



Gateway to Service

Commencement Weekend

May 3 - May 5, 2024



WASHINGTON
ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Commencement Weekend

May 3 - May 5, 2024

Mission

Washington Adventist University is a learning community committed to the Seventh-day Adventist Christian vision of excellence and service. This cosmopolitan institution challenges students to seize the opportunities for learning in the nation's capital, in order to become moral leaders in communities throughout the world.

Class of 2024 Theme:

Resilience

Class of 2024 Motto:

In the face of unprecedented challenges, we stood firm and resilient. Our journey began during the height of the pandemic and quarantine in 2020, thrusting us into a world of uncertainty and change. Despite the obstacles, we persisted, adapted, and thrived.

Class of 2024 Scriptures:

Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand. - Isaiah 41 :10

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. - James 1:2-4

And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. - Romans 5:3-4



Gateway to Service *1904-2024*

Dear WAU Graduate:

Congratulations on your outstanding academic accomplishment! A few years ago you entered through the Gateway to Service at Washington Adventist University seeking the required knowledge on your career pathway to become a competent moral leader in preparation to serve in communities throughout the world. We are excited that you choose WAU to support you on your career journey. Your success is not a surprise, it is well earned. As you leave the University through the Gateway to Service on the 120th year of WAU, put knowledge into action and change the world by linking scholarship with service. Continue to be committed to a belief and value system that results in responsible moral choices and the care of the body, mind, and spirit.

The purpose of the Washington Adventist University experience is not only for you to earn a degree, but to prepare you to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Your earned degree is not designed to elevate you above others, but to vertically connect you to God and horizontally connect you with others in meaningful ways. Make every interaction with people an opportunity to leave people feeling a little better. Become a hero by submitting yourself to the needs of others. Class of 2024, put your academic accomplishments to work by serving your community; your every act of service makes a difference!

Please join me in expressing appreciation to our valued faculty and to the entire WAU learning community for their dedication and commitment to your success. You are now a distinguished alumnus of Washington Adventist University! You are now a lifelong partner in making the mission of WAU a reality for others!

Congratulations! May the Love of God, the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be your support throughout life's journey!

Sincerely,

Weymouth Spence, Ed.D., R.T.
President



Consecration
Friday, May 3, 2024 ✽ 7:30 P.M.

Prelude	Sonata in B Minor – Presto - Joseph Haydn	Valeria Bentivegna#, <i>piano</i>
Processional	Trumpet Voluntary - John Stanley	Jidong Zhong, <i>organ</i>
Invocation		Ralph Johnson, Vice President, Student Life
Musical Selection	How Great Thou Art - Stuart K. Hine	Anne-Marie Elsinger‡, <i>soprano</i> Daniel Lau, <i>piano</i>
Welcome		Betty Johnson, Dean Betty Howard Center for Student Success
Scripture Reading	Joshua 1:9	Maria Cardona†
Video Presentation		Class of 2024
Video Presentation Music	Con sin igual amor (Now I belong to Jesus) Arr. Ariel Arieta	Ariel Arieta#, Brian Liu, Preston Hawes, <i>violins</i> Emmanuel Arieta, <i>piano</i>
Tribute	<i>Flowers given to family and faculty</i>	Class of 2024
Musical Selection	Gotta Do Right - Heritage Singers	Henrique Da Silva†, Gabriel Moraes†, Richard Machado, Asiel Hetsberger, Lysle Follette, <i>vocalists</i>
Introduction of Speaker		Gopi Sunkara†, Class President
Consecration Address	The Necessity of Patience	Timothy Nelson, Dean of Men
Class Pastor's Response		Ajeya Watson†, Class Pastor

Consecration
Friday, May 3, 2024 ✽ 7:30 P.M.

Litany of Consecration

Patrick Farley, Leader
Angelisa Andrade, Faculty
Reina Cardona†, Graduand
Basava Jitta, Parent

Leader: Lord, in a time of crisis and opportunity we present this class of overcomers to You. May they focus not on worldly distractions but on you. May they take heart that God has overcome the world. May they commit their abilities to You.

Graduands/Graduates: As we begin our new roles, we accept the challenge of trusting the Lord and using our gifts to serve. We recognize that we are gifted differently—not because we should be separate or alienated from each other, but so that we can see our need for each other.

Faculty/Staff/Administration: During your years at Washington Adventist University, we have guided, nurtured, and shaped you. As you leave, we pray for your continued progress to serve in families and corporations, in businesses and schools, in hospitals and houses of worship—teaching, ministering, healing, and working for justice and equality.

