2024

COMMENCEMENT

SATURDAY THE ELEVENTH OF MAY

Texas Wesleyan UNIVERSITY
COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

PRELUDE .................................................. Texas Wesleyan University Wind Ensemble & Ram Band

PROCSSIONAL

NATIONAL ANTHEM ........................................... Wind Ensemble
Sung by Darion Chilton

ALMA MATER - WORDS BY J.C. DENNEY
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.

INVOCATION ............................................. Gladys Childs
University Chaplain

INTRODUCTIONS ........................................ Vickie Stevens
Vice-Chairwoman of the Board
Emily W. Messer
President

UNITED METHODIST EXEMPLARY ......................... Luis Aguirre
Associate Professor of Mathematics, Department Chair

TEACHER AWARD ......................................... Emily W. Messer

CONFERRING OF ACADEMIC DEGREES ............... Hector Quintanilla
Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Interim Dean, School of Health Profession

AWARDING OF ACADEMIC DEGREES .................. Ricardo Rodriguez
Dean, School of Arts and Sciences
Thomas Nichols
Associate Dean, School of Business Administration and
Professional Programs
Carlos Martinez
Dean, School of Education
Misti Sparks
Professor and Director of Graduate Programs
in Counseling

WELCOME FROM ALUMNI ............................... Karen Surita
President of the Alumni Association

LITANY AND BENEDICTION ............................... Gladys Childs

RECESSIONAL
ORDER OF THE PROCESSIONAL

Cross Bearer
Bible Bearer

Banners are emblazoned with the seals of the six Texas institutions of higher education affiliated with the United Methodist Church.

Huston-Tillotson University
McMurry University
Southern Methodist University
Southwestern University
Texas Wesleyan University
Wiley College

Banner Bearers are represented by various student organizations at Texas Wesleyan University.

Academic Marshals
May 2024 Graduating Class
Faculty Marshal
Faculty
Grand Marshal
Platform Party
Vice Presidents
Provost
President

Ushers are members of various student organizations.
ACADEMIC REGALIA AND SYMBOLS

American academic regalia originated at European medieval universities, particularly Oxford University, about seven centuries ago. At that time, the teachers were clergymen, the students were studying to become clerics, and the cassock was their usual costume. The tradition has continued through the ages at colleges and universities in the wearing of the academic gown, hood and cap.

The cap, or mortarboard, is the same for all degree. The tassel is worn on the right side of the cap until the bachelor’s degree is conferred, at which time it is switched to the left side.

According to the American Council on Education, the gown for the bachelor’s degree has pointed sleeves and is designed to be worn closed. The gown for the master’s degree has an oblong sleeve base that hangs down and opens at the wrist. The gown for the doctor’s degree has bell-shaped sleeves. The doctor’s gown is faced with velvet and has three velvet bands on each sleeve. These distinguishing marks may be either black or in the appropriate color of the academic degree earned. Though black is a traditional color for gowns, the degree-granting institution may, however, select unique colors for the gown and trim.

The most colorful and significant item of the academic regalia is the hood. The length indicates the degree; the color of the border denotes the academic area of the degree; the colors of the hood lining identify the college or university, which granted the degree. The doctor’s hood is four feet long with a five-inch border. The master’s hood is three and one-half feet long with a three-inch border and a long, large pocket at the bottom. The bachelor’s hood is three-feet long with a two-inch border.

The academic colors most frequently associated with the Texas Wesleyan University academic community are:

- Arts and Letters: White
- Business: Light Brown
- Counseling: White
- Criminal Justice: Purple
- Education: Light Blue
- Exercise Science: Sage Green
- History: White
- Language: White
- Library Science: Lemon
- Mass Communication: Crimson
- Music: Pink
- Nurse Anesthesia: Apricot
- Paralegal Studies: Purple
- Science: Golden Yellow
- Sociology: Citron
- Theatre: Brown
- Theology: Scarlet
- Teal

The green and blue tassels identify members of the Alpha Chi National Honor Society. These graduates are at or near the top two percent of their class.

