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2022-2023  
UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTHWEST

*Commencement*

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2023



# COMMENCEMENT

## ORDER OF CEREMONY

10:00 AM

### PROCESSIONAL

*Pomp and Circumstance by Edward Elgar*

### INVOCATION

Kevin Stewart Rase

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Cody Dale Stone

### INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATION OF STUDENT AWARDS

Dr. Ryan Tipton, *President*

### STUDENT ADDRESS

AJ Cordova, *Student Representative*

### RECOGNITION OF PRESIDENT EMERITUS

Dr. Ryan Tipton, *President*

### COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Dr. Gary A. Dill, *President Emeritus*

### CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Dr. Brianna Lopez, *CAO, Dean of Instruction and Academic Affairs*

### MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Lee Roberson, *Chairman of the Board of Trustees*

### PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Steve Appel, *Associate VP of Campus Facilities and Athletics*

### INDUCTION INTO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Laura Castillo, *Board of Trustees*

### RECESSIONAL

*Rondeau by Jean-Joseph Mouret*

# COMMENCEMENT

## ORDER OF CEREMONY

2:00 PM

### PROCESSIONAL

*Pomp and Circumstance by Edward Elgar*

### INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Elaine Sena Cortez, *Board of Trustees*

### INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATION OF STUDENT AWARDS

Dr. Ryan Tipton, *President*

### RECOGNITION OF PRESIDENT EMERITUS

Dr. Ryan Tipton, *President*

### COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Dr. Gary A. Dill, *President Emeritus*

### CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Dr. Brianna Lopez, *CAO, Dean of Instruction and Academic Affairs*

### MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Lee Roberson, *Chairman of the Board of Trustees*

### PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Steve Appel, *Associate VP of Campus Facilities and Athletics*

### INDUCTION INTO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Laura Castillo, *Board of Trustees*

### RECESSIONAL

*Rondeau by Jean-Joseph Mouret*

# MISSION AND VALUES

## MISSION

University of the Southwest is a Christ-centered educational community dedicated to developing men and women for a lifetime of servant leadership by emphasizing individual faith, responsibility, and initiative.

## VALUES

### **Faith**

Teaching at University of the Southwest adheres to belief in God, in the Bible as the inspired Word of God, in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and in the separation of church and state.

### **Excellence**

University of the Southwest strives for excellence in academic curriculum, campus life programming, and student activities in a supportive educational community where freedom of thought and expression is honored and the demonstration of faith in acts of service is encouraged.

### **Diversity and Inclusion**

At University of the Southwest, students are instructed and mentored by a faculty and staff who demonstrate Christ-centered values and maintain an environment where students can live and work cooperatively, valuing the multiple cultures from which they come.

### **Service**


As a community of initiative, University of the Southwest challenges graduates to become enterprising members of our society, contributing to the common good by advocating and participating in the productive commerce of free enterprise, the constitutional privilege of self-government, and the practical contributions of community service.



# CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

## AJ CORDOVA

AJ Cordova is from Pueblo, Colorado. His mother and father are Yvonne Cordova and Jerry Cordova. He is receiving his Bachelor's in Psychology and a minor in Criminal Justice. He has played baseball here at USW for four years, including the honors of 2nd Team All-Conference in 2022. He will be returning to USW to pursue a Master's in Business Administration.



# COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

DR. GARY A. DILL

Gary Dill is a retired educator. He served as President of the University of the Southwest (NM); President of McPherson College (KS); Senior Vice President of Schreiner University (TX); Planner in the Texas state department of education (Texas Education Agency); a member of the faculty of St. Cloud State University (MN); and as a pastor in two denominations. His graduate academic credentials include a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in higher education policy, leadership, and ethics from the University of Texas at Austin [TX] and two years of post-doctoral study in philosophy and theology at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend [IN]. His theological degrees include a Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) from Southern Theological Seminary in Louisville [KY] and a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) from Princeton Theological Seminary [NJ]. Philosophy and religion were his undergraduate majors at Houston Baptist University [TX], where he earned his Bachelor's Degree (B.A.). Gary's academic emphases are Biblical studies, ethics, and institutional policy.

Gary and his wife, Marilyn, have five children and nine grandchildren. After retirement, Gary and Marilyn enjoyed living in the Big Bend country and were actively involved in service to the community. Gary served as pastor, and Marilyn served as organist for the First Presbyterian Church of Marfa, Texas. Together, they delivered meals on wheels weekly, played with the Big Bend Ukulele Group, and sang with the Big Bend Chorale. Gary was a member of Sunshine House of Alpine and the Alpine Public Library boards. Marilyn was a member of the Alpine Humane Society, a computer applications instructor for the Alpine Public Library, and a volunteer at the Re-reads Book Store. Gary continues to serve on the University of the Ozarks board in Clarksville, AR.