Parents: Lord, may they use their talents for the good of humanity—knowing that their maturity will be judged by how well they are able to disagree and yet continue to love one another, cherish one another, and seek the greater good of one another.

Leader: Forgive us Lord for having treated with disdain the weak, the poor, the unemployed, the immigrants, the depressed, the “failures.” Forgive us for not living out your love.

Graduands/Graduates: Forgive us for not showing compassion and care—for making power and money the gods at whose altars we have bowed our knees. Give us the grace to trust You and to rely on You with all our heart.

Faculty/Staff/Administration: Lord, give them the courage to acknowledge their inadequacies, the wisdom to rely on You, and the compassion to act justly in this chaotic world.

Graduands/Graduates: Give us open minds to understand and open hearts to act honestly. Help us to use our diverse talents faithfully—not for personal advancement, but for ministering to our broken homes and fractured communities.

Congregation (Leader): Give them good judgment to be models of authentic living, so others can learn of Your love. Protect them from the gods of gold, of greed, of power.

Graduands/Graduates: As we leave the protection and support of this campus environment, we—the grounded champions—trust the Lord to grant us the desires of our hearts, and we pledge to serve both

Consecration

Friday, May 3, 2024 ✽ 7:30 P.M.

Him and humanity.

All (Leader): Dear graduates . . . stay focused, for God has promised to be with you. Lord, give them the audacious compassion to be the humble servants that this world cries out for.

Leader: Lord, help the graduates stay focused on this vision, to always have the courage in their hearts to be the change the world needs.

Graduands/Graduates: Lord, with our varied gifts and abilities, we accept the challenge and present ourselves for consecration to You, for active service to humanity.

~ Joan A. Francis, writer
~ Updated 2024, Richard Grant

Musical Selection

Gratitude
- Brandon Lake

Filipe Cioni†, *tenor*
Henrique Da Silva†, *piano*
Gabriel Moraes†, *guitar*

Benediction

Timothy Nelson, Class Sponsor

Recessional

Rigaudon
- Andre Campra

Jidong Zhong, *organ*

December, 2023 graduate
† Graduand – One about to graduate: a candidate for a degree
‡ Music Therapy Equivalency Program completed

Baccalaureate

Saturday, May 4, 2024 ✽ 11:00 A.M.

Prelude	Concerto for Two Horns in E-Flat Major, I. Allegro Moderato - Antonio Rosetti	Emily Aponte† and Emilio Colina, <i>French horns</i>
Processional	Crown Imperial March - William Walton	
Welcome and Church Life		Alex Barrientos, Senior Pastor, Sligo SDA Church Henrique Da Silva†, President, Student Association
Invocation		Gabriel Moraes†
Hymn of Praise	This is My Father's World	No. 92
Prayer		Bogdan Scur, Associate Professor, Henry & Sharon Fordham Department of Religion
Anthem	Praise the Lord - Florence B. Price	
Children's Message		Ajeya Watson†, Class Pastor
Scripture Reading	Isaiah 41:10, James 1:2-5, and Romans 5:3-4	Rae Pearl Canizares#
Introduction of Speaker		Weymouth Spence, President
Anthem	Swing Down, Chariot arr. Ken Burton	

Baccalaureate

Saturday, May 4, 2024 ✽ 11:00 A.M.

Baccalaureate Address	In a Pit With a Lion on a Snowy Day	Celeste Ryan Blyden, Executive Secretary, Columbia Union and Board Vice Chair, Washington Adventist University
Invitation to Give		Naomi Davis†, Class Treasurer
Offertory	Let the Bright Seraphim - George Frideric Handel	Fernanda Rinza#, soprano Abner Marquez†, <i>trumpet</i>
Hymn of Dedication	Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah	No. 538
Benediction		Lloyd Yutuc, Director of University Bookstore/ Class Sponsor
Recessional	March from <i>Athalia</i> - Felix Mendelssohn	

Pro Musica of Washington Adventist University
Anwar Ottley, director
Gabriel Moraes†, student director

New England Youth Ensemble of Washington Adventist University
Preston Hawes and Brian Liu, co-directors

Anwar Ottley, organ
Jidong Zhong, piano

December, 2023 graduate

† Graduand – One about to graduate: a candidate for a degree

Commencement
Sunday, May 5, 2024 * 10:00 A.M.

