educational and career goals through compassionate education. Since joining Texas Wesleyan University, President Messer has demonstrated a passion for the university's mission and the students that we serve.

As the President, Dr. Messer will guide the university through a competitive and rapidly changing environment. Under her leadership, we trust President Messer to continue and support several important values of the Academy: to always do good, to serve the underserved, and to inspire others to become lifetime learners.



Ricardo Rodriguez, Ph.D.

Dean, School of Arts and Sciences

On behalf of the School of Arts and Sciences, we wish you a hearty welcome to Texas Wesleyan University. The future is bright for the university and your presence will make it even brighter.



Brooklynn Rowe

President, Student Government Association

Senior, Exercise Science Major

Student Government Association President 2023-2024, Guardian of the Golden Shears

On behalf of the student body, I would like to congratulate President Emily Messer, Ed.D. We look forward to seeing Dr. Messer unite our University with her wonderful ideals of populating the campus, bringing students together and beautifying the grounds. We know her leadership will bring the TXWES and Fort Worth community together in unison, strengthening our bond.

I am personally excited to congratulate you, Dr. Messer, on your investiture as our President. Thus far, you have demonstrated your capabilities as a governing leader and continue to put students' success first while creating new, meaningful traditions for our campus. You are an inspiration to the student body, and we look forward to seeing your governance for years to come.



Sameer Vaidya, Ph.D.

Dean, School of Business Administration

Congratulations, President Messer, on your appointment as the 21st President of Texas Wesleyan University. I want to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome on behalf of the School of Business Administration faculty, staff, and students. Your exceptional leadership qualities and profound dedication to education are truly inspiring, and we are thrilled to welcome you to our academic family. We are confident that you will guide Texas Wesleyan University to new heights of academic excellence and innovation. Your commitment to fostering an environment of inclusivity, collaboration, and a strong focus on student support resonates deeply with our values and aspirations.

As we embark on this exciting new chapter, we look forward to supporting you to realize your vision and mission for the university. We are confident that our university will continue to thrive under your guidance and achieve remarkable success. We wish you all the best in your new role and look forward to a future rich with achievement and progress.

COMMENDATIONS

(continued)



ROY CHARLES BROOKS
County Commissioner
Precinct No. 1

February 26, 2024



As Tarrant County Commissioner for Precinct One, it is my honor and privilege to extend my sincerest congratulations to Dr. Emily W. Messer upon her Investiture as President of Texas Wesleyan University. President Messer brings significant experience in higher education including refined skills in student affairs, enrollment, and university advancement and administration. Her love and advocacy for students perfectly aligns with Texas Wesleyan's mission and I am especially honored to congratulate her upon being appointed the first female president in Texas Wesleyan University's 134-year history.

TWU has developed leaders who shape and improve the world for the greater good. Since the university's humble beginnings to the values-driven university it is today, Rams bring valuable research, scholarly activity, artistic and cultural assets, and a diverse array of talent and significant economic benefit to Tarrant County. We are delighted to have such a dedicated and innovative leader at the helm of one of the longest-standing and highly respected institutions in our region.

We look forward to the next 134 years of partnership, collaboration, and prosperity for the benefit of our residents and all Rams across the globe. The future is bright, TWU! We proudly join you in celebrating the Investiture of President Messer!

May God continue to bless the work of your hands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roy Charles Brooks".

Roy Charles Brooks

6551 Granbury Road □ Fort Worth, Texas 76133 □ 817-370-4500 □ 817-370-4503 (Fax)
3500 Miller Avenue □ Fort Worth, Texas 76119 □ 817-531-5600 □ 817-531-5633 (Fax)



Office of Commissioner
Alisa L. Simmons
Precinct No. 2

February 20, 2024

Dr. Emily Messer, President
Texas Wesleyan University
1201 Wesleyan St.
Fort Worth, TX 76105

Dear Dr. Messer,

I am most proud of your selection as the 21st President of Texas Wesleyan University. Congratulations!

