



Kansas Wesleyan University

Commencement 2026

Kansas Wesleyan University

Commencement Weekend 2026

Baccalaureate Service

11 a.m., Friday, May 15
Sams Chapel

Graduate and Family Picnic

Noon, Friday, May 15
Mabee Arena, Student Activities Center

Nursing Pinning Ceremony

6 p.m., Friday, May 15
Sams Chapel

Commencement

10 a.m., Saturday, May 16
Tony's Pizza Events Center Arena

Mission Statement

The mission of Kansas Wesleyan University is to promote and integrate academic excellence, spiritual development, personal well-being and social responsibility.

Vision Statement

Kansas Wesleyan University graduates individuals prepared for lifelong learning, success, responsibility and service by integrating excellence in academics, co-curricular activities and experiential learning in a faith-based and caring community.

Commencement Traditions

Presidential Mace

The presidential mace was created by local artist David Anderson. It is a symbol of the legal and chartered authority of the President, to whom the Trustees have delegated authority. The Mace is ceremonial and represents an honor for a distinguished member of the faculty to carry it at university functions. It is on display in the President's Office when not being used for formal ceremonies at Kansas Wesleyan University. Each year, the recipient of the Exemplary Teacher Award has the honor of serving as the mace bearer at ceremonial academic functions for the next academic year.

Presidential Medallion

The presidential medallion consists of the seal of the university attached to the chain of office with the names of former Kansas Wesleyan University presidents engraved on the links. It was presented to President Thompson by the Chair of the Board of Trustees at the Inauguration Installation Ceremony on Sept. 27, 2013. The president wears the presidential medallion at ceremonial university academic functions.

University Banner

The university banner depicts the Hall of Pioneers logo and is used at formal university functions. The banner bearer is the president of the Student Government Association.

The Lectionary Cross

The lectionary cross has on its face the blended letters "UUMC" and "KWU," signifying the strong ties between Kansas Wesleyan and University United Methodist Church. The cross was a gift of UUMC in 2002 and was dedicated in memory of Dr. Albert L. Nelson '50, who was a Professor Emeritus of Education at KWU. The emblem was created by Charles May, a member of the UUMC congregation. The cross is used at formal KWU-UUMC services and events.

Commencement Marshals

Faculty Marshal is an honor bestowed upon senior-ranking faculty members at the university. This year's faculty marshals are Steven J. Hoekstra, Ph.D., and Philip S. Meckley, Ph.D. Dr. Hoekstra is a professor of Psychology. Dr. Meckley is a professor of Religion and Philosophy.

Student Marshal is an honor bestowed upon two underclass students recommended for their campus leadership. Takara F. Kolterman, Class of 2027, and Maxwell H. Guldner, Class of 2028, are this year's student marshals.

Baccalaureate Service

**11 a.m.
Friday, May 15, 2026
Sams Chapel**

Baccalaureate is a service of worship for the graduating class, families, faculty, administration, staff, trustees and friends. It is a traditional time of giving thanks in our lives for the power of God at a unique moment in the life of the graduate.

Gathering Music

Gustavo do Carmo, DMA, Assistant Professor of Music and Collaborative Pianist

****Processional***

Dr. Gustavo do Carmo

****Placing of the Lectionary Cross***

Ansdiane Rabano, Class of 2026

****Placing of the University Banner***

Zachary S. Daley, Class of 2027, SGA President

****Placing of the University Mace***

Barbara J. Marshall Nickell, M.A.
2024-25 KWU Exemplary Teacher

****Invocation***

Scott D. Jagodzinske, M.A., KWU Campus Minister

Welcome

Matthew R. Thompson, Ph.D., President and CEO

****Call to Worship***

Brandon J. Cheeks, B.A. '05, Ed.D.

Special Music

Psalm 23 by P. Creston

KWU Philharmonic Choir

Graduating Soloists: Jacob R. Brown, Evan W. Burns, Benjamin L. Corman,

Perry W. Grewell, Tru E. Haesemeyer, Luke E. Moore

Conducted by David A. Corman, M.M., Director of Vocal Music

Dr. Gustavo do Carmo, Accompanist

Morning Prayer

Damon Kraft, Ph.D., Provost and Executive Vice President for Student Success

Old Testament Reading

Lauren M. Cardwell, Class of 2026

Gospel Lesson

Quatama J. Massaquoi, Class of 2026

Changed by God

Rebekah Demetrius, Class of 2026

Jacob C. Phelps, Class of 2026

Special Music

John the Revelator arr. by Caldwell/Ivory

KWU Philharmonic Choir

Soloist: Cesily L. McNutt, Class of 2029

Conducted by David A. Corman

Dr. Gustavo do Carmo, Accompanist

****Benediction***

Scott D. Jagodzinske

* Denotes standing as you are able

Nursing Pinning Ceremony

6 p.m.

Friday, May 15, 2026

Sams Chapel

The Nursing Pinning Ceremony is a formal ceremony during which the senior nursing students are presented with the KWU nursing pin, a symbolic welcome into the profession.