Presidential and Faculty Procession	Trumpet Voluntary - Jeremiah Clarke	
Processional	Pomp and Circumstance No. 1 - Edward Elgar	
Invocation		Olive Hemmings, Chair, Henry & Sharon Fordham Department of Religion
Welcome		Talisha Searcy, Mayor of Takoma Park Marcellus Robinson, President, Columbia Union Conference and Board Chairman of Washington Adventist University
Remarks		Jerry Lutz, Board of Trustees Washington Adventist University
Scripture	Joshua 1:9	Oluwakemi Opanubi, Associate Professor, Nursing
Class President's Address		Gopi Sunkara†, Class President
SGPS Representative		Flavio Medina†, SGPS Representative
Honors College Representative		Henrique Da Silva†, Student President
Conferring of Honors and Awards		Weymouth Spence, President Cheryl Kisunzu, Provost
Gateway to Service Award		Weymouth Spence, President
Introduction of Speaker		Weymouth Spence, President
Commencement Address		H.E Seleshi Bekele, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of FDR Ethiopia to the USA

Commencement
Sunday, May 5, 2024 * 10:00 A.M.

Conferring of Degrees

Weymouth Spence, President
Cheryl Kisunzu, Provost

Presentation of Diplomas

Lynn Zabaleta, Registrar

School of Arts and Social Sciences

Bradford Haas, Director, Honors College

**School of Health Professions,
Science & Wellness**

Denise Hinds, Chair, Health,
Wellness and Physical Education

School of Graduate and Professional Studies

Joyce Johnson, Dean

President's Charge

Weymouth Spence

Class Appreciation

Gopi Sunkara†, Class President

Special Music

Completely Yours
- David Phelps

Gabriel Moraes†, *tenor*
Henrique Da Silva†, *keyboard*

Welcome to Alumni

Benin Lee, President, Alumni Association

Alma Mater

Hail, Washington!
- Clemen Vernon Hamer

Benediction

Karla Rivera Curtis,
Director, Alumni Relations

Recessional

Prelude from Te Deum
- Marc Antoine Charpentier

Processional/Recessional Musicians

Mark Di Pinto, keyboard
Jose Luis Oviedo, trumpet

† *Graduand* – One about to graduate: a candidate for a degree

President's Excellence in Gateway to Service Award

Service is not just a word at Washington Adventist University. It is the educational formula that we use to prepare our student to serve and change the world. Service is built into the curriculum and the classroom and treaded throughout the fabric of the institution. Our valued faculty plays a central role by incorporating our location in the nation's capital into their curriculum. They see the adventures of service learning as an opportunity for students to shape their careers while helping them find a future to serve their communities that is uniquely theirs.

Equally important to this identity, is the distinctive faith-based atmosphere on campus. We see faith not just as an individual devotional experience (as crucial as that is), but also as the lens through which we interface with the world of ideas, and the desire to make a difference in the world through service and a ministry of hope. The desired outcome is that we want our graduates to make a difference through their chosen careers and by making community service an essential part of their lives. Resulting in a better person, a better community, and ultimately a better world.

During the annual commencement service we will recognize individuals who demonstrated exemplary community service – unparalleled dedication, unmatched performance, inspirational service that goes “above and beyond” – that makes a unique difference in making their communities a better place. Each of the recipients, in his or her own way have modeled the essence of the life and teachings of Jesus: “... When I was hungry, you gave me something to eat, and when I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink. When I was a stranger, you welcomed me, and when I was naked, you gave me clothes to wear. When I was sick, you took care of me, and when I was in jail, you visited me.” Mathew 25:35-36. CEV

Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?” - Martin Luther King, Jr.

HONORARY RECIPIENTS AND AWARDEES

WAU Honorary Doctorate: Doctor of Humane Letters

Chandhok (Jesse) Jasdip Singh, COO of the Center of Social Change

Sajid Tarar (“CJ”), CEO and Board President of the Center of Social Change

President's Excellence in Gateway to Service Award

Her Excellency the Most Hon. Lady Allen, Wife of Jamaican Governor-General

Marcellus Robinson, President, Columbia Union Conference and

Board Chairman of Washington Adventist University

Professor Bradford Haas, Director, Honors College

Elisha Pulivarti, CEO, U.S India SME Council, Inc.



WASHINGTON
ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

*2024
Speaker
Biographies*

Speaker Biography

H.E. SELESHI BEKELE AWULACHEW Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ethiopia to the USA



Ambassador Dr. Eng. Seleshi Bekele was appointed as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ethiopia to the USA since May 2022. He has served as Minister of Water, Irrigation and Energy and has over thirty years of experience at senior-level positions in national, regional and international institutions.