Gary and Marilyn now live in San Antonio, TX, and are actively involved with University Presbyterian Church.

# CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

## BACHELOR OF ARTS

**Katie Diane Blanco**

General Studies

**Ernesto Garza**

General Studies

**Desidario David Hurtado**

Communication and Technical Writing

**Darian Azariah Johnson**

General Studies

**Pearce Ajani Mack**

General Studies

**Mikayla Leighann Martinez**

General Studies

**Steven Isaiah Martinez**

General Studies

**Marley Mariah Morales**

General Studies

**Serena Deanne Olivas**

General Studies

**Can Carlo Palencia**

General Studies

**Aubrey Ramos**

General Studies

**Awreona M. Ransom**

General Studies

Jorge Sanchez

General Studies

**David Wayne Thomas**

General Studies

## BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**Ryan Aragon**

Management

**Omar Baldenegro Balderas**

Management

**Kaleb Wade Donais**

Accounting

**Jonathan Tyler Gamboa**

Finance

**Jahvonta Jones**

Finance

**Marvin Edward Lowe**

Sport Management

**Taylah Lashae Mata**

Accounting

**Melissa Ann McClain**

Management

**Ramona Martinez Porras**

Accounting

**Jonathan Richard Robinson**

Sport Management

**Patti Renee Stinson**

Accounting

**Cody Dale Stone**

Sport Management

**Mayeli Torres**

Management

**Amee Wedgeworth**

Healthcare Administration

**Tiayana Williams**

Global Management

**Samuel Temesghen Yohannes**

Accounting

# CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

**Isaac Manuel Baeza**

Criminology and Criminal Justice

**AJ Cordova**

Psychology

**Ariadne Gianna Guzman**

Psychology

**Cesar Eduardo Guzman**

Exercise Science

**Kaitlyn Hill**

Psychology

**Joshua Charles Jennings••**

Psychology

**Julian Martin Lopez**

Biology-Premed

**Cristian Muratalla**

Criminology and Criminal Justice

**Linda Medina Perales**

Psychology

**Kevin Stewart Rase•••**

Criminology and Criminal Justice

**Emma Jewel Rocco**

Biology-Premed

**Kristen Nicole Salomon**

Biology-Pre Med

**Veronica Segovia**

Psychology

**Samuel Torrez**

Exercise Science

**Miguel Valdez**

Exercise Science



# CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION

Alyssa K. Arnwine

Early Childhood Education

**Ti'Leasha Keishaun Janay Branscom**

Early Childhood Education

**Cheyenne Chavarria**

Secondary Education-General Science

**Antonio Nathaniel Cruz**

Kinesiology and Exercise Science

**Alexia Monique Esparza**

Kinesiology and Exercise Science

**Jami E. Hammons•**

Special Education-General Science

**Joshua Ntumba Ilunga**

Kinesiology and Exercise Science

**Gabriel Anthony Najera**

Kinesiology and Exercise Science

**Ashley Marie Nelson•**

Elementary Education-Science

**Bryden Emmanuel Rodriguez**

**Flores•••**

Secondary Education-Mathematics

**David Sanchez**

Kinesiology and Exercise Science

**Shaniqua Sanders**

Early Childhood Education

Jeffrey Dawson Sherrill

Secondary Education-Mathematics

Clinton Sims

Kinesiology and Exercise Science

**Latarryus Jahdai Smith**

Kinesiology and Exercise Science

**Julian Sosa**

Kinesiology and Exercise Science

**Eroz Enrique Sotelo**

Kinesiology and Exercise Science

**Gabriela Nayeli Tapia•••**

Kinesiology and Exercise Science

**Valeria Elizabeth Trevino•••**

Kinesiology and Exercise Science

**Bryan Lee Vasquez**

Kinesiology and Exercise Science

**Maribel Juarez Yanez**

Kinesiology and Exercise Science

**Jeanette Zamora•**

Biology - Pre Nursing

**Breanna Rochelle Zepeda**

Early Childhood Education

# CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

## MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**Jamela Asher**

Accounting

**Belinda I. Bass**

Public Administration

**Dalton Ray Beatty**

Sports Management and Recreation

**Nathaniel R. Calderon\***

Data Analytics and Business Intelligence

**Amy Caprari**

Strategic Management

**Anson Lamar Castanon**

Finance

**Catherine Michael Chandler\*\***

Strategic Administration

**Miranda Cilfone\*\***

Human Resource Management

**Patrick Divens\*\***

Project Management

**Karl Kent Emmel**

Finance

**Leslie Olga Estrella**

Human Resource Management/Accounting

**Calvin Field**

Human Resource Management

**Joshua Emmanuel Garcia-Matta\*\***

Healthcare Administration