The gold cord symbolizes membership in an honor society. The purple and teal tassels identify members of Kappa Delta Pi, an international honor society in education.

The mace is a common symbol of the authority and power of a corporate body. Its use as such originated in medieval times in legislative bodies and university faculties. It is carried by the presiding officer of the Faculty Assembly.

The presidential medallion is a symbol of the Office of the President of a chartered institution. It bears the seal of the college and is placed around the neck of the president at investiture to represent the yoke of responsibility for the welfare of the institution.

A TEXAS-SIZED HISTORY

Originally called Polytechnic College — which literally means "many arts and sciences" — the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, founded Texas Wesleyan University in 1890. The school held its first classes in September 1891, with 111 students.

In 1902, H.A. Boaz assumed the presidency and led the university’s first period of substantive growth. During his tenure, new residence halls, a fine arts conservatory, a science hall and a gym were built. Enrollment increased each year at the new university, which was located a few miles from the growing city of Fort Worth.

When Dallas was selected by the church leaders as the site for Southern Methodist University, the Polytechnic campus was designated the Woman’s College for Southern Methodism, eventually becoming Texas Woman’s College in 1914.

During the 1920s, the tradition of robing, which commemorates the relationship between faculty and students through a ceremonial vesting of cap and gown, became a university tradition. The tradition remains to this day. It is an example of Texas Wesleyan’s dedication to a small, personal educational atmosphere.

The college was renamed Texas Wesleyan College in 1935 and has remained a co-educational liberal arts institution with an increasingly comprehensive academic and student life program. Law Sone became the President of Texas Wesleyan in 1935, which kicked off a 33-year period of growth and expansion.

Under Sone, athletics thrived, with dominant teams in golf and basketball; new facilities were built on campus, including a new library and residence halls; and new academic programs in business and education became points of pride for the university.

In addition to strong undergraduate programs, the university added graduate programs in education in the 1970s and in nurse anesthesia in the 1980s. Recognizing the growth in programs, Trustees changed the name of the institution to Texas Wesleyan University, effective in January 1989. The Graduate Programs of Nurse Anesthesia has grown into the largest in the nation, delivering courses to students throughout the United States.

President Dr. Emily W. Messer became the 21st president of Texas Wesleyan in July 2023. She has an extensive background in higher education, from helping colleges break historic enrollment numbers and securing funding for new programming and expansions of colleges, to putting a focus on the importance of student life. She has goals to continue making the university a higher education leader in the community.
CANDIDATES FOR DOCTORAL DEGREES

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

May Mohammed Salman Al-tameemi
Psychological Energy and Its Relationship To Psychological Variables (Somatic, Anxiety, Worry, Concentration Disruption) And Performance Anxiety For Blind Goalball Players.

Christina Danielle Kelley
Transition to Practice: Newly Certified Athletic Trainers' Perceived Readiness in Healthcare Administration.

Silvia Valencia
An Investigation into the Experiences of Elementary White Teachers Working with Ethically and Culturally Diverse Students in an Urban School District in North Texas.

CANDIDATES FOR MASTER’S DEGREES

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Divya Parbhubhai Ahir
Ensah Thomas Alpha
Georgianna Marie Bass
Neil Bertrand
Aljani Bridgewater
Malisone Mathilde Chanthapanya
Allison Dalzell
Ana Erica De La O – Romero
Eliza Espiritu
Keith Anthony Evans
Tatiyana Marie Giddings
Ryan Hammel

Nusrat Jahan
Charity Ariana Moore
Bishwa Ratna Rai
Blake Thomas Taylor
Rene Trevino, Jr.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

MASTERS OF ARTS IN TEACHING

Vanessa Anabeth Roque

MASTER OF EDUCATION

Daavi Mawufemo Atitso
Lindsey Nicole Baumgartner
Brooke Madison Bussey
Arely Chavez
Jennifer Soledad Gonzalez Arriaga
Kalee Kristine Iles
Kathryn Ann Smith
Rita Mawuena Kpormego

Tiffany Danielle Nolte
James Anthony Thurston, Jr.

SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

MASTER OF ARTS IN PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING

Nina Amoah

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPY

Leslie R. Autry-Kinsey
Olivia Fellers
Rachel Elizabeth Hardy
James Dean Marr
Cheryl Lynn Daniel Nichols
Claire Schmidt

Sondra Sien

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SCHOOL COUNSELING

Mary Cing Muang
CANDIDATES FOR BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

BACHELOR OF ARTS

David H. Bates
Mya Cherray Cockrell
Alexa Colvin
Viloki Dhangar
Jessica Stacy Espinoza
Clara Faith Friedlander
Alexandria R. Garcia
Yaneth Gonzalez
Matthew Tyler Harvey
Kathyana Maria Jasso
Saffron Daisy Maasz
Lionel Munoz
Xuan Mai T. Nguyen
Miranda Reese
Mayerli Alejandra Rivera
Alyssa Ann Saddler
Taliyah Janiece Salih
Collin Scott Temples
Sutten Garrett Tidwell
Cynithia Berenice Trujillo Valadez

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

Lora Nicole Davis
Abigale K. Hunt
Nicholas R. Keel
Grace C. Philipbar

BACHELOR OF MUSIC

Darion D. Chilton, Jr.
Mark Elliott Davis
Anna Kate Lang
Emily Ann Morris
Sun Park
Madison Marie Nicole Wooley

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Andres N. Aguilera
Sebastian Almaraz
Ramon Alvarez
Tom Ammann
Warren Richard Asire
Melinda Del Carmen Ayala
Maya Azam
Katie E. Barbarick
Lizette Barcenas
Colby Brook Benton
Alyssa Brinkley
Kristen Carlini
Dysleemar Carrillo Merced
Francisco Alejandro Castillo
Kelvin Coker
Gabriel Demetrio Contreras
Elisha Christian Cooper
Lizandra Cordero
Zhen Deng
Joyce Ann Dukes
Carmen Alexis Flores
Keyantae Janelle Frazier
Carly Grace Fullenwider
Alexa Gallegos
Katherine Galvez
Jose Tomas Garcia
Josue Garnica
Gabriel H. Gomez
Samantha Rene Gonzalez
Yisell Gonzalez Rojo
Nuriyah Simone Hall
Daniel Hernandez
Madelyn Marie Irving Herrera
Belieange Huertas-Rivera
Dejon Martell Jefferson
Maria Rosalinda Ortega Jones
Kristian Lafayettte
Maryellen G. Lafferty
Jaylon Deshun Leonard
Sydnee M. Leonard
Seth Jesse Evan Leung Woo-Gabriel
Jiaqi Lin
Malia Linton
Baltazar Austin Loza
Andrea Monic Malek
Lerato Brianna Mapela
Kelsea Martin
Lauren Michael Martinez
Jaecly C. May
Javon McLinnis
Micale Bailey Mee
Alexa Melancon
Zachery Kane Mercer
Savannah Paige Miller
Victorena Mims
Christian Alexander Myhand
O’Brien Neely
Mary Nyakundi
Bailey Grace O’Donnell
Patrick William Oehler
Dylan Olvera Rodriguez
Hisbani Sarahi Padron
Kunjjan Patel
Jennifer Patricio
Jakeem Patrick
Michelle Ramos
Benjamin Reckart
Samantha N. Rose
Elizabeth Ruiz
Alfonso Mateo Salais
Laura San Juan
Damian Adam Sanchez
Israel Emanuel Sanchez
Sir Marc Raveo’n Sanders
Alessia Christine Santillan
Kindall Marchelle Sayles
Lauren Scott
Maniya Danae Server
CANDIDATES FOR BACCALAUREATE DEGREES (CONT.)