Ambassador Seleshi is also serving as Chief Negotiator on Transboundary Waters and the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam. He has also served as Senior Advisor at the United Nations and as Senior Researcher at the International Water Management Institute (IWMI). He taught course in various universities in Ethiopia and abroad. He also served as Dean of Arbaminch Water Technology Institute which he transformed to a full-fledged Arbaminch University.

Ambassador Seleshi holds B.Sc, M.Sc and PhD in civil and Water Engineering. He has published over 30 referred publications and many other papers and book chapters. He also served as a board member of research organizations, universities and business companies.

Speaker Biography

CELESTE RYAN BLYDEN



Celeste Ryan Blyden (pronounced Bly-den) is a disciple of Jesus Christ, wife of Austin, mother to two amazing daughters, a storyteller, prayer warrior, pastor and dreamer. She loves ministry, leadership development, fellowship, traveling, writing, speaking, exploring new places on foot, time with her family, and game nights.

Celeste has been serving the Seventh-day Adventist Church for 31 years in a variety of communication and ministry roles, including as editor and publisher of the Columbia Union Visitor magazine for two decades (2002-2022), and as the Columbia Union's first female vice president from 2014-2021.

In January 2022, she became the Columbia Union's first woman executive officer, a role that involves serving as chair, vice chair or a member of a number of Adventist boards and committees across the eight-state territory. This includes the honor of serving as vice chair of the Washington Adventist University Board of Trustees.

Celeste is a graduate of Blue Mountain Academy, Washington Adventist University, has a Master's in Organizational Communication from Bowie State University, and a Master's in Pastoral Ministry from the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University.

One of Celeste's favorite passages is Revelation 22:17: "Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life" (NIV).

Speaker Biography

DEAN TIMOTHY LAWRENCE NELSON



Timothy Lawrence Nelson, the Dean of Men at Washington Adventist University, has dedicated nearly 35 years to the institution. His passion for sharing the love of God and emphasizing the importance of understanding oneself as a creation in God's image has been a cornerstone of his work. Timothy's commitment to personal and spiritual growth is reflected in his favorite Bible verses, all of which emphasizing trust in God, His provision for all, and the importance of God's perception over others' opinions. One

of Timothy's favorite verses is found in John 16:33(MSG), which says: I've told you all this so that trusting me, you will be unshakable and assured, deeply at peace. In this godless world you will continue to experience difficulties. But take heart! I have conquered the world!"

With a Bachelors in Counseling Psychology from Columbia Union College, now Washington Adventist University, and a Masters in Counseling Psychology from WAU, Timothy's educational journey underscores his commitment to holistic growth and development. Timothy has been married for over eleven years to Mrs. Michelle Wilson Nelson, and he enjoys spending time with his beautiful wife, having in-depth conversations that helps bring out the best in others, studying and learning more about Jesus, exercising, and watching a good show or game highlights.

Class of 2024

CLASS STATISTICS*

July 2023 Graduates: 20

December 2023 Graduates: 44

May 2024 Graduation Candidates: 100

The 164 graduates are comprised of the following degrees
Graduates degrees:**

- 1 Master of Science in Nursing and Business Leadership
- 6 Master of Business Administration
- 4 Master of Education in School Counseling
- 6 Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology
- 9 Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- 5 Master of Arts in Health Care Administration

Baccalaureate degrees:

- 17 Bachelor of Arts
- 5 Bachelor of Music
- 110 Bachelor of Science

Associate degrees:

- 10 Associate of Applied Science
- 1 Associate of Science
- 2 Associate of Arts

Honors College

- 1 Honors Interdisciplinary Track
- 8 Honors Double Major Track

Class Organization

Gopi Madhav Sunkara
President

Valeria Estefanía Bentivegna Román
Vice President

Naomi Chantel Davis
Treasurer

Emma Janae' Suggs
Secretary

Ajeya Sukanya Watson
Pastor

Flavio Aristides Medina Saucedo
SGPS Representative

Grand Marshall
Fitzroy Thomas,
Associate Dean
Betty Howard Center for
Student Success

Sponsors
Lloyd Yutuc,
Manager University Bookstore

Timothy Nelson,
Dean of Men

*May 2024 Statistics will not be officially confirmed until final grades have been received.