**Paulette Michelle Green**

Healthcare Administration

**Danielle Hernandez**

Executive Track

**Kenji Kojima\*\***

Marketing

**Kaley Shea Lang**

Healthcare Administration

**David Luera\*\***

Sports Management and Recreation

**Kennedy Denise McRuffin\*\***

Healthcare Administration

**Vanessa Rose Michael**

Healthcare Administration

**Cheyenne Miles**

Marketing

**Dawn Sherry Miller\***

Marketing

**Rocio Anahi Mino**

Healthcare Administration

**Ezekiel Javier Munoz\*\***

Human Resource Management

**Albert Hampton Obier\*\***

Self-Design

**Lindsey Phoebe Pellman\***

Human Resource Management

**Dwane L. Richardson**

Law Enforcement and Corrections

**Ala Rudziankova\*\***

Human Resource Management

**Saida Santillan**

Finance

**Patricia Soriano**

Finance

**Montanah Varner**

Human Resource Management

**Kareema White**

Human Resource Management

# CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

## MASTER OF SCIENCE

**Grace Anne Baker\*\***

Medical Sciences

**Veronica Manuela Barrot\***

Criminology and Criminal Justice

**Quayshaun Beauford**

Medical Sciences

**Nia Alexis Bell**

Psychology

**Alyssa Bender**

Kinesiology

**Katherine Bertschi\*\***

Biology-Genetics

**Marlou Charlot Blankvroot\*\***

Biology-Forensic

**Jonathan Bloodman\*\***

Kinesiology

**Deanna Craig Bruer**

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

**Shanyce Cabrales**

Sports Psychology

**Marzieh Mohtashami Cassidy**

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

**Crystal Castillo\*\***

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

**Taisha Concepcion**

Psychology

**Angela Cruz\*\***

Kinesiology

**Ronnie Davis**

Biology - Forensic

**Brittany Escobar**

Biology - Forensic

**Roberto Galindo**

Health and Human Performance

**Jacquelyn Garcia\*\***

Biology - Forensic

**Raymundo Gonzales**

Criminology and Criminal Justice

**Chelcy J. Green\*\***

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

**Lorrie Grinkewitz\***

Biology - Genetics

**Elizabeth Biernat Hallock\*\***

Psychology

**Kathleen J. Henderson\*\***

Psychology

**Jasmine Jones**

Biology - Genetics

**Garret Keys\*\***

Biology - Forensic

**Morgan Klimek\***

Biology - Forensic

**Juwann Norwood Lee\***

Biology - Genetics

**Afsoun Loueizadeh\*\***

Biology - Genetics

**Ashley Karin Luther\*\***

Biology - Forensic

**Shania Maddux**

Sports Psychology

**Alberto Mares**

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

**Keysha Kaye Martin**

Psychology

**Matthew William Mata**

Health and Human Performance

**Tyesha McAlister**

Medical Sciences

**Jasmine Maria McNeil\***

Sports Psychology

**Lane Methvin\*\***

Medical Sciences

**Karla Monterroso**

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

**Krystal O'Berry\*\***

Medical Sciences

# CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

## MASTER OF SCIENCE

**Nicholas Palomino\*\***

Kinesiology

**Pooja Patel**

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

**Rebekah Richard\*\***

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

**Courtney Samaniego**

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

**Mackenzie Savell**

Biology - Forensic

**Adrianna Silva**

Kinesiology

**Monica Soria-Pell\*\***

Biology-Genetics

**Benjamin Trentacoste\*\***

Medical Sciences

**Tyler Uyehara\*\***

Psychology

**Alexis Vanduzer\*\***

Biology - Forensic

**Alexandria Vasquez\*\***

Medical Sciences

**Adam Villegas\***

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

**Amber Willis\***

Biology –Forensic

**Neché Williams**

Criminology and Criminal Justice

# CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION

**Heather Allen**

Educational Diagnostics

**Gina Kristin Apilado\*\***

Special Education

**Yocheved Ausfresser**

Special Education

**Bruce Bailey**

Teaching and Learning

**Joseph Batyko**

Teaching and Learning

**Shelbey N. Benfield\*\***

Teaching and Learning

**Jeffrey Scott Bethke\*\***

School Counseling

**Darren Blair**

Teaching and Learning

**Justin Brooks\*\***

School Counseling

**Alicia Brown**

School Counseling

**Amanda Burgess**

School Counseling

**Jose Orlando Calvario\***

School Counseling

**Diane L. Capizzo\*\***

School Counseling