Jamon Smith
Victoria Soto
Theresa Louise Steele
Deryck Debon Taylor

David Gerard Theriot, Jr.
Alyssa Gabrielle Tourville
Noelani Patricia Rodríguez Ramirez
Ancilla Akinyi Joseph Wasonga

Keisten White
Krysta F. White
Jabari P. Wilson

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Augustas Aldonis
Sebastian Almaraz
Seth Aaron Anderson
Jose Armando Bonilla
Tatem Rae Bullard
Cameron Douglas Chapman
Alondra Honstein Chavez
Alejandro Colmenero
Cristal Ytcel Corona Resendiz
Brittany Nicole Crouch
Juan Ricardo Davila Bone
Ruben Jose Diaz Guzman
Kien Trung Duong
Mohamed Hafiz Elbeshir
Luis Gabriel Flores
Raquel Galvan
Josue Garnica
Shahryar Hasan Hamza
Isaiah Haynes
Divandre Hernandez

Brahm Phillippe Howard
Naizllet Fernandez
Brandon Irvin
Ethan Clark Kappler
Aidan P. Kenney
Nate Kopetsky
Jorge Rene Lara Jr.
Hans Karl Lauper III
Kennedy E. Lee
Obediah Lewis
Tzu Rong Lin
Asim Ljuso
Kyle Looper
Andrew L. Martinez
Elizabeth Jean Mathis
Andrew J. McFarland
John Mendoza
Jose Pablo Merino Castro
Ethan T. Miller
Mea Alayna Mohler

Santiago Montes Solarte
Pablo Olmedo
Lazar Pavlovic
William Alexander Quillin
Marissa Giselle Reina
Stephen Roberts
Rickey Demoin Ross
Isabel Cristina Ruiz
Laura Lizeth Ruvalcaba
Antoine Jordan San Miguel
Oscar Jesus Saucedo
Ana Cristina Segura
Michele Driver Shelton
Hangyu Shi
Savanna Rae Smith
Samantha Dawson Stubbs
Han Tang
Katherine Emily Williams
Michael Williams
Taryn Wills

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Erica Montrice Johnson
Megan Mary Kim
Heidi Lafarga
Alejandra Ledesma
Yakedriez Magee
Katelyn Mary Mallett
Zeno Marcheselli

Chaise Allen Nielsen
Nicholas Joseph Rothe
Brooklynn Anne Rowe
Petr Svoboda
Canon Thomas
Shaun Siaka Abijah Tolbert
Rory Kenneth White

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Jeneffer Noemi Escobar

Yasmin Ibarra

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Hailey Bell
Merabelle Haley Carbajal
Robin Nicole Dean
Tabitha Michele Escobar
Dulce Maria Flores
Sarays Marie Flores Lebrón
Camille E. Fournier

Erica Montrice Johnson
Megan Mary Kim
Heidi Lafarga
Alejandra Ledesma
Yakedriez Magee
Katelyn Mary Mallett
Zeno Marcheselli

Chaise Allen Nielsen
Nicholas Joseph Rothe
Brooklynn Anne Rowe
Petr Svoboda
Canon Thomas
Shaun Siaka Abijah Tolbert
Rory Kenneth White
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Dean, School of Education
Leader: Happy is the one who finds wisdom,
People: And the one who gets understanding.

Leader: For the gain from it is better than the gain from silver,
People: And its profit better than gold.

Leader: Wisdom is more precious than jewels,
People: And nothing you desire can compare with it.

Leader: Long life is in wisdom’s right hand,
People: And in its left hand are riches and honor.

Leader: The ways of wisdom are ways of pleasantness,
People: And all its paths are peace.

Leader: Wisdom is a tree of life to those who lay hold of it,
People: Those who hold fast to wisdom are called happy.

Leader: The Lord by wisdom founded the earth,
People: And the Lord by understanding established the heavens.
You are a vital part of the Texas Wesleyan community. Here’s how you can stay involved as a TXWES alumni.

**ATTEND EVENTS WITH CLASSMATES**

There’s always something going on at Texas Wesleyan. Check out our monthly e-newsletter, The Ram’s Horn, to find out about events like the Wesleyan Wine Walk, Alumni Reunion and the Wesleyan 5K.

**JOIN SOCIAL RAMS**

Want to support your alma mater but don't have much time? Share university news and events with just a click of a button to win prizes. Sign up at txwes.edu/socialrams today!

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