** Individuals receiving more than one degree are counted in each respective degree they are receiving.

Candidates
July 2023 – May 2024

The list of degree and award recipients is tentative, and the University reserves the right to withdraw or add names. Official proof of degree completion is provided only by diploma and transcript.

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE

Eden Geremew Achame†
Radiologic Technology

Eskedar Achame†
Radiologic Technology

Anjali Deonarain†
Radiologic Technology

Mahlet Efreem Estefanos†
Radiologic Technology

Fithawit T. Gebretensae†
Radiologic Technology

Tafara Madhovi†
Radiologic Technology

Ryan Murindamombe†
Radiologic Technology

Chelsea Paola Perez†
Radiologic Technology

Jasmine Michelle Reed†
Radiologic Technology

Scarlen Mariel Reyes Mejia†
Radiologic Technology

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE

Mendel Samuel Baldwin†
General Studies (Religion)

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

Hussain Abdulmohsen Aljahdali*
General Studies (Communication)

Leah E. Rivera#
General Studies (Biology/Mathematics)

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Mekiya Sallo Abdo#
Nursing

Lucien Lewis Patrick Agnant#
Health Care Administration

Ezinne Slick Ahuchaogu#
Nursing

Mary Ibukunoluwa Alao†
Counseling Psychology
Summa Cum Laude

Firas Rajeh Aljhdale
General Studies (Math and Computer Science)

Nyelle Allen†
Fitness and Sport Science

Asia Tiffany Alobwede†
Nursing

Fisal Raif Alsharif#
General Studies (Business Administration and
Communication/Social Science)

Ethel Bezejouh Aminateh†
Nursing

Cameca Georgian Anderson#

Nursing

Cum Laude

Allison A. Angel†

Business Administration (Management)

Sebastien Ivanov Appolon#

Accounting

Hailey Crystal Argueta#

Nursing

Ariel Israel Arieta#

General Studies (Education and Music)

Hiwot H. Ayele#

Nursing

Dennis Derrick Ayling†

Business Administration (Entrepreneurship/
Management)

Saul Iram Balleza Rosete†

Computer Science

Magna Cum Laude

Suriel Balleza#

Business Administration (Management)

Cum Laude

Josiah Amir Baynes†

Business Administration

(Entrepreneurship/Management)

Samrawit Feyissa Bedane†

Nursing

Eyuel Seleshi Bekele†

Business Administration

Inmer Nicholas Bonilla†

Business Administration

(Entrepreneurship/Management)

Jacqueline Breman#

Medical Imaging

Samuel Elisha Brooks*

Information Systems

Michael Lang Brown†

Business Administration

(Entrepreneurship/Management)

Samara Bruno#

General Studies (Allied Health and Science)

Maria Elvira Cardona†

Biology

Magna Cum Laude

Reina Elena Cardona†

Biology

Summa Cum Laude

Juan Camilo Castillo†

Business Administration

(Entrepreneurship/Management)

Abbie Lindsey Charles†

Biology

Jasmine Laura Chavez†

Nursing

Cum Laude

Filipe Nunes Cioni†

Business Administration (Marketing)

Esther Ama Class-Peters*

Nursing

Cum Laude

Henrique Soares Bernardes Da Silva†

Biology (Honors Interdisciplinary)

Magna Cum Laude

Avery Michael Daniels*

Fitness and Sport Science

Daniella Odame Danso*

Nursing

Naomi Chantel Davis†

Accounting

Magna Cum Laude

Gabriel de Lima Castro Santos#

Nursing

Marcela De Oliveira†

Fitness and Sport Science

Cum Laude

Orukome Christopher Egbuwoku†

Business Administration (Finance)

Abimbola Idowu Fayemiwo#

Nursing

Christina Efua Fenteng Ohene-Djan†

Nursing

Brandon Teku Fon†

Nursing

Isabela Marie Fuentes†

Biology

Summa Cum Laude

Ebisse Mosissa Fufa#

Nursing

Delihla Jocelyn Garcia†

Health Care Administration

Jason Samuel Garcia†

Biology (Honors Interdisciplinary)

Cum Laude

Mia Angelina Garcia†

Fitness and Sport Science

Klem Alexander Garcia*

Health Science

Taiwo H. Gbadebo*

General Studies

(Allied Health and Lifespan Care)

Jordan Marquis Grant†

Computer Science

Sophia Noemy Gutierrez#

Counseling Psychology

Achsha Sharon Hembrom†

Biology (Honors Interdisciplinary)