I'm equally elated that, in just a few short months, you will become the first woman invested in the 134-year history of Texas Wesleyan University. This achievement is phenomenal! Your selection should be noted in the chronicles of history in higher education; and your investiture should be celebrated by all.

As the lone female member elected to the Tarrant County Commissioners Court, I'm especially aware of the challenges women leaders face and must overcome as they ascend in their careers and as they seek to break glass ceilings to assume higher levels of responsibility.

While your journey to leadership may not mirror mine, of this I am certain: In the words of the Black American poet Langston Hughes, life, for many women leaders, "ain't been no crystal stair." I'm sure, like many of us, you've had your trials.

Today, I wish you Godspeed on your path to igniting fresh ideas to the Texas Wesleyan vision, on bringing new students into the higher education fold and on developing great servant leaders among your university scholars.

Best wishes! I welcome your reaching out to me at any time. I'm here for you.

All the best,

Alisa Simmons

Arlington Sub-Courthouse
700 East Abram St.
Suite 304
Arlington, TX 76010

commissionerprecinct2@tarrantcountytx.gov
Main (817) 248-6099 Fax (817) 212-3056

Mansfield Sub-Courthouse
1100 East Broad St.
Suite 101
Mansfield, TX 76063

Arlington, Mansfield, Dalworthington Gardens, Kennedale, Pantego, Grand Prairie

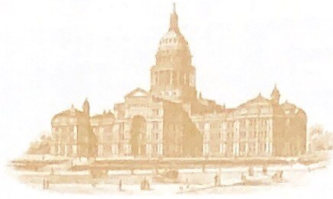
COMMENDATIONS

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The Senate of The State of Texas

CHAIR NATURAL RESOURCES AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CHAIR BORDER SECURITY

STATE AFFAIRS
EDUCATION
BUSINESS AND COMMERCE



BRIAN BIRDWELL

March 26, 2024

Dr. Emily W. Messer
President, Texas Wesleyan University
1201 Wesleyan Street
Ft. Worth, TX 76105

Dr. Messer,

Let me offer my sincerest congratulations on being named the president of Texas Wesleyan University, and let me welcome you to the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

Higher education is always a priority for the members of the Texas Legislature. It has provided new opportunities for countless students. I know you will steward the university with the values Texans hold in high regard.

I look forward to working with you in the future to advance our great state, and I extend my best to you for a successful tenure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Birdwell".

Brian Birdwell
State Senator
District 22



P.O. Box 12068 ★ AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711 ★ (512) 463-0122 ★ (512) 475-3729 FAX



TEXAS HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES

Chris Turner

State Representative, District 101

April 5, 2024

Dr. Emily W. Messer
Texas Wesleyan University
1201 Wesleyan Street
Fort Worth, TX 76105

Dear Dr. Messer,

I want to extend sincerest congratulations on your appointment as the 21st president of Texas Wesleyan University. Your extensive experience in education will serve the university and its students well. The Board of Trustees' unanimous vote is a testament to their trust and faith in your abilities to lead the University into the future.

Thank you for your continued dedication to higher education.

Again, congratulations and I look forward to working with you in your new role as President.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Turner".

Chris Turner

Chris.Turner@house.texas.gov

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COMMENDATIONS

(continued)



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 8, 2024

Emily Messer, Ed.D.
President
Texas Wesleyan University
Fort Worth, Texas

Dear Dr. Messer,

Congratulations on being inaugurated as the 21st president of Texas Wesleyan University.

You know better than most that young people are pushing our Nation forward. Your dedication to shaping our higher education system and to the progress and success of the next generation makes us more optimistic about America's future than ever. As a first-generation college student, your remarkable career and your appointment as the first woman to serve as president of Texas Wesleyan University are powerful reminders that the promise of America—the very same promise you work so hard to provide to your students—includes everybody.

We wish you, your students, and your faculty the very best in the years ahead. We look forward to the incredible things you will achieve together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Biden Jill Biden". The signature is written in a cursive style, with "Joe Biden" on the left and "Jill Biden" on the right, connected by a single line.