Prelude

Gustavo do Carmo, DMA
Assistant Professor of Music and Collaborative Pianist

****Processional***

The Climb by Miley Cyrus
Dr. Gustavo do Carmo

****Invocation***

Jeffrey P. Metzler, MSN, RN, CNE, GERO-BC, CAC
Assistant Professor of Nursing Education

Welcome

Janeane M. Houchin, MSN, RN
Director of Nursing Education

Nurse's Prayer

Katherine S. Sweeney, MSN, BSN '05, RN
Associate Professor of Nursing Education

Greetings from the Nursing Class of 2026

Brooke A. Strine, Class of 2026 President

Keynote Speaker

Sarah E. Kingan, MSN, RN, CMSRN
Assistant Professor of Nursing Education, Nursing Clinical & Skills Lab Coordinator

Class of 2026 Slideshow

Presentation of Donna Minor Nursing Leadership Award

Andrea J. Picklesimer, MSN, RN
Associate Professor of Nursing Education

Presentation of Nursing Graduate Achievement Award

Katherine S. Sweeney

Presentation of Student Nurse Organization Awards

Jolene M. Dreher, MSN, BSN '18, RN
Assistant Professor of Nursing Education, Simulation Coordinator,
Student Nurse Organization Sponsor

Reading of the Graduates' Names

Sarah E. Kingan

Pinning of Nursing Graduates

Janeane M. Houchin and Family Members of Graduates

Presentation of Roses

Jerri A. Zweygardt, MSN, RN
Associate Professor of Nursing Education and Nursing Success Coordinator

Special Music and Candle Lighting

Go Light Your World by Chris Rice
Andrea J. Picklesimer, Soloist
Dr. Gustavo do Carmo, Accompanist

Florence Nightingale Pledge

Jeffrey P. Metzler

****Benediction***

Scott D. Jagodzinske, M.A.
KWU Campus Minister

****Recessional***

Walking on Sunshine by Katrina & The Waves
Dr. Gustavo do Carmo

***Tonight's student marshal is Gianna C. Adriaanse, Class of 2027,
President-Elect, Student Nurse Organization***

Nursing Class of 2026

Isabella N. Anderson
Salina, KS

Hanna L. Castro
McKinney, TX

Kaitlyn N. Claycamp
Circleville, KS

Autumn L. Colgate
Salina, KS

Jake A. Cruz
League City, TX

Rebekah Demetrius
Monroe, GA

Ava R. Denning
Salina, KS

Isabella D. Galvan
La Crescenta, CA

Madisyn K. Havenstein
Alma, KS

Terah J. Head
Liberal, KS

Haylee A. Herman
Lindsborg, KS

Morgan L. McReynolds
La Junta, CO

Alexandra L. Muro
Arcadia, CA

Angel M. Prough
Salina, KS

Keannalani Sager
Las Vegas, NV

Eden F. Schilder
Buhl, ID

Elizabeth J. Stout
Chilhowee, MO

Brooke A. Strine
Scott City, KS

Nurse's Prayer

Give me strength and wisdom, when others need my touch;
A soothing word to speak to them, their hearts yearn for so much.

Give me joy and laughter, to lift a weary soul;

Pour in me compassion, to make the broken whole.

Give me gentle, healing hands, for those left in my care;
A blessing to those who need me, this is a Nurse's Prayer.

Academic Honors and Awards

Alpha Chi Honor Society Graduating Seniors

Katelyn M. Botz
Oriana L. Botz
Addison J. Denney
Simon Fischer
Emma G. Gertken
Shelby A. Giersch
Sarah D. Girard
Keira M. Hammen
Kierra T. Jensen
Elizabeth A. Jordan
Elijah Ravenz P. Resano
Yamen Salameh
Ryann R. Warren
Andrew S. Wise

Chemistry Department Academic Excellence Award

Sebastian B. Welter

Chemistry Department Service Award

Isabella M. Gutierrez-Myers

Donald Olsen Sociology Award

Reese T. Kimmi

Donna Minor Nursing Leadership Award

Announced at Nursing Pinning Ceremony

Exemplary Student Teacher Award

Elizabeth A. Jordan

Fran Jabara Leadership Award

The Professor Fran Jabara Leadership Award recognizes graduating seniors from four-year, private Kansas institutions who display exemplary skills in leadership. Jabara, the former dean of the Wichita State University College of Business Administration, made a lifetime commitment to the advancement of excellence in education for Kansas students. (*Announced at Commencement*)

Nursing Graduate Achievement Award

Announced at Nursing Pinning Ceremony

Outstanding Accounting Students

Oriana L. Botz, Cole A. Segraves and
William A. Schaeffer

Outstanding Art and Design Graduate

Katelyn M. Botz

Outstanding Biology Student

Sebastian B. Welter

Outstanding Business Management Students

Paige Chauncey, Simon Fischer and Drake R. Smart

Outstanding Communication Students of the Year

Shaw M.T. Lee

Outstanding Computer Science Student

Eric A. Grogan

Outstanding Exercise Science Student

Keegan A. Lott

Outstanding Health Science Award

Wil Yamka

Outstanding History Graduate

Katelyn M. Botz

Outstanding Leadership in the Math, Physics, and Computer Science Department

Elijah Ravenz P. Resano

Outstanding Marketing Communication Student

Courtney E. Auld, Abigail L. Lombardoni and
Drew E. Wardell

Outstanding Mathematics Student Award

Henry W. Reeg

Outstanding Physics Student

Conner L. Kirby

Outstanding Research in the Math, Physics, and Computer Studies Department

Luke E. Moore

Outstanding Social Work Student

Idaias H. Navarro

Outstanding Sports Management Student

Tori A. Wlodarczyk

Phoenix Award

Jenna E. Cole

Rev. George Taylor Criminal Justice Award

Sarah D. Girard

Sports and Exercise Science Achievement Award

Kierra T. Jensen

Teachers of Promise

Kyla J. Moore

Commencement Ceremony

10 a.m.