Summa Cum Laude

Jasmine Marie Hernandez†

Counseling Psychology

Derrick L. Hopkins, Jr.†

Fitness and Sport Science;

Health Fitness Management

Lillie Vanessa Hunter-Walker†

General Studies (Business Administration and
Organizational Management)

Justice Nnaemeka Ike†

Counseling Psychology

Bradley Clyde Fradel-Marie Jean†

Business Administration

(Entrepreneurship/Management)

Secom-Fatou Jobe†

Health Science

Jared B. Johnson*

General Studies

(Communication and History/Political Studies)

Brianna Armani-Cecilia Jones†

Accounting

Taylor Nicole Jones†

Health Science

Magna Cum Laude

Miscael N. Kadji†

Computer Science

Clarence Labor, Jr.†

Business Administration

Ethan Eduard Lowe†

Health Science

Kelly Catriona Luck†

General Studies

(Fitness/Wellness and Sports Administration)

Cum Laude

Theresa Macarthy*

Health Care Administration

Tafara Madhovi†

Medical Imaging

Milion Semere Mahari#

Nursing

Sieh Maranda†

Health Science

Celestine Mbouh#

Nursing

Stephanie Diambi Mbunga#

Nursing

Anasthasia M. Mesi†

Nursing

Ryan Murindamombe†

Medical Imaging

Gabriel Navarrete Moraes†

Nursing (Honors Interdisciplinary)

Cum Laude

Eric Sakilla Nyuma#

Counseling Psychology

Elizabeth Clarke Odeniran#

General Studies

(Allied Health and Lifespan Care)

Omonse Elizabeth Okojie†

Nursing

Benedicta E. Okojie#

Nursing

Rachel Alakwangyere Onongha*

Medical Laboratory Science

Cum Laude

Irene Ngozi Osakwe#

Nursing

Kadidia Hamadoun Ouologuem#

Nursing

Cum Laude

Vanessa Lisseth Penarrieta Lopez†

Business Administration (Finance)

Cum Laude

Chelsea Paola Perez†

Medical Imaging

Junior Renaud Philogene#

Nursing

Devie Lanice Phipps#

Nursing

Porsha A. Porter†

Business Administration

Jasmine Michelle Reed†

Medical Imaging

Rosa A. Reeder†

Health Care Administration

Scarlen Mariel Reyes Mejia†

Medical Imaging

Melisa Milagro Rivast†

Nursing

Jamilet Beatrice Rivera†

Fitness and Sport Science

Darwin Alexander Rodriguez†

Business Administration

(Entrepreneurship/Management)

Carlos Manuel Rosario†
Business Administration
(Entrepreneurship/Management)
Cum Laude

Gabriel Alejandro Sanchez Bullon†
Business Administration
(Entrepreneurship/Management)

Nofisat Abimbola Sanni†
Nursing

Patricia Derla Sawney#
Nursing
Cum Laude

Eryn Jhonni Scott†
General Studies (Biology/Health Science and
Physical Education)

Tunde Juandell Scrivner†
Business Administration (Marketing)

Gabriel Costa Silva†
Counseling Psychology

Dianne Monique Spencer*
General Studies
(Business Administration and French)

Angelica D.S. Sterling#
Biology (Honors Interdisciplinary)
Cum Laude

Irina Tomenko#
Nursing
Cum Laude

Modou Lamin Touray†
Biology

Djenebou Traore†
Nursing

Unwana Bassey Udo-Inyang†
Computer Science

Louis Ovidio Velist†
Business Administration
(Entrepreneurship/Management)

Maricela Iveth Vigil Rios†
Business Administration (Management)

Jackline Wambui Wahu†
Medical Imaging
Cum Laude

Tatiana Yessenia Zelaya*
Health Care Administration

BACHELOR OF MUSIC

Emily Alejandra Aponte Acosta†
Music Performance
Cum Laude

Jose Samuel Manzano Perez†
Music Performance
Cum Laude

Abner Alejandro Marquez Torres†
Music Performance
Cum Laude

Angelie Oneal Redondo†
Music Therapy

Fernanda Sophia Rinza#
Music Performance (Honors Interdisciplinary)
Cum Laude

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Hussain Abdulmohsen Aljahdali*
Public Communication (Public Relations)

Valeria Estefanía Bentivegna Román#
Music (Honors Interdisciplinary)
Cum Laude

Cindy Mariela Campos Flores*

Psychology

John Anthony DeGomez†

Public Communication (Public Relations)