THE VICE PRESIDENT

April 26, 2024

Emily Messer, Ed.D.
President
Texas Wesleyan University
Fort Worth, Texas

Dear Dr. Messer,

I am pleased to offer my sincere congratulations to you as you step into your role as Texas Wesleyan University's 21st president. I hope you take tremendous pride in this accomplishment, as it is a testament to your unwavering commitment to public service.

Over the course of your career, your exceptional, tireless efforts have exemplified your dedication to higher education and ensured that people of every background have the opportunity to succeed. I am grateful for the talent and vision you contribute to this field, and I thank you for your commitment to advancing the next generation of leaders. As the first woman to serve as president of Texas Wesleyan University, you are an inspiration to young people everywhere that their dreams can be realized.

Congratulations again, and I look forward to seeing all you continue to accomplish. I send my best wishes for a bright future ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Donald Trump", written in a cursive style.

MISSION

Texas Wesleyan University, guided by its deep Methodist heritage, provides transformational learning experiences and research opportunities to a diverse group of students to develop their full potential as individuals and as members of the world community.

The university's faculty and staff engage in scholarship and research that inform teaching and advance knowledge and understanding, as well as innovative teaching skills and delivery modalities to afford each student individual attention to develop critical thinking, analytical reasoning and creative problem-solving skills through a small community approach that allows tailored student experiences in and outside the classroom.

With a belief that a liberal arts and sciences education develops the mental agility and social awareness to elevate socioeconomic mobility, the university's faculty and staff are dedicated to facilitating success among students from all backgrounds in all levels of undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs in persisting to college degrees that enhance their own lives, the lives of their families, and the strength of their communities.

VISION

Texas Wesleyan aspires to be a values - and student - centered university where motivated students prepare for graduate school and leadership in professional careers.

This vision is premised upon the understanding that professional employers seek individuals who have attained the essential skills of critical thinking, analytical reasoning and creative problem solving. Texas Wesleyan believes that the best way for undergraduate students to learn these skills is in a liberal arts setting through intentionally small classes led by gifted faculty who are committed to student success. This vision also recognizes that most students will need graduate professional degrees to further their careers and that these same skills are required for admission to and successful completion of graduate professional programs.

Realizing that most students will enter the workforce before returning to graduate school, Texas Wesleyan University will maintain graduate professional programs of high quality in formats that are accessible to working adults. These programs will focus on deepening and broadening critical thinking, analytical reasoning and creative problem-solving skills in the context of professional content.

TEXAS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

A Historic Treasure of Fort Worth

In an effort to build a higher education institute in Fort Worth in 1890, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, received land donated to build the school by area pioneers, A.S. Hall, W.D. Hall, and George Tandy. Texas Wesleyan first opened its doors as “Polytechnic College” - meaning many arts and sciences - in the East Fort Worth community. The first classes were held in 1891 with 111 students.

In 1902, President H.A. Boaz brought a period of growth to the college, also forming the first football team. Wanting to further develop Polytechnic College, he sought to bring a Methodist university to the area.

However, church leaders decided to build a new university, Southern Methodist University (SMU), in Dallas, and changed Polytechnic College to a women’s college. In 1914, Polytechnic College was renamed Texas Women’s College and became a major force in North Texas. In 1918, Tandy deeded a 16-acre plot of land to grow the college, which allowed Dan Waggoner Hall to be built as a dormitory.

After facing an economic downturn during the Great Depression, the college merged with Texas Wesleyan Academy in Austin, renaming the school “Texas Wesleyan College,” allowing men to be readmitted in 1934.

Rams football returned to the college with the readmission of men, along with establishing a men’s basketball team, and a few years later, men’s golf. Both the football and basketball teams played until 1941 when the United States entered World War II, leaving the college with not enough men to play. Basketball returned to the college after a two-year hiatus, but football was not started again until 76-years later.