Saturday, May 16, 2026

Tony's Pizza Events Center Arena

The Commencement Ceremony acts as an essential, symbolic rite of passage, marking the transition from student to graduate, while celebrating years of academic effort and personal growth.

Baccalaureate degree candidates with outstanding academic records are recognized at Commencement. Three distinctions are made: Summa Cum Laude (Latin for with highest honors) recognizes a cumulative and residential GPA of at least 3.9; Magna Cum Laude (with high honors) recognizes a cumulative and residential GPA of at least 3.75; and Cum Laude (with honors) recognizes a cumulative and residential GPA of at least 3.5.

Summa Cum Laude recipients are indicated by gold and purple cords, Magna Cum Laude recipients are wearing a purple cord, and Cum Laude recipients have a gold cord.

The student's earned grade-point average must equal or surpass the minimum requirements in both cumulative and residential GPA in order to qualify for these honors.

Commencement Speaker

Dr. Sean Herrington '93



Dr. Sean Herrington is a lifelong Salina resident. He was born in Fort Scott, Kan., and moved to Salina shortly thereafter. He graduated high school in 1988 from Southeast of Saline High School in Gypsum and then attended Kansas Wesleyan University, graduating in May 1993 with a major in Chemistry and a minor in Biology. He attended the University of Kansas School of Medicine in Kansas City, Kan., and graduated in 1998. He completed his medical training at Smoky Hill Family Medicine in Salina in June of 2001.

Dr. Herrington started his first family medicine clinic in the current site of the KWU Nursing Program facility, where it was located from August 2001-June 2003. The practice merged with Salina Clinic in July 2003, and he continued to practice family medicine until the end of 2008. He joined the Kansas Army National Guard, initially enlisting during his second year of medical school. He attended the Army flight surgeon course in Fort Rucker, Ala., and was the flight surgeon for the 108th Aviation Battalion in Topeka and Salina. Dr. Herrington was deployed to Iraq with the 278th Regimental Combat Team from Knoxville, Tenn., in 2005 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III.

On Jan. 1, 2009, Dr. Herrington made the move to full-time emergency medicine when he left private practice and went to work at Salina Regional Health Center. He has been one of the medical directors for the ER and a full-time emergency medicine physician ever since. He is the medical director for Salina Fire EMS, as well as Bennington EMS, Lincoln EMS and Minneapolis EMS. He serves on the medical advisory committee for the state board of EMS. He has served on multiple hospital committees, was chief of staff from 2017 to 2019, served on the hospital board of trustees from 2005 until 2017, and was chair of the Salina Regional Health Foundation and still serves as an active member. He is currently serving his second term as a member of the Kansas Wesleyan Board of Trustees. He was the 2008 Kansas Wesleyan Young Alumnus Award winner.

Dr. Herrington is the bass player for the local rock band Sunset Sinners. The band has released their most recent album, *Chaos*, on Spotify, Apple Music and other streaming services. He has recorded in Nashville and Austin. His bands have opened for Sam Barber, Quiet Riot, Darius Rucker and Craig Morgan.

Last but certainly not least, he and his wife, Kimberly '01, have six adult children with six spouses, six wonderful grandchildren, and one mini golden doodle named Koda. They are both proud graduates of Kansas Wesleyan University.

Commencement Ceremony 2026

President Matthew R. Thompson, Ph.D., Presiding

Prelude

Kansas Wesleyan University Orchestra
Conducted by Benjamin G. Rohrer, M.M., Adjunct Professor of Music

****Processional***

Pomp and Circumstance by Edward Elgar, arr. John Whitney
Kansas Wesleyan University Orchestra

****Placing of the Lectionary Cross***

Ansdiane Rabano, Class of 2026

****Placing of the University Banner***

Zachary S. Daley, Class of 2027, Student Government Association President

****Posting of the University Mace***

Barbara J. Marshall Nickell, M.A.
2024-25 KWU Exemplary Teacher

****Convening of the Ceremony***

Steven J. Hoekstra, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology

****Welcome***

Matthew R. Thompson, Ph.D., President and CEO

****Invocation***

Scott D. Jagodzinske, M.A., KWU Campus Minister

****National Anthem***

The Star-Spangled Banner by Francis Scott Key
Led by Benjamin L. Corman, Class of 2026
Kansas Wesleyan University Orchestra

Remarks from the President

Dr. Matthew R. Thompson

Greetings from the Class of 2026

Paige Chauncey, Class of 2026 President

Musical Selection

You'll Never Walk Alone by R. Rodgers
KWU Philharmonic Choir
Graduating Soloists: Jacob R. Brown, Evan W. Burns, Benjamin L. Corman, Perry W. Grewell,
Tru E. Haesemeyer, Luke E. Moore
Conducted by David A. Corman, M.M., Director of Vocal Music
Gustavo do Carmo, DMA, Assistant Professor of Music & Collaborative Pianist, Accompanist

** Denotes standing as you are able*

Introduction of Commencement Speakers

Emma G. Gertken, Class of 2026

Commencement Address

Sean M. Herrington, B.S. '93, M.D.