Liliana Elizabeth Escobar†

Biology

Krishna Tahaun Euell†

Psychology

Carolina Vincente Gray*

Early Childhood Care and Education

Summa Cum Laude

Jacob Allen Lyons#

Theology

Cum Laude

Katherine Nathalie Mendez Mejia*

Early Childhood Care and Education

Cum Laude

Gabriel Navarrete Moraes†

Music (Honors Interdisciplinary)

Cum Laude

Lilibeth Del Carmen Quintanilla Bernal*

Early Childhood Care and Education

Cum Laude

Michael Andrew Reid†

General Studies

(Biblical Studies and Pastoral Ministry)

Shelby Dametra Ricks†

Psychology

Emma Janae' Suggs#

Political Studies (Honors Interdisciplinary)

Gopi Madhav Sunkara†

Political Studies (Honors Interdisciplinary)

Laurie Nadine Valciust†

Early Childhood Care and Education

Cum Laude

Ajeya Sukanya Watson†

Psychology (Honors Interdisciplinary)

Summa Cum Laude

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING AND BUSINESS LEADERSHIP

Devie Lanice Phipps#

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Jo-Lin Hsu†

Steven Hicks Lane#

Flavio Aristides Medina Saucedo†

Jahnaya Monet Peterson†

Roberto D. Reyna, Jr.*

Frantzo Saint-Val#

MASTER OF EDUCATION IN SCHOOL COUNSELING

Denise Lauraine Gatcham†

Kedon Francis George†

Marianne Hope†

Allison Jahmonica Wilson†

MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY

Tirzah Ruth Noelle Andrade#

Abiola T. Ayegunle#

Rojet Dale Evans†

Courtney Freeman#

Mackenzie G. Goane#

Tyler Elizabeth Holman#

MASTER OF ARTS IN CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

Abiola T. Ayegunle#
Rae Pearl Gimotea Canizares#
Rojet Dale Evans†
Mackenzie G. Goane#
Tyler Elizabeth Holman†
Bryan Christopher Jones*
Naomy de Jesus da Rosa Rodrigues*
Melissa Carolyn Smith*
LaDonna Joanne Stewart-Roberts#

MASTER OF ARTS IN HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION

Olena Demian†
Brenda S. Flores†
Merlyn Davina Matthews†
Heather Debrah Mitchell#
Ana Stephanie Pearce#

MUSIC EQUIVALENCY (Non-Degree Completers)

Anne-Marie Elsinger ‡
Sarah Harumi Monroe ‡

GUEST GRADUATE

Sherica Searchwell
Capella University
Bachelor of Science
Health Care Administration
Specialization in Leadership

* *July 28, 2023 graduate*

December 29, 2023 graduate

† *Graduating May 5, 2024
subject to completion of coursework*

± *Graduating August 9, 2024
subject to completion of coursework*

‡ *Music Therapy Equivalency Program completer*

HONORS

ACADEMIC HONORS

Shown within the candidates list are the following
Latin and departmental honors:

Latin Honors

Cum Laude - 3.50

Magna Cum Laude – 3.75

Summa Cum Ladue – 3.90

Designated GPA's must be earned by the beginning
of the final term in which the degree is expected.
Both WAU GPA and Cumulative GPA must meet
the standard to qualify for Latin Honors.

Departmental Honors

Departmental Distinction

WAU and/or cumulative GPA's below 3.5, but have
earned 3.90 within the major requirements



The Washington Adventist University Honors College

The Washington Adventist University Honors College, the first honors college in the Seventh-day Adventist higher-education system, offers exceptional students the opportunity to take unique interdisciplinary majors and minors, and to combine the breadth of the Honors curriculum with the more specialized knowledge in other degree areas. Honors Interdisciplinary Double Majors are required to combine two major fields of study, or a major and a specific pre-professional program, and must complete Leadership and Service requirements that prepare them for future endeavors. All Honors College students who meet the curricular and GPA requirements wear the Honors College seal medallion at graduation and also be easily identified by their distinctive red robes. In addition, students who have completed the Honors College major requirements also wear an antique gold tassel to recognize their curricular achievement.

