



2024

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# COMMENCEMENT

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SATURDAY THE FOURTEENTH OF DECEMBER





# COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

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## PROCESSIONAL

NATIONAL ANTHEM..... Wind Ensemble  
*Sung by Lindsey Salgado, Elyssa Williams & Gabrielle Little  
Seniors*

## 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 ..... Christopher Ohan  
*Associate Dean, School of Arts and Sciences and  
Professor of History*

INTRODUCTIONS ..... Glenn Lewis  
*Chairman of the Board*  
  
Emily Messer  
*President*

EARL BROWN DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD .. Alison Simons  
*Associate Professor of Sociology*

CONFERRING OF ACADEMIC DEGREES ..... Emily Messer  
  
Hector Quintanilla  
*Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs*

AWARDING OF ACADEMIC DEGREES..... Ricardo Rodriguez  
*Dean, School of Arts and Sciences*  
  
Sameer Vaidya  
*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..... Christopher Ohan

## RECESSIONAL

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## ORDER OF THE PROCESSIONAL

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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 College

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

December 2024 Graduating Class

Faculty Marshal

Faculty

Grand Marshal

Platform Party

Provost

President

## 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 degrees with the exception of the tassel, which denotes the academic area of the 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.

The gown is usually black. Some institutions have designated other colors to be worn by their doctoral graduates. 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. The master's gown has no ornamentation, is always black and is distinguished by the shape and length of the sleeves. The sleeves are long and shaped with a square-cut corner at the back and an arc-cut from the front. The gown for the baccalaureate graduate has long pointed sleeves.

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.

## 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. And, 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

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

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

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.



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 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

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### SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

#### DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

Roxy Dahlia Glass

*Examining The Relationship Between Literacy Acquisition of Students in Title 1 Schools and Teacher Literacy Content Knowledge*

Julissa Leyba - Martinez Gómez

*Examining Teacher Perception of a Literacy Program and Its Impact On Student Performance*

Sarah Goodman

*Examining The Impact of Comprehensive Health Education Programs On High School Students' Health Behaviors: A Comparative Analysis of Two Metropolitan Districts in Texas*

Nici Buchanan Harper

*How Principles of Brain-Based Learning Are Used in Title I High Schools and Its Effect If/Any On Student Growth*

Lisa E. Inzar

*School Board Governance Practices and Student Achievement Gaps*

Olivia Michelle Keener

*Educators' Perception of Inclusion and The Co-Teaching Approach*

Nikita La Dawn Walker

*Effective Reading Strategies for African American Boys in Urban Schools*

### SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

#### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Joanne Isabela Bernal Franks

*A Comparison of Several Family Therapy Models On the Clients' Experience of Family Therapy and The Impact of the Therapeutic Relationship On Therapeutic Process: A Group Dissertation*

Ryan Lloyd

*A Comparison of Several Family Therapy Models On the Clients' Experience of Family Therapy and The Impact of the Therapeutic Relationship On Therapeutic Process: A Group Dissertation*

Emilia Elena Rodriguez-Schupmann

*A Comparison of Several Family Therapy Models On the Clients' Experience of Family Therapy and The Impact of the Therapeutic Relationship On Therapeutic Process: A Group Dissertation*

Candice Jones Ronemus

*A Comparison of Several Family Therapy Models On the Clients' Experience of Family Therapy and The Impact of the Therapeutic Relationship On Therapeutic Process: A Group Dissertation*

## CANDIDATES FOR MASTER'S DEGREES

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### SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

#### MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Iliana Alvarado

Micara Ann Austin

Madison Paige Bailey

Arian Shahzad Bhat

Stephen Blake

Genaro Alfonso Cadena Garza

Zemrah Chattha

Carmen Agustina Del Toro

Chayan Leo Mickey Duha

Carrie Finson

Cindy Vanessa Flores

Stephanie M. Garcia

Ann Marie Gohl

Richard Gomez

Philip H. Haas

Andrew Wright Hawkins

Victor Daniel Hernandez

Jahala Hooper

Rosalie Huh

Jaxon Quin Ingram

Evanna G. Irvin

Anna King

Scott L. Kizer

Zubin Macwan

Chase Hall Marstella

Vivian A. McEwen

Ngoc Tram Nguyen

Princeton Edward Pennington

Angelica Plascencia

Sierra June Reich

Blas Rios, Jr.