Medallion Presentation to the Graduating Senior with the Highest Academic Record

Damon Kraft, Ph.D., Provost and Executive Vice President for Student Success

Presentation of the Professor Fran Jabara Leadership Award

Dr. Damon Kraft

Presentation of Class of 2026 MBA Candidates

Dr. Damon Kraft

Conferring of M.B.A. Degrees

Dr. Matthew R. Thompson

Hooding of M.B.A. Graduates

Michelle C. Case, DBA, Director, MBA Program and Undergraduate Program Engagement

Jamie R. Kootz, Ed.D., Director, Online Learning and Educational Technology

Presentation of Class of 2026 Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science Candidates

Dr. Damon Kraft

Conferring of Bachelor's Degrees

Dr. Matthew R. Thompson

Awarding of Bachelor's Degrees

Jasmin G. Dauner, B.A. '13, Registrar

Bridget R. Weiser, M.S., Vice President for Student and Community Engagement

****Alma Mater***

Wesleyan Memories by James E. Carnel

Led by Tru E. Haesemeyer, Class of 2026

Kansas Wesleyan University Orchestra

****Benediction***

Scott D. Jagodzinske

****Closing of the Ceremony***

Dr. Steven J. Hoekstra

*****Recessional***

Sine Nomine by Ralph Vaughan Williams, arr. John Moss

Kansas Wesleyan University Orchestra

** Denotes standing as you are able*

***Please remain standing until all students and faculty have exited the arena.*

Degree Candidates

Master of Business Administration

Austin C. Becker
Garland, TX

Alexander J. Botz
Salina, KS

Haydn D. Brown
Gardnerville, NV

Ryan M. Cooper
Olathe, KS

Peyton G. Crowe
Royal, IL

Ty L. Davidson
Lakin, KS

Luis B. Dieterle
Seevetal, Germany

Joseph A. Finder
Lincoln, NE

Pierre Gueguen
Brest, France

Riley K. Gwin
Houston, TX

Jayden A. Hall
Wichita, KS

LaMonte S. Harvin
San Antonio, TX
United States Army
10 years

Keenan A. Hobbs
Salina, KS

Jalen T. Jones
Katy, TX

Josie L. Koppes
Manhattan, KS

Sarah G. Krenowicz
Frisco, TX

Ana F. Llanos
Flower Mound, TX

Matthew E. Lucas
Lindsborg, KS

Blake W. Maddock
Oakdale, CA

Nicolas A. Martinez
Parker, CO

Julie A. McIntyre
Valparaiso, IN

Gavin W. McWhorter
Loveland, CO

Marvin B. Mitchell II
Desoto, TX

Viet H. Nguyen
Wichita, KS

Gabriel C. Phillips
Valley Center, KS

Danny Ramirez
Calexico, CA

Jaime Robledo Bueno
Oviedo, Spain

Colin M. Salgado-Lindo
Las Vegas, NV

Joni B. Schroeder
Salina, KS

Alexander M. Sherer
Rossville, KS

Christina J. Swagerty
Delphos, KS

Luis R. Vargas Moreira
Quito, Ecuador

Elizabeth C. Villafana
Rialto, CA

Madison T. Wallace
Wyandotte, MI

John M. Wheeler
Lindsborg, KS

Morgan M. Wheeler
Lindsborg, KS

Ja'Daa T. Wilson
Crawfordville, FL

Shae P. Wirt
Overland Park, KS

Thalen M. Wright
Lee's Summit, MO

MBA Hooding

Kansas Wesleyan's Master of Business Administration degree candidates will receive their hoods during today's ceremony. The color of the inner silk signifies the institution from which the degree was awarded, while the outer velvet border, trimmed in drab (tan), represents the field of study. The academic hood is a tradition that dates back to medieval times and some of the first universities in Europe. The hooding symbolizes the transition from student to 'master' and is a special honor for those who have completed a graduate degree.

Degree Candidates

Bachelor of Arts

James L. Adams
South Lake Tahoe, CA
Exercise Science:
Personal Training
Magna Cum Laude