The college began to grow in the mid-to-late 1900’s adding baseball, men’s soccer, women’s basketball, softball and volleyball to its athletic programs. This created a need for an athletic building, leading to the construction of the Sid Richardson Center in 1968.

After contemplating moving to west Fort Worth, the school reaffirmed its commitment to the East Fort Worth community by establishing the Eunice and James L. West Library in 1988. Graduate programs in education began in the 1970’s and nurse anesthesia in the 1980’s. Recognizing the growth in the programs, trustees changed the name of the institution to Texas Wesleyan University in 1989.

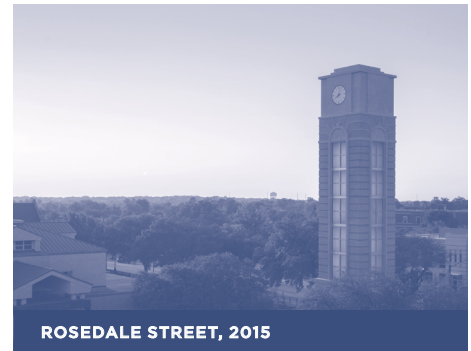




SCIENCE LAB, 1946



PEACE DAY IN FRONT OF THE
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1920



ROSEDALE STREET, 2015

As the University began to grow, more buildings and programs began to form on campus, including the Brown Lupton Center, West Village student apartments, Thad Sollemin Theatre, Ed and Rae Schollmaier Science and Technology Center, and the Jack and Jo Willa Morton Fitness Center.

In 1997, Texas Wesleyan established a Downtown Fort Worth campus with the moving of the law school, which was established in 1992. In the late 90's and early 2000's, women's soccer came to the university, followed by a table tennis team that quickly grew into one of the most dominant programs in college athletics. In 2010, a track and field team was also formed.

In 2013, the law school was sold to Texas A&M, allowing Texas Wesleyan to focus on revitalizing Rosedale Street with the Rosedale Renaissance Project.

The university invested \$50 million into new buildings and renovations on campus to help further expand on a project the city of Fort Worth and other local government entities had begun to further develop Rosedale St. Texas Wesleyan established a "front door" to campus off Rosedale, building the Canafax Clock Tower, restoring business fronts opposite the clock tower, and establishing a business center.

The Martin Center opened in 2019, giving students a central place to hang out, eat, and study. The building also hosts student life and admissions offices, as well as the University bookstore, creating a student-hub at the heart of campus. The Rosedale, a new luxury on-campus student housing facility opened in 2022.

