2023

COMMENCEMENT

SATURDAY THE SIXTEENTH OF DECEMBER

Texas Wesleyan University
COMMERCEMENT CEREMONY

PROCESSIONAL

NATIONAL ANTHEM ................................................. Wind Ensemble
Sung by Abraham Hernandez

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 ................................. Glenn Lewis
Chairman of the Board
Emily W. Messer
President

EARL BROWN DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD . Patsy Robles-Goodwin
Professor of Education

CONFERRING OF ACADEMIC DEGREES .......... Emily W. 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 ......................... 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 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 2023 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.

It is important to note that 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

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. 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 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

Leticia Bertalott
*An Investigation into What Motivates Educators to Teach at Title 1 Schools in a West Texas School District*

Dekisha Browning
*A Qualitative Study of the Educational Experiences of Pregnant Teens in High School*

Whitney Clark
*A Study of Teacher Perceptions on Principal Instructional Experience*

Amy Cunningham
*The Effect of Early College High School Participation on Hispanic and Economically Disadvantaged Students in Texas*

Priscila Dilley
*The Impact of Teacher Residency in Urban Schools*

Paul Duckworth
*Effects of Path Dependency on Career Trajectories of Minority Head Football Coaches and Administrators in Texas*

Desha Green
*A Case Study on Teacher Perceptions of Effective Reading Literacy Teachers*

Rachel Madison
*An Exploration of the Lived Experiences of Texas Elementary Educators Regarding the COVID 19 Pandemic and the Academic Growth of Economically Disadvantaged Students*

Carol Miles
*An Examination of the Influence of Years of Experience and Advanced Degrees on Teacher Retention in Texas Public Schools*

Karen Molinar
*Principal Supervisor Impact On Instructional Leadership and Principal Retention*

Steven Moss
*A Grounded Theory Approach to Exploring the Essential Knowledge, Skills, and Capacities of the Texas Public-School Fine Arts Administration: Perceptions of Members of Texas Fine Arts Administrators (TFAA)*

Robert Pacleb
*Bilingual Funding and Accountability Alignment*

Valencia Rhines
*Prekindergarten Teacher Perceptions of the Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System (T-TESS)*

Karen Leigh Schroeder
*Identifying Educational Strategies to Engage Middle School Students in Math Class*

Nadia Thompson
*Leading at the Intersection: The Impact of Microaggressions on Black Women in Educational Leadership Roles*

SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

DOCTOR OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

Tanya Elise Alexander
*Use of Narrative Therapy and Art Therapy in Participatory Action Research to Address Bullying and Foster Hope for School Communities*

Alzada L. Benton
*A Narrative Approach to Culturally Sensitive Supervision*

Artaya Evette Brown
*An Exploration of the Impact of a Solution Focused Narrative Group Intervention on the Experience of Family Achievement Guild of First-Generation College Students*

Jamie Gail English
*Exploration of the Experiences of Re-Authoring Body Image Narratives of Sexually Active Women*

Natasha Comae Jones
*The Impact of Attachment Styles Have on Intimate Partner Connections: Using Cognitive Behavioral Family Therapy to Reduce Unhealthy Conflicts in Couples with Insecure Attachment Styles*

Francesca Marissa Zephora Patrick
*A Phenomenological Exploration of How the Miracle Question Influences Vicarious Post-Traumatic Growth Amongst Therapists Treating Trauma Survivors*

Mia-Tiara Shonjae Hall
*Using Solution-Focused Support Groups with Christian African American Church Members Addressing Mental Health Service Utilization*

Dione M. Simmons
*Caregiver Burnout: What are the experiences of burnout and quality of life of caregivers taking care of adults with ASD?*

Ebony Skinner
*Solution Focused Narrative Therapy: An Intervention to Improve the Emotional Wellbeing of Single Mothers*
# Candidates for Master’s Degrees

## School of Business Administration and Professional Programs

### Master of Business Administration

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jeffrey Abraham</td>
<td>Andriy Kandzyuba</td>
<td>Megan Price</td>
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<td>Lino Agüero Rodriguez</td>
<td>Jenna Korbut</td>
<td>Elvin John Rosa Jr.</td>
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<td>Naushad Ali</td>
<td>Marcus Maldonado</td>
<td>Elijah Apolonio Ruiz</td>
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<td>David Markines</td>
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<td>Brittany N. Smith</td>
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<td>Isabel Molinar</td>
<td>Jaymya Joi Vaughn</td>
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<td>Shana Sharae Moore</td>
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<td>William Kevin Hymes</td>
<td>Dat Nguyen</td>
<td>Hunter Wilkes Wilson</td>
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<td>Emily R. Isaacson</td>
<td>Utkrista Pandey</td>
<td>Xiaoling Zhou</td>
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<td>ShaKore Shavon Jackson-Lewis</td>
<td>Naomi Lisa Petion Hitoto</td>
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### School of Education