Adebayo E. Akintunde, Jr.
El Cajon, CA
Exercise Science:
Personal Training

Carter N. Allen
Manvel, TX
Business Management

Fronnta Allen
Suisun City, CA
Business Management

Rosalie Alvarado
La Habra, CA
Psychology

Darius R. Archuleta
Liberal, KS
Psychology

Courtney J.E. Auld
Collinsville, OK
Marketing Communications
Magna Cum Laude

Chase T. Aurand
Thousand Oaks, CA
Communications

JaqSon L. Birdwhistle-Bush
Topeka, KS
Art and Design:
Graphic Design

Katelyn M. Botz
Salina, KS
Art and Design: Studio Art/
History
Summa Cum Laude

Oriana L. Botz
Salina, KS
Business Management/
Accounting
Summa Cum Laude

Brodie Z. Bradshaw
Inola, OK
Business Management
Magna Cum Laude

Gary D. Brock
Wichita, KS
Business Management

Jacob R. Brown
Delphos, KS
Theatre Arts: Music Theatre/
Communications
Cum Laude

Evan W. Burns
Wells, KS
Music Performance: Percussion

Justin E. Burras
Burbank, CA
Business Management
Summa Cum Laude

Leila S. Casillan
Henderson, NV
Social Work

Xitlaly Castro
Salina, KS
Criminal Justice

Paige Chauncey
Junction City, KS
Accounting
Cum Laude

Jenna E. Cole
Salina, KS
Social Work/Sociology
Magna Cum Laude

Jesse M. Conrad
Waianae, HI
Emergency Management

Evan S. Cooper
Orange, CA
Criminal Justice

Talon Q. Cope
Piedmont, OK
Sports Management
Cum Laude

Benjamin L. Corman
Salina, KS
History

Kieran P. Courter
Salina, KS
Business Management

Christian Crain
Lufkin, TX
Accounting

Blake W. Dale
Riverton, WY
Business Management
Cum Laude

Trenton W. Day
Holden, MO
History
Cum Laude

Addison J. Denney
Wamego, KS
Psychology/Sociology
Summa Cum Laude

Adriana L. DiPrima
Omaha, NE
Business Management

D'Heaven T. Domena
Salina, KS
Business Management
Cum Laude

Jevin R. Dorsey
Cathedral City, CA
Accounting
Cum Laude

Ian M. Doss
Hoisington, KS
History

Magen P. Dow
Ponder, TX
Communications/
Public Relations
Cum Laude

Alissa G. Eck
Whitewater, KS
Psychology

Kevin A. Eghbali
Tarzana, CA
Marketing Communications

Madisyn R. Ehrlich
Salina, KS
Communications/
Public Relations
Cum Laude

Kelsey R. Essex
Doniphan, NE
Exercise Science:
Fitness and Wellness
Cum Laude

Tyler R. Fink
Wonder Lake, IL
Emergency Management

Simon Fischer
Pfarrkirchen, Germany
Business Management

Eduardo Flores
Compton, CA
Psychology

Tyler D. Fontenot
Houston, TX
Criminal Justice

Riley A. Garcia
San Antonio, TX
Marketing Communications/
Sports Management
Magna Cum Laude

Garrett J. Garfield
Clovis, CA
Communications

Gonzalo Gaubeka Morales
Madrid, Spain
Business Management

Emma M. Gervy
Independence, MO
Sports Management
Cum Laude

Sarah D. Girard
Jefferson City, MO
Criminal Justice/Psychology
Magna Cum Laude

Eric J. Green
Salina, KS
Sports Management

Perry W. Grewell
Odessa, TX
Business Management

William A. Griffith
Salina, KS
Business Management

Makenna L. Haas
Ellsworth, KS
Emergency Management
Cum Laude

Tru E. Haesemeyer
Salina, KS
English
Summa Cum Laude

Abrianna M. Hahn
Lake Park, GA
Psychology

Elli Han
Eudora, KS
Sports Management
Cum Laude

Dahn M. Hanlon
Norton, KS
Psychology
Cum Laude

Kylee E. Harris
Peculiar, MO
Sports Management

Derek Z. He
Manhattan, KS
Accounting

Alex B. Herbel
Salina, KS
Business Management

Darius Horvath
Carlisle, England
Marketing Communications
Cum Laude

Mateo E. Hoyos
Medellin, Colombia
Business Management

Davieon L. Ingram
Forth Worth, TX
Business Management

Kevia Jackson
Salina, KS
Criminal Justice/Sociology

Abigail M. Jensen
Indianola, IA
Exercise Science:
Fitness and Wellness
Cum Laude

Julian D. Jones
Brenham, TX
Business Management

Elizabeth A. Jordan
Silver Lake, KS
Elementary Education
Summa Cum Laude

Frank J. Kelch
Edwards, IL
Exercise Science:
Fitness and Wellness

Reese T. Kimmi
Salina, KS
Criminal Justice/Sociology
Magna Cum Laude

Joshua J. King-Bradley
Mont Belvieu, TX
Sports Management

Kelsey M. Koza
Windsor, CO
Exercise Science:
Personal Training

Cassie J. Kozlovsky
Ennis, TX
Psychology

Kamille Kum
Johannesburg, South Africa
Business Management

John R. Lanterman
Long Beach, CA
Business Management

Shaw M.T. Lee
Fallon, NV
Communications

Daquession K. Lewis
Salina, KS
Exercise Science:
Personal Training

Charlene C. Lind
Saint George, KS
Art and Design: Photography

Shelby L.A. Lingle
Dearborn, MO
Exercise Science:
Personal Training
Cum Laude

Chaney J.A. Littell
Winfield, KS
Exercise Science:
Fitness and Wellness

Rhadarious R. Lomax-Spivey
Oswego, IL
Criminal Justice

Abigail L. Lombardoni
Johnstown, NY
Marketing Communications

Keegan A. Lott
Valley Falls, KS
Exercise Science:
Fitness and Wellness

Cadence Mallet
Brisbane, Australia
Business Management
Summa Cum Laude

Jackson P. Malone
Frisco, TX
Business Management

Quatama J. Massaquoi
Pittsburg, CA
Exercise Science:
Personal Training

Kaleigh E. Melroy
Minden, NE
Criminal Justice/Psychology

Caden W. Middleton
Calhoun, LA
Exercise Science:
Fitness and Wellness
Summa Cum Laude