HONORS INTERDISCIPLINARY TRACK:

Emma Suggs#

Ajeya Watson†

HONORS INTERDISCIPLINARY DOUBLE MAJOR TRACK:

Valeria Estefanía Bentivegna Román#

Gabriel Navarrete Moraes†

Henrique Soares Bernardes Da Silva†

Fernanda Sophia Rinza#

Jason Samuel Garcia†

Angelica D.S. Sterling#

Achsha Sharon Hembrom†

Gopi Madhav Sunkara†

HONORS INTERDISCIPLINARY MINOR:

Mary Ibukunoluwa Alao†

Naomi Chantel Davist

Jose Samuel Manzano Perez†

Scarlen Mariel Reyes Mejia†

Academic Regalia

The black caps and gowns worn by the students, faculty, and staff in the academic procession have been the traditional costume of scholars since medieval times. In the United States, it is more commonly referred to as academic regalia.

Most colleges and universities in the United States have adopted the uniform code for costumes, drafted by an intercollegiate commission in 1893 and later formally adopted by the American Council on Education in 1959. Each of the three academic degrees—bachelor, master, and doctoral—has its own distinctive gown and hood. The bachelor's gown is distinguished by its long, pointed sleeve. The master's gown has a longer, narrower closed sleeve extending below the knee; the arm fits through a slit at the elbow. The doctor's gown has a full, bell-shaped sleeve trimmed with three bars of velvet. The velvet trim on the gown can be black or a color indicating the wearer's general field of learning—for example, green for medicine or purple for law. A list of departments and colors follows:

Business Administration—drab
Communications—gray
Economics—copper
Education—light blue
Law—purple
Liberal Arts, Humanities—white
Library Science—lemon
Medicine—green
Music—pink
Nursing—apricot
Philosophy—dark blue
Public Administration—peacock blue
Public Health—salmon
Physical Education—sage green
Social and Natural Sciences—golden yellow
Social Work—citron
Theology—scarlet

The most colorful and distinctive part of the academic costume is the hood extending down the back. The doctor's is the largest of the hoods, and the bachelor's is the smallest.

Silk lining of various colors in the center of the hood indicate the college or university which conferred the degree. Consistent for all degrees is the cap, or mortar board, which has a tassel of black or another color indicating the field of learning. The tassel of the doctor's cap can be gold.

Some institutions of higher learning include cords or stoles as a component of the academic costume to represent certain achievements and honors. Washington Adventist University graduates are awarded silver cords to represent departmental distinction and gold cords to indicate academic honors.

Graduation Events

Department of Medical Imaging

Pinning Ceremony

Wednesday, April 24, 2024, 6:30 pm

Sligo Church Atrium

Department of Nursing

Pinning Ceremony

Saturday, May 4, 2024, 4:00 pm

Sligo Church

Honors College

Senior Dedication

Friday, May 3, 2024, 4:30 pm

Bingham Rehearsal Hall

Leroy & Lois Peters Music Center

Provost Blessing

And now may these blessings come and stay with you.

As you are blessed in the city and blessed in the country.

Your children will be blessed.

You will be blessed when you come in and when you go out.

The Lord will help you defeat the enemies that come to fight you.

The Lord will bless you with full barns and He will bless everything you do.

You will lend to other nations, but you will not need to borrow from them.

The Lord will make you the head not the tail. (Deut. 28:3-13)

This is my prayer, it is my declaration over you ...

Cheryl H. Kisunzu, Your Provost

HAIL, WASHINGTON!

Words and Music by CLEMEN HAMER.



1. Where the laughing Sli-go's wa-ters Go a-tumbling 'tween the hills; Where the
2. Beau-ti-ful for sit-u-a-tion, Na-ture ne'er more rich-ly blessed; And you
3. Grateful thanks to thee for friendships Which shall last throughout the years; Grateful



dain-ty, sweet ar-bu-tus All the air with fragrance fills,—There our own beloved
nev-er fail to charm us, Tho' in snow or verdure dressed. And you cast your spell up-
thanks for precious lessons Which shall guide thro' smiles and tears. E'er to thee we will be



col-lege, Far a-way from cit-y strife, Calls us from the town or vil-lage
on us As we con our les-sons o'er, 'Till our hearts o'erflow with gladness,
loy-al Till our course of life is run—Love thee, laud thee, yea, applaud thee,



CHORUS.



To the joys of stu-dent life.
And we love you more and more. } Hail! Washing-ton, our Washing-ton! From
Our be-lov-ed Washing-ton!



distant land or near, Rings out the praise of Washington, Our Alma Mater dear.





WASHINGTON
ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY
G A T E W A Y T O S E R V I C E

CELEBRATING 120 YEARS OF
DISTINCTIVE EXCELLENCE
IN STUDENT SUCCESS