**Maria Cardenas**

School Counseling

**Shanah Caskey\*\***

Special Education

**Miranda Cisneros**

Teaching and Learning

**Connie K. Clark\*\***

Teaching and Learning

**Kristina N. Contratto\*\***

Special Education

**Brianna Covarrubias\*\***

Special Education

**Kelly Jo Crider**

School Counseling

**Elizabeth Diller\*\***

Educational Diagnostics

**Jessica Dolezal\***

School Counseling

**Ronor Escabarte**

Special Education

**Sylvester Fininen**

Special Education

**Stormie Fisher\*\***

Online Teaching-Non-Licensure

**Alyssa Garcia\*\***

Teaching and Learning

**Jessica Garcia**

School Counseling

**Jay Garcia-Hargrove\***

Teaching and Learning

**Rylee Marie Garza\*\***

Educational Diagnostics

**Jessica Gazdik\*\***

Educational Diagnostic

**Katherine Gervasio\*\***

Teaching and Learning

**Reynaldo Gonzalez\*\***

Educational Diagnostics

**Justin Gossett\*\***

Educational Diagnostics

**Taylor Greene\*\***

Teaching and Learning

**Jason Scott Grosch\*\***

Teaching and Learning

**Patricia Dawn Hayes\*\***

School Counseling

**Rachel Herald\*\***

School Counseling

**Emily Hornish\*\***

Teaching and Learning

**Taylor Houston\***

School Counseling

**Amy C. Howe\*\***

Educational Diagnostics

# CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION

**Stephanie Jaffry\*\***

Special Education

**April-Hope Johnson\***

Teaching and Learning

**Makayla Johnson\***

School Counseling

**Faith Kline\***

School Counseling

**Kelly Leon\*\***

School Counseling

**Jenny Llagas\*\***

Special Education

**Nudson Baisa Llagas**

Special Education

**Alexandria Rose Lopez**

Educational Leadership

**Regina Leven Maldonado**

Teaching and Learning

**Brittany R. McCorry-White**

Special Education

**Samantha Allen McKenna\*\***

School Counseling

**Angelique Raquel Mesa**

School Counseling

**Kyle Wesley Meyers\*\***

School Counseling

**Kelsey Moore**

School Counseling

**Aaron Morgan\*\***

School Counseling

**Caresse Jones Morings**

School Counseling

**Annisa Myron\*\***

Educational Diagnostics

**Natasha Nash**

Special Education

**Kristina Crockett Neighbors\*\***

Educational Diagnostics

**Amy Nguyen\*\***

Special Education

**Adriana Guadalupe Ordonez Ortega\*\***

Teaching and Learning

**Theresa Pabon**

Special Education

**Mayleene Agron Paderes\***

Special Education

**Emi Penney**

School Counseling

**Anna L. Petersen\*\***

Self-Design

**Tra My Thi Phan**

School Counseling

**Kyla Pohl**

Special Education

**Dana Poling\*\***

Teaching and Learning

**Samantha Portillo\*\***

Teaching and Learning

**Thaliyza Prentiss**

Teaching and Learning

**Karen Price\*\***

Special Education

**Le'Jeta Proctor**

School Counseling

**Kari Putz**

Teaching and Learning

**Sydney Ramey**

Special Education

**Rachel Rascon**

Mental Health Counseling

**Shelby Don Keith Reeves\***

Educational Leadership

**Karla Michelle Rodriguez**

Educational Leadership

**Monica Nicol Sanchez**

Self-Design

**Ashley Sandberg\*\***

Teaching and Learning

**Lacie Sanders\*\***

Educational Leadership

# CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION

**Elizabeth Sarabia**

School Counseling

**Brittney Segobia\***

School Counseling

**Cindy Serrano\*\***

Educational Diagnostics

**Suzie Shay\*\***

Educational Diagnostics

**Genna Marie Slayton**

Teaching and Learning

**Esther Smidt\*\***

Teaching and Learning

**Lyndall Smith\*\***

Teaching and Learning

**Katherine Sullivan\*\***

School Counseling

**Kiana Sweatt\***

Special Education

**Darrence Taylor**

Teaching and Learning

**Antawne Temple**

Teaching and Learning

**Adrienne Thomas\*\***

Educational Diagnostics

**Anthony Thomas**

Online Teaching-Non-Licensure

**Tracey Thomas\*\***

School Counseling

**Melvina Torres\*\***

Educational Diagnostics

**China Torres\***

Special Education

**Jesus Christian Trejo\*\***

Teaching and Learning

**Ruben D. Trujillo\***

Teaching and Learning

**Stephanie Tueller\*\***

School Counseling

**Christian Armin Verdugo-Black**

School Counseling

**Nicole Villanueva\*\***

Educational Diagnostics

**Wendy Wade\*\***

Special Education

**Nicole Warren**

School Counseling

**Logan Watercutter\*\***

School Counseling