Samantha M. Middleton
Valley Falls, KS
Business Management

Sydney R. Mitchell
Orleans, NE
English
Cum Laude

Kyla J. Moore
Centerville, IA
Elementary Education
Cum Laude

William R. Mouer
Charlotte, NC
Exercise Science:
Fitness and Wellness

Shanya T. Murape
Toronto, Canada
Exercise Science:
Fitness and Wellness

Angel Navarrete
Heyburn, ID
Business Management

Idaias H. Navarro
Dinuba, CA
Psychology/Social Work/
Sociology

Matthew D. Neill
Argyle, TX
Sports Management

Jonathan K. Opoku-Ababio
Fresno, CA
Psychology

Santiago L. Pagnutti
Buenos Aires, Argentina
Sports Management
Cum Laude

Pedro V.L. Panades
Belo Horizonte, Brazil
Business Management/
Accounting
Summa Cum Laude

Shiloh A. Pease
Farmington, UT
Accounting
Cum Laude

Joey R. Pennington
Amarillo, TX
Criminal Justice

Gavin Perez
Alva, OK
Sports Management

Jacob C. Phelps
Lawton, OK
Psychology
Magna Cum Laude

Jamison A. Price
Killeen, TX
Business Management

Sam B. Pyland
Frisco, TX
Business Management
Cum Laude

Aiden C. Quill
Salina, KS
Communications

Ansdiane Rabano
Jersey City, NJ
Criminal Justice

Taiton G. Reed
Salina, KS
Music Performance:
Woodwind

Fernando Ruvalcaba
Atwater, CA
Psychology

Yamen Salameh
Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
Accounting
Magna Cum Laude

William A. Schaeffer
Wichita, KS
Accounting
Magna Cum Laude

Ella A. Schmid
McPherson, KS
Criminal Justice
Cum Laude

Cole A. Seagraves
Wichita, KS
Accounting
Magna Cum Laude

Rylee K. Serpan
Spring Hill, KS
Marketing Communications
Cum Laude

Gavin R. Shafer
Aliso Viejo, CA
Sociology/Criminal Justice
Cum Laude

Artaveon T. Shavers
Salina, KS
Psychology

Drake R. Smart
Lakeport, CA
Business Management
Magna Cum Laude

Kylar D. Smith
Hutchinson, KS
Sports Management
Cum Laude

Alexander Spencer
Tulsa, OK
Criminal Justice

Stefan C. Spray
Great Bend, KS
Business Management

Maria Q. Stanislaw
Junction City, KS
Music Performance: String

Garrett E. Stanley
Midlothian, TX
Sports Management

Hannah E. Swagerty
Delphos, KS
Psychology/Sociology

William G. Thompson
Leavenworth, KS
Communications/
Public Relations/Sociology

Cynder H. Toman
Salina, KS
Music Education: String

Christian P. Trevino
Lenexa, KS
Communications

Shelby G. Via
Georgetown, DE
Psychology/Criminal Justice

Joyce A. Volk-Suenram
Salina, KS
Business Management

Talia A. Walsh
Gilbert, AZ
Sports Management
Magna Cum Laude

Drew E. Wardell
Maize, KS
Marketing Communications
Summa Cum Laude

Yui S. Watanabe
Sugar Land, TX
Sports Management
Magna Cum Laude

Laken Webb
Salina, KS
Business Management

Daniel C. Wehling
Salina, KS
Exercise Science:
Personal Training

Jazmine J. Whitfield
Yukon, OK
Criminal Justice/Social Work

Griffin A. Wiltse
Lutz, FL
Exercise Science:
Fitness and Wellness
Magna Cum Laude

Remington S. Wiseman
Howard, KS
Criminal Justice
Cum Laude

Tori A. Wlodarczyk
Scranton, PA
Sports Management
Summa Cum Laude

Aliyah N.Y. Wood
Quitman, GA
Psychology
Cum Laude

Adam J. Zielinski
Plainfield, IL
Accounting

Degree Candidates

Bachelor of Science

Isabella N. Anderson

Salina, KS
Nursing

Lydia N. Balsler

Greensburg, IN
Health Science:
Pre-Physical Therapy
Magna Cum Laude

Katherine E. Bebout

Tulsa, OK
Health Science:
Pre-Athletic Training
Cum Laude

Sara N. Bebout

Tulsa, OK
Health Science:
Pre-Athletic Training
Cum Laude

Ania J. Bonner

Midwest City, OK
Biomedical Chemistry

Alexander J. Burns

Fort Collins, CO
Software Engineering and
Information Management
Cum Laude

Annabelle Cacho

Kansas City, KS
Biology

Lauren M. Cardwell

Halstead, KS
Biology

Laney C. Carlin

Custer, SD
Biology

Hanna L. Castro

McKinney, TX
Nursing

Gavin F. Chavez

Topeka, KS
Health Science:
Pre-Physical Therapy

Kaitlyn N. Claycamp

Circleville, KS
Nursing

Autumn L. Colgate

Salina, KS
Nursing

Jake A. Cruz

League City, TX
Nursing

Abigail E. Day

Pryor, OK
Biology

Rebekah Demetrius

Monroe, GA
Nursing

Ava R. Denning

Salina, KS
Nursing

Grant A. Dye

Ponca City, OK
Health Science:
Pre-Athletic Training

Dominick L. Etheridge

Fort Worth, TX
Biology

Isabella D. Galvan

La Crescenta, CA
Nursing

Emma G. Gertken

Ponca City, OK
Biomedical Chemistry
Summa Cum Laude

Shelby A. Giersch

Concordia, KS
Biomedical Chemistry
Magna Cum Laude

Eric A. Grogan

Salina, KS
Software Engineering and
Information Management
United States Army
3 Years
Summa Cum Laude