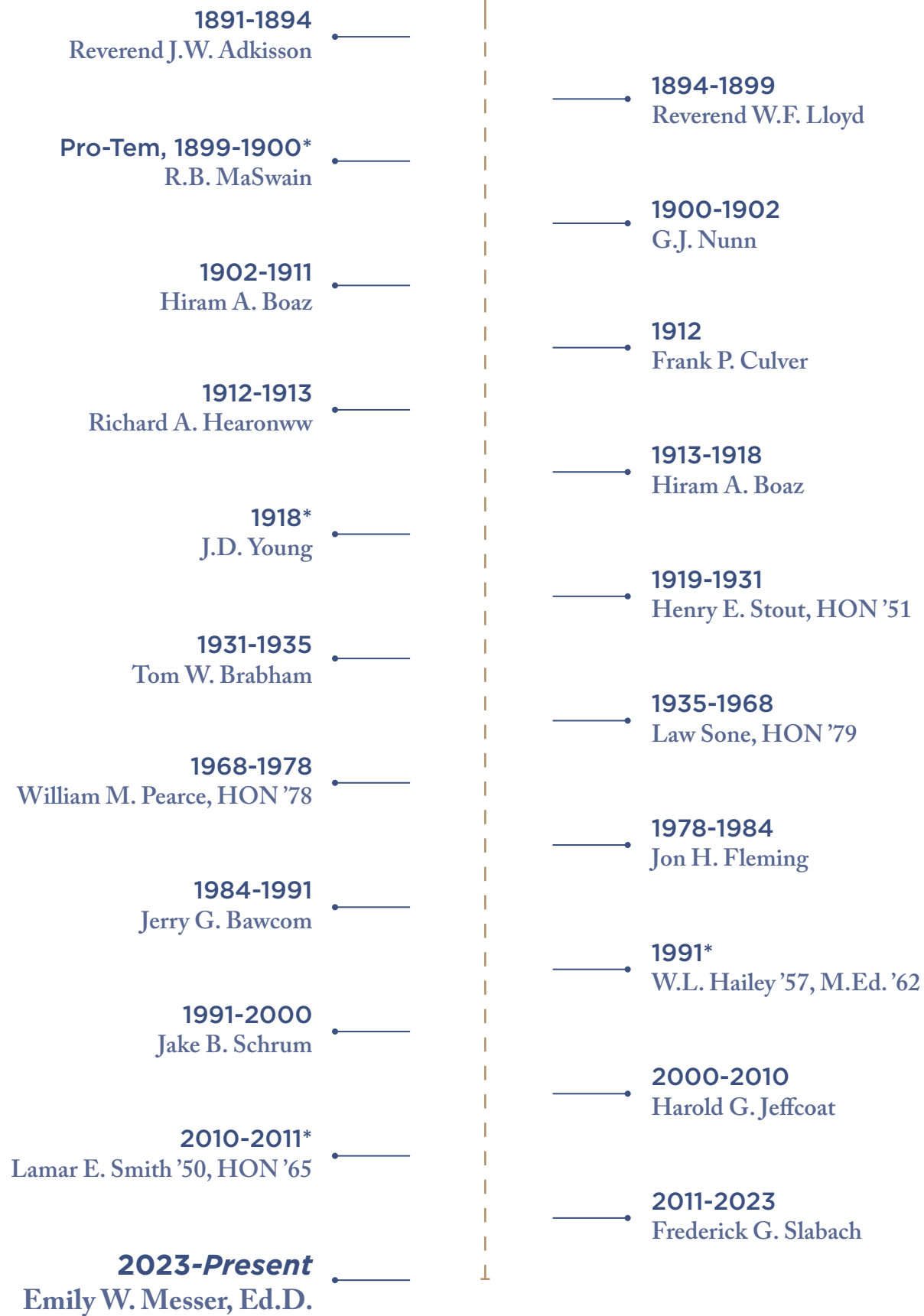
As the campus began to grow, so did the athletics, reestablishing the football team, and adding women's golf, men's and women's wrestling, and women's beach volleyball. The expanding athletic programs drove a need to build an on-campus athletic stadium, which was named after the lead donor Karen Cramer. In 2023, the Board of Trustees unanimously voted to elect Dr. Emily W. Messer as the 21st President of Texas Wesleyan University. President Messer makes history as the first woman to serve in this role.

While Texas Wesleyan continues to grow, it remains committed to serve the Polytechnic community, offering programs to help students in the area a pathway to higher education. The University also works closely with the surrounding neighborhood and city of Fort Worth to help spur economic growth in the area. While remaining affiliated with the Methodist church, the University welcomes people from all backgrounds and faiths.

TEXAS WESLEYAN PRESIDENTS



THE INVESTITURE OF PRESIDENT EMILY W. MESSER, Ed.D.



** Interim President*

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THANK YOU

I would like to share my sincere appreciation to everyone who has joined us this week, either in person or via livestream to celebrate this significant moment in the history of our beloved Texas Wesleyan University. To all who have had a part in making Inauguration Week a success, I thank you. You have faithfully served Texas Wesleyan with your time, skills and dedication, and your extraordinary work is commendable. This was truly a team effort, and it is an honor to celebrate together with you.

Kindly,



Dr. Emily W. Messer

21st President of Texas Wesleyan University



Texas Wesleyan
UNIVERSITY

A Methodist Institution Since 1890

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