Fernando Rodriguez

Yuqi Shao

Jennifer L. Stockemer

Karina L. Torres

Melvin Lewis Warren II

Juanyu Weng

Calena Rose Mary White

Yiyang Zhang

Yanqing Zhou

## CANDIDATES FOR MASTER'S DEGREES (CONT.)

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### SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

#### MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

Michael J. Bassham

Caitlin Renee Sullivan

#### MASTER OF EDUCATION

Victoria C. Alvarado

Daavi Mawufemo Atitso

Kayla A. Berg

Garrett Pierce Bodine

Katie M. Davis

Shamon M. Forbes

Laura I. Garza

Adil Jarelnabi

Kathryn Mea'Kalia Kaimana-Trentham

Jamie Renee Lambert-Wilson

Mariana Coradeli Medeiros-Shelton

Jonathan Ray Moore

Trent Mueller

Kathryn Elizabeth Naughton

Misty Lynne Ressler

Theresa Schwenk

Carly Graham Unruh

Maribel Villanueva

Loni Williams

### SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

#### MASTER OF ARTS IN PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING

Ryan E. Karper

Deanna Mehaffey

Lindsey Taylor Nance

#### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

Bisola Janet Adediji

Claire Ann Goldman-Miller

London Hall

DeAndrea Teresa Powell

Kristi Rodriguez

Christie D. Smith

Ashlyn E. Womack

#### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SCHOOL COUNSELING

Brittany Clonch

David Brouwer Strybosch

## CANDIDATES FOR BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

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### SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

#### BACHELOR OF ARTS

Cameron Joseph Dudzinski, Jr.

Jacquelyn Noel Dudzinski

Gabriel Duane Murphy

Miriam F. Orona Bernal

Cameron Rogers

Lindsey Melanie Salgado

Eduardo Yuji Tomoike

Yakelina Vargas Mendez

David Leonardo Venegas

Cameron Jeane' Ward

#### BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

Nicole Lynn Ellis

Reagan Elizabeth Fitzgerald

#### BACHELOR OF MUSIC

Chelsea Nicole Leal

## CANDIDATES FOR BACCALAUREATE DEGREES (CONT.)

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### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Julio Aguero Fernandez	Ashley Flood	Yareishka Nicole Perez Lopez
Alfredo Alejandro Alcantara Espinoza	Jazmin Flood	Jacob Alexander Pullen
Sara Nicole Allen	Angelica Flores-Cisneros	Daniela Beatriz Rivera
Malik H. Banks	Selena Marie Gallegos-Pittman	Lisa Rojero
John A. Bland	Henry Miller Gilbreth	Alexis Rose Saldivar
Anthony J. Bobb	Johvan Katel Hall	Serenada de Mar Hernandez Sanchez
Alyssa Brinkley	Alexis Breann Herrera	Robert Lee Shannahan
Tatemn Angelleec Brown	Jasmine Lee Howard	Robert Preston Sheffield III
Camryn Castillo	Dominique D. Jackson	Brandon Delvone Smith
Gidalti Priscila Chi Fernández	Kendal Elizabeth King	Sasha Trejo
Kelvin Alexander Coker	Jillian Faith Kluge	Rentaro Tsunamura
Yessica Colmenero	Alexa Brenae' Melancon	Gabriela Guadalupe Urbina
Kaitlin Rose Davis	Chance J. Mitchell	Aalyah Villarreal
Jeremy Matthew Duong	Gwendolyn Jean Mitchell	Chiara Siobhan Watson
Elijah Elliot	Eric Lekeith Nelson	Jaelynn S. Williams
Nataly Espinoza	Shana Newman	Phenol Williams
Alexandria Jabri Evans	Joshua Aaron Payne-Morgan	

### SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

#### BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Cristian Agudelo	Zitao Huang	Marisol Rios
Karina Michelle Andrade	Hayden Lowell Hutchens	Felipe Roman Diaz
Bryan Angel	Kieran Jade Koltun	Abigail Delancy-Rosario
Oscar Fredrik Bussell	Heng Li	Judith Guadalupe Rosas
Ashley M. Bynum	Zhiqi Li	Miguel A. Rosas
Joseph Aaron Byrom	Mayte Lira Contreras	Robert Clinton Rylant II
Irene Calderon	Raoul A. Lockhart	Sofija Scepanovic
Abigail Castillo	Jacob Lowack	Mario Silva, Jr.
Judith Castillo	Lane Rand Malone	Nicholas C. Spencer
Gidalti Priscila Chi Fernández	Agustin Eduardo Marquez Giordani	Keorah Strain
Maximillian Corato	Oralia Rosales	Maria Del Carmen Taboada Moreno
Lucas Yudi Eto	Madison McBurnett	Nguyen Phuong Thai
Mohamed Faye	Caleb Ray McKinney	Michael Joshua Thomas
America Galvan	Ethan Thomas Miller	Isaac Timms
Raquel Galvan	Lorrain Magret Nyamwela	Ton Nu Giang Thanh
Jessica M. Garcia	Stephanie Segovia Olivas	Seidi Zenaida Tovar
Mayra Yudzizeth Garcia	Akpevwoghene Sonia Omashaye	Juan Antonio Vasquez III
Jayde Ra'mya Hawkins	Corin R. Onofre	Justin Tyler Ward
Natalia Amayranie Hernandez	Erika Ramos	Benjamin Wiggins
Pamela Hernandez	Kasandra Ramos	Zhilin Zhang
Kyle Jensen Hollenback	Valentin R. Reyes	

### SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

#### BACHELOR OF ARTS

Aleidy Carolina Blanco-Davis	Ana Montserrat Espinoza	Melissa Rivas
Ashley Catalinaw Blanco-Davis	Rose E. Munoz	

#### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Morgan Jean-Michelle Foster	Jamie Rashelle Lopez	Alisha ReAnna Quintanilla
Hope Michelle Garrett		

## THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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The Honorable Glenn Lewis '81, Fort Worth  
*Chairman of the Board*

Vickie Stevens '80, Fort Worth  
*Vice Chairman of the Board*

Dr. Greg Philips '70, Fort Worth  
*Secretary of the Board*

Tim Carter, Fort Worth  
*Immediate Past Chairman of the Board*

Larry Anfin, Fort Worth

Richard Barajas '96, Fort Worth

Commissioner Roy Charles Brooks, HON '15, Fort Worth

Dr. Tim Bruster, Fort Worth

Karen Burchfield '84, Southlake

Susan Coultas '83, Burleson

Karen Cramer, Granbury

Kerry Getter '77, Austin

U.S. Congresswoman Kay Granger '65, HON '92, Fort Worth

Tompie Hall '74, Colleyville

Marsha McCarty Hilcher '69, Fort Worth

Aslam M. Khan, Westlake

Thomas Locke, Georgetown

Nisha Lunia '93, Dallas

Susan Lyons '84, Colleyville

Dr. Louella Baker Martin, HON '03, Fort Worth

Rick McWhorter '84, Fort Worth

Rosa Navejar, Fort Worth

Councilman Chris Nettles, Fort Worth

Terry O'Halloran '78, Plano

David Parker, Fort Worth

Dr. Kimberly Persley '89, Dallas

Lowisa Rainwater '04, MS '07, Fort Worth

Richard Roby III, North Richland Hills

Claudia Stepp '72, Fort Worth

Rev. James Thompson, Arlington

Virginia "Ginny" Tighe, Colleyville

U.S. Congressman Marc Veasey '95, Fort Worth

Max Wayman '74, Fort Worth

The Honorable Glen Whitley, Hurst

## CHAIRMAN'S COUNCIL

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Gary Cumbie, Fort Worth

Kenneth Jones, Jr., Fort Worth

John Maddux '59, Fort Worth

Anne Street '78, Graham

## TRUSTEE EMERITUS

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Norma Roby, North Richland Hills

Dr. Lamar Smith '50, HON '65, Fort Worth

## PRINCIPAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

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Emily Messer  
*President*

Donna Nance  
*Vice President, Finance and Administration*

Megan Cooley  
*General Counsel*

Michele Boillotat  
*Vice President for University Advancement*

Dennis Hall  
*Vice President for Student Affairs / Dean of Students*

Hector Quintanilla  
*Provost & Vice President*

Ricardo Rodriguez  
*Dean, School of Arts and Sciences*

Sameer Vaidya  
*Dean, School of Business Administration and Professional Programs*

Carlos Martinez  
*Dean, School of Education*

## LITANY - "PREPARING FOR THE LIGHT"

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Leader: O, God, we who have waited so long in the darkness seek the light of your coming.

People: Send the light of your advent to shatter our darkness and to scatter the shadows that surround us.

Leader: When we are slow to watch for your coming, when we are slow to wait for your wisdom, when we are slow to learn the wonders you would teach us ...

People: Send the light of your advent to make us watchful and wise.

Leader: Enlighten those who teach, that teaching give way to knowledge, and knowledge bring forth truth.

People: Send the light of your advent to make us truthful and strong.

Leader: Enlighten those who learn, that learning give way to insight and insight give birth to joy and wonder.

People: Send the light of your advent to make us joyful and glad.

Leader: Grant each of us the discipline of the teacher and the imagination of the student, that we may walk in ways renewed by the spirit of learning.

People: Send the light of your advent to make us creative and hopeful.

Leader: May our learning move us to caring; our caring move us to action; our action move us to be strong witnesses to your presence in our world.

People: Send the light of your advent to make us caring and brave.

All: And now, O God, we wait with still hearts and open minds for love, joy and peace to be born among us again. Come to us, Emmanuel!

# WELCOME

TO THE TEXAS WESLEYAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION!

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 Homecoming.

## EXPAND YOUR NETWORK

Staying active as an alumni provides opportunities for career networking, meeting new people and gaining skills and experience as a volunteer. Watch for ways to give back – and grow in return.

## KEEP IN TOUCH

Change of address? Different email? New job? Email us at [alumni@txwes.edu](mailto:alumni@txwes.edu) so we can keep you connected.

## FOLLOW US

Facebook: Texas Wesleyan University Alumni  
Instagram: [@txwesalumni](https://www.instagram.com/txwesalumni)





*A Methodist Institution Since 1890*

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