Isabella M. Gutierrez-Myers

Salina, KS
Biomedical Chemistry/
Chemistry

Kirstin N. Hackney

Coldwater, KS
Health Science:
Pre-Physical Therapy

Jocelyn M. Hall

Cisne, IL
Health Science:
Pre-Physical Therapy

Keira M. Hammen

Rockwell City, IA
Biomedical Chemistry
Summa Cum Laude

Adam D. Hanson

Edmond, OK
Biology

Jack W. Hanson

Edmond, OK
Biology
Magna Cum Laude

Madisyn K. Havenstein

Alma, KS
Nursing

Terah J. Head

Liberal, KS
Nursing

Haylee A. Herman

Lindsborg, KS
Nursing

Kierra T. Jensen

Lee's Summit, MO
Health Science:
Pre-Physical Therapy
Summa Cum Laude

Zephran T. Jeter

Viola, KS
Biology
Cum Laude

Conner L. Kirby

Alexander, AR
Financial Mathematics/Physics

Madison K. Lambert

Wichita, KS
Health Science:
Pre-Physical Therapy
Magna Cum Laude

Ana V. Lara

Salina, KS
Health Science:
Pre-Physical Therapy
Cum Laude

Kenneth Luanglatbandith

Orlando, FL
Health Science:
Pre-Physical Therapy

Samari V. McKinney

Douglasville, GA
Software Engineering and
Information Management

Morgan L. McReynolds

La Junta, CO
Nursing

Luke E. Moore

Garden City, KS
Chemistry/Physics

Christopher S. Morton

Salina, KS
Health Science:
Pre-Athletic Training

Alexandra L. Muro

Arcadia, CA
Nursing

Paige M. Proper

Belton, MO
Health Science:
Pre-Physical Therapy
Magna Cum Laude

Angel M. Prough

Salina, KS
Nursing

Justice R. Rebuldela
Salina, KS
Health Science:
Pre-Physical Therapy
Cum Laude

Tytus K. Reed
Lindsborg, KS
Health Science:
Pre-Physical Therapy

Henry W. Reeg
Overland Park, KS
Financial Mathematics
Summa Cum Laude

Elijah R.P. Resano
Salina, KS
Physics
Summa Cum Laude

Jaime Rodriguez
Salina, KS
Financial Mathematics

Deja A. Rubio
Valencia, CA
Health Science:
Pre-Physical Therapy
Cum Laude

Keannalani Sager
Las Vegas, NV
Nursing

Eden F. Schilder
Buhl, ID
Nursing

Amos W. Smith
Salina, KS
Software Engineering and
Information Management
Cum Laude

Elizabeth J. Stout
Chilhowee, MO
Nursing

Brooke A. Strine
Scott City, KS
Nursing

Taryn N. Taylor
Lawton, OK
Biology

Samantha R. Terrill
Minneapolis, KS
Biology

Tyra L. Thompson
Solomon, KS
Biology

Ricardo A. Vargas
Van Nuys, CA
Health Science:
Pre-Athletic Training

Ryann R. Warren
Garden City, KS
Biomedical Chemistry
Summa Cum Laude

Sebastian B. Welter
Salina, KS
Biomedical Chemistry/
Chemistry/Biology
Summa Cum Laude

Kai Wilkinson
Gilbert, AZ
Health Science:
Pre-Physical Therapy

Shaquoia M. Williams
Wichita, KS
Biomedical Chemistry

Andrew S. Wise
Olathe, KS
Biology
Magna Cum Laude

Wil Yamka
Oakville, Canada
Health Science:
Pre-Physical Therapy
Cum Laude

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The degree candidates you see before you today will soon share a bond with more than 10,000 alumni throughout the world. Members of the Alumni Association are fiercely loyal to their alma mater and return often for a variety of events. They also gather at sites throughout the nation to reminisce about their time at KWU and to advance the university into the future.

If you would like more information about the Kansas Wesleyan University Alumni Association, please contact the KWU Advancement Office at 785-833-4338 or alumni@kwu.edu. You can also follow the latest news at KWU.edu/alumni.