#### Master of Arts in Teaching

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<tr>
<td>A’Keisha L. Burke</td>
<td>Carolyn Jean Langston-Mathis</td>
<td>Diamond Latrice Tate</td>
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<td>Enriqueta Hernandez</td>
<td>Erika M. Rivera</td>
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#### Master of Education

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<td>Abiodun Adegoke</td>
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<td>Nathaniel Bernie</td>
<td>Guadalupe Garcia</td>
<td>Rosalind Hopes Reece</td>
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<td>DaMia Breathett</td>
<td>Monica Rose Glass</td>
<td>Jose Riesco</td>
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<td>Desiray Bunch</td>
<td>Artavia Guyton</td>
<td>Amy Thakham</td>
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<td>Courtney L. Calixto-Cervantes</td>
<td>Crystal Nischell Kelso</td>
<td>Cesely Sierra Thompson</td>
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<td>Tonya Lynn Cole</td>
<td>Latreessa Leonid</td>
<td>Lindsey Thorpe</td>
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<td>Christy Elaine Collard</td>
<td>Linsley Liburd II</td>
<td>Jatarvis Dontral VanDyke</td>
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<td>Wendy Denning</td>
<td>Yolanda Denise McFarland</td>
<td>Loraiza Velez Quevedo</td>
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<td>Jeremiah Harrison Din</td>
<td>Aminah A. Moore</td>
<td>Carla Walker</td>
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<td>Salo Donoso</td>
<td>Mary J. Mosley</td>
<td>Summer Dawn Weber Rauch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Talha Farooq</td>
<td>Yolanda Navin</td>
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### School of Health Professions

#### Master of Arts in Professional Counseling

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<tr>
<td>Mekayla Barnett</td>
<td>Shadai Brinfield</td>
<td>McCartney James Paul</td>
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<td>Kailyn Brooke Beauchamp</td>
<td>Kara Elaine Clayton</td>
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#### Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy

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<tr>
<td>Amy Julia Battles</td>
<td>Chelsea R. Jaubert</td>
<td>Jennifer My-Hang Nguyen</td>
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<td>Lakayla Briann Brown</td>
<td>Kimberly Neufeld</td>
<td>Kandace L. Williamson</td>
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#### Master of Science in School Counseling

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<tr>
<td>Hedibaldo Flores Jimenez</td>
<td>Lilia V. Ramirez</td>
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CANDIDATES FOR BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Paula Aguilar                  Juan S. Galvan                  Madison N Lemming
Kayla Cruz                      Caterina Garcia                   Amyah Jordan Martin
Victoria Monteiro M. Da Silva   Daniela Gonzalez                  Chelsea Miranda
Viloki Dipakhbhai Dhangar      Oshiona C. Hart                   Patricia Orduno
Kimani Nycole Ferguson         Abraham G. Hernandez              Ann Cortez Ruiz
Arletth Aracely Fraga          Selina F. Humphrey               Joyce Watterson