**Krystal Yates\*\***

School Counseling

**Lisa Zachry\*\***

School Counseling

**Cayetana Zamora**

Teaching and Learning

**Jasmine Zaragoza**

Teaching and Learning

# CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

## DOCTOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**Dr. Olubukola Akindeinde**

Leadership and Organizational Development

**Dr. Ricky Anderson\*\***

Strategy and Innovation

**Dr. Amme Blumenauer\*\***

Leadership and Organizational Development

**Dr. Jennifer Carmona\*\***

Leadership and Organizational Development

**Dr. Derek Chase Greebon\*\***

Leadership and Organizational Development

**Dr. Schenika Harrison**

Leadership and Organizational Development

**Dr. Chioma Menakaya**

Self-Design

**Dr. Courtney Moore\*\***

Leadership and Organizational Development

**Dr. Ajith Nair\*\***

Strategy and Innovation

**Dr. Daniel Otero\*\***

Leadership and Organizational Development

**Dr. Denise Turley\*\***

Leadership and Organizational Development

**Dr. Veronica Guard-Weekes\*\***

Strategy and Innovation

## DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

**Dr. Beibhinn McDermott\*\***

Educational Psychology

**Dr. Regina Leah Reber\*\***

Special Education

**Dr. Robert Calvin Sims Jr.**

Self-Design



# HONOR GRADUATES

Graduating seniors who have completed 30 semester hours at University of the Southwest with an exceptional cumulative grade point average (GPA) receive the following honors:

Summa Cum Laude; "with highest honors"- students with GPA of 4.00

Magna Cum Laude; "with high honors"- students with a GPA of 3.90

Cum Laude; "with honors"- students with a GPA of 3.80

Master's level and Doctoral level students who have completed a degree at University of the Southwest with an exceptional cumulative grade point average receive the following honors:

Graduate with High Distinction; students with GPA of 3.95 - 4.00

Graduate with Distinction; students with GPA of 3.90 - 3.94

## AWARDS

Academic Excellence Award– Presented to the graduating senior with the highest cumulative grade point average.

Dean's Award- Presented to the graduating senior who best represents the ideals of the university in their community.

President's Award- Presented to the Master graduate who best represents the ideals of the university in their community.

Trustees' Award- Presented to Doctoral graduate who best represents the ideals of the university in their community.

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mrs. Sabrina Amador  
Mr. Ken Bromley  
Mr. Cliff Brunson  
Mr. Brad Caress  
Laura K. Castillo, Esquire  
Mr. Gary Eidson  
Mrs. Heather Evans  
Mrs. LeAnne Gandy  
Mrs. Kristi Goodwin  
Dr. George L. Klein

Mr. James D. Lackey  
Michael Newell, Esquire  
Mr. Raul Quintana  
Mr. Lee Roberson  
Mr. Richard Sanchez  
Dr. Elaine Sena Cortez  
Mr. David Shaw  
Mr. Brian Snider  
Mr. Samuel S. Spencer, Jr.  
Mrs. Lizabeth White

## EMERITI

\*Linda Aycock  
Professor of Education  
Dr. Gary A. Dill  
President Emeritus  
Dr. Sue Fox  
Professor of Education  
John Larry Goldman  
Professor of History/Political Science  
\*Tyler James  
Head Golf Coach Emeritus

Will Roan  
Professor of Mathematics  
\*Kenneth Sagerty  
Professor of Education  
\*Dr. Marilyn Smith  
Professor of Education  
\*Joan M. Tucker  
President Emerita  
Robert Woodmansee  
Professor of Biology

\* Emeriti who are deceased.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

USW sincerely appreciates the following community partners for their role in making the 2023 Commencement a memorable event!

Gomez Pro Audio

Great Western Dining

Heaven Scent Flowers and Gifts

Miller Waldrop

OMG Printing

Q Systems

Rockwind Community Link

The Little Things Duo

Winners World

## DISCLAIMER

While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of this program, printing deadlines and other factors sometimes prevent inclusion of graduates' names or may result in publication of names of individuals who have not completed graduation requirements. This program, therefore, should not be used to determine a student's official academic or degree status, and the university makes no representations as such and further reserves all rights to amend, alter, or delete the contents of this program at any time.