The Faculty

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Andrew D. Baker, MFA	Jodi L. Ehling, Ph.D.	Kelly M. Moore*, DSW
Andrew V. Bedrous, Ph.D.	Bridget N. Goodness, MSW	Mazen S. Nairat, Ph.D.
Yuchen W. Boswell, MLS	Paul J. Green*, B.A.	Tricia A. Petak, DBA
Bernard W. Botson Jr.*, M.A.	Kiley A. Hicks, Ph.D.	Andrea J. Picklesimer, MSN
Daniel J. Botz, J.D.	Steven J. Hoekstra, Ph.D.	Michael R. Russell, Ph.D.
Karen L. Babcock Brassea, MFA	Summer A. Huber, M.S.	Liticia J. Salter, M.A.
Barbara A. Brown, Ph.D.	Jonathan T. Hughes, Ed.D.	Taylor K. Schwartz, MBA
Michaela R. Carlson, Ph.D.	Steven I. Kimmi, M.S.	Katherine S. Sweeney*, MSN
Heather E. Chamoff*, M.A.Ed.	Sarah E. Kingan, M.S.	Elizabeth E. Tharman, M.S.
Sanghum Cho, Ph.D.	Kristin L. Kraemer, Ph.D.	James A. Townsend, Ph.D.
Tonia M. Compton, Ph.D.	Suman Kumar Kundu, Ph.D.	Stephanie M. Welter, Ph.D.
Annel Cordero, Ph.D.	David J. Lanning, M.S.	Bonnie K. Welty, M.Ed.
Gustavo do Carmo, DMA	Kourtney M. Maison*, Ph.D.	Lori S. Wright, MFA
William J. Doria, Ph.D.	Philip S. Meckley, Ph.D.	Jerri A. Zwegardt, MSN
Jolene M. Dreher*, MSN	Jeffrey P. Metzler, MSN	

Administrators with Faculty Status

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Jasmin G. Dauner*, B.A.	Jamie R. Kootz, Ed.D.
Michelle A. Dolan*, M.M., MBA	Laura J. Tharman, MLS
Linn M. Exline, M.Ed.	Bridget R. Weiser, M.S.
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*Vice President for Student
and Community Engagement*

Philharmonic Choir

Conducted by David A. Corman, M.M.

Director of Vocal Music

Kelly A. Amaro	Jordan A. Compagnone	Mackenzie B. Martinez	Sadie I. Prince
Vanessa M. Arceo	Benjamin L. Corman*	Aryonna K. McEachin	Clarissa L. Radabaugh
Timothy L. Armknecht	Grace E. Corman	Cesily L. McNutt	Brandy C. Sandoval
Jacob R. Brown*	Zander X. Flener	Jakayla L. Melleny	Brynn A. Shaft
Tre Brown	Perry W. Grewell*	Luke E. Moore*	Ava G. Siebert
Evan W. Burns *	Tru E. Haesemeyer*	Adamaris K. Nava	Hailey N. Summers
Joshua S. Chelvan	Donovan C. Johnson	Caden R. Nelson	Grace S. Welsh
Kalani L. Chrispen	Karly M. Kroeker	Lucas J. Nutter	Timothy L. Zack
Kaiden D. Comeau	Kaylee E. Laha	Sarah N. Portenier	Tyler A. Zuegge

Kansas Wesleyan Orchestra

Directed by Benjamin G. Rohrer, M.M.

Adjunct Professor of Music

Daniel W. Albertson**	Emma D. Haag	Reggie Rhodeman^
Vanessa M. Arceo	Nancy Klostermeyer ^	Merissa E. Bailey Rios
Timothy L. Armknecht	Vy K. Le	Mark Sibilla^
Rachel Augustine ^	Julian Lundberg ^	Anajaye D. Smith
Christopher C. Barlow**	Amelia Mall ^	Sara A. Smith
Dena T. Berquist**	Jeff Morrell ^	Emma Tieking^
Denise Blehm **	Adamaris K. Nava	Alesiya N. Valentine
Alyssia C. Brown	Lucas J. Nutter	Logan A. White
Noah Carrazco^	Eli Perry ^	Janet Winter^
Dr. Gustavo do Carmo**	Matthew Redden^	Timothy L. Zack
Amiliar Guzman ^	Colleen G. Regan	

*Denotes 2026 Graduate | **Denotes KWU Faculty Member | ^ Community Member

Congratulations Class of 2026!

Thank you for your many meaningful contributions
to our community and the KWU experience.
You will always be a part of the Coyote family!

Make plans now to come back for Homecoming, Oct. 16-18, 2026.



Graduates' Prayer

Written by John K. Burchill, B.A. '80
KWU Associate Professor of Criminal Justice, 1996-2022

God of new journeys, circle today's graduates
And make them your own.
Call them to care for each other.
Give them eyes to see your gifts, ears to hear your plan,
Hearts to embrace all of your creation, and
Hands to serve you every day of their lives.
In your name we pray. Amen.

The Alma Mater

Wesleyan Memories

Oh Wesleyan, dear Wesleyan!
The days may come, the days may go.
But still our hearts in mem'ry cling
To those college days of long ago.

The color scraps, the student pranks,
The calls we made at Schuyler Hall,
The picnic on the Smoky's banks,
We recall them all, we love them all.

Thru youth, thru prime and when the days
Of harvest time to us shall come;
Thru all we'll bear the mem'ries dear,
Of those golden days at the Wesleyan.

Then when perchance we're far away,
And cares of life to each are come,
We'll not forget, e'en then to pray,
For the Wesleyan, dear Wesleyan.

Saturday, May 16 | 10 a.m. | Tony's Pizza Events Center