REBeka Dawn Chavez
Lora Nicole Davis
Chase Alan Di julio

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

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Sara Nicole Allen             Ariadna Michell Garza              Julia Pham
Ramon Pedro Alvarez            Cayden J. Glasgow                 Allie MaKay Prewitt
Daniel Roberto Amaya           Marcy Renae Gonzalez              Sydney Alison Randles
Maya Azam                      Selena Marie Guzman                Eric Francisco Reyna
Jennifer Leeann Bashir         Gage Christian Harmon              Anaiah Delores Rodriguez
Rusty Bowman                   Briley Jade Hays                   Cynthia Rodriguez
Ileena Jazmine Breed           Gabriela Jacobo                   Kevin Saldivar
Mariela Jazmin Cancino         Casie Theresa James                Sir Marc Raveo’n Sanders
Gysell Castro                  Dylann Kaderka                    Alessia Christine Santillan
Sydney Charlton                Lamine Komara                       Kindall Marchelle Sayles
Debany Crescency Chavez        Maryellen Grace Lafferty           Keyari Shields
Andrea Coble                   Vondrice LaFrance                  Reese Garrett Simonak
Odalys Covarrubias-Chavez      Manuel Luna                           Reyna Kathleen Soltero
Alissa Nichole Cruz            Jenin Abdel Mahdi                  Sabina Rose Spinelli
Nathaniel J. Davis             Kelsea Martin                       Jeremy Tarr
Linda Marie Diaz               Guadalupe Odalys Martinez         Jackson T. Wagner
Cory Didier                    Chloe Brynne Mefford                April Rose Welshhons
Cynthia Dutra                  Eric Angel Mendoza                 Jabari P. Wilson
Elijah Elliot                  Victorena Leigh Mims                Loryn Jenipher Wooden
Monica Yvonne Escamilla        Monserrath Montes                  Zeying Wu
Saeya Lajo Esparza             Christian Alexander Myhand              }
Patrice Renee Fields           Claudine Myles

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

L. Manuel Ortega
Alisa Palacios
Julia Pham
Allie MaKay Prewitt
Sydney Alison Randles
Eric Francisco Reyna
Anaiah Delores Rodriguez
Cynthia Rodriguez
Kevin Saldivar
Sir Marc Raveo’n Sanders
Alessia Christine Santillan
Kindall Marchelle Sayles
Keyari Shields
Reese Garrett Simonak
Reyna Kathleen Soltero
Sabina Rose Spinelli
Jeremy Tarr
Jackson T. Wagner
April Rose Welshhons
Jabari P. Wilson
Loryn Jenipher Wooden
Zeying Wu
CANDIDATES FOR BACCALAUREATE DEGREES (CONT.)

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Lashella Vaynette Artis
Madison Paige Bailey
Garrett Reid Ball
Alondra Marquez Bustos
Daniel J. Dalzell
Michael Brefo Darko
Tameka Dear
Cindy Vanessa Flores
Yesenia Flores
Kendall Grace Freeman
Jorge Humberto Garza
Tache Kyler Hanna

Jorge L. Hernandez
Victor Daniel Hernandez
Jaxon Quin Ingram
Robbie Jackson
Vanessa Elizabeth Jimenez
Kamryn Elise Johnston
Dulce Alma Gomez Langston
Andrew L. Martinez
Joel Mbayi
Emily Castleman
Neel H. Patel
Zeelkumar Dipakbhai Patel

Lazar Pavlovic
Princeton Edward Pennington
Ali Reza Rahmatellahi
Erick Yared Ramirez
Sierra June Reich
Vanessa Rodriguez
Jennifer Marie Sanchez
Christopher Scott
Rock Antony Torres
Brandon Shea Whitehead
Yanqing Zhou

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

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Leslie Ann Garcia
Ruth Rodriguez

Kimberly Soria
Alejandra Lizeth Villasana

Elsy Zaragoza

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

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Cindy Gabriela Flores
Alan Trenton Greene

Wan Huang
Carley Loren Long
Mattison Belle Parker

Carly Graham Unruh
Dara Carolina Valdez
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Anne Street ’78, Graham

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Norma Roby, Fort Worth

Dr. Lamar E. Smith ’50, HON ’65, Fort Worth

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President

Hector Quintanilla  
Provost & Vice President

Alan Liebrecht  
Vice President for Enrollment, Marketing and Communications

Ricardo Rodriguez  
Dean, School of Arts and Sciences

Donna Nance  
Vice President, Finance and Administration

Sameer Vaidya  
Dean, School of Business Administration and Professional Programs

Megan Cooley  
General Counsel

Carlos Martinez  
Dean, School of Education

Brian K. Builta  
Interim Vice President for University Advancement

Dennis Hall  
Vice President for Student Affairs / Dean of Students
O, God, we who have waited so long in the darkness seek the light of your coming. Send the light of your advent to shatter our darkness and to scatter the shadows that surround us.

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

Enlighten those who teach, that teaching give way to knowledge, and knowledge bring forth truth. Send the light of your advent to make us truthful and strong.

Enlighten those who learn, that learning give way to insight and insight give birth to joy and wonder. Send the light of your advent to make us joyful and glad.

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

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

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!
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 so we can keep you connected.

FOLLOW US

Facebook: Texas Wesleyan University Alumni
Instagram: @txwesalumni