Commencement
FALL 2023 CEREMONIES
Welcome to Commencement at the University of West Georgia! An academic commencement is unlike any other ceremony. The importance of the occasion is underscored by the use of symbols and traditions which have their origins in the medieval academies. The academic dress, the mace, many of the words we use, and even the diplomas themselves derive from a long and distinguished academic history.

We hope you will take time to look through this program. In it, you will find explanations of some of the customs and symbols you will witness today. We hope your understanding of these academic traditions will add to your enjoyment of the commencement ceremony.

We are happy to have you with us today as we celebrate the achievements of our graduates.

Welcome!

Alma Mater

Felton Dunn

Bruce Benton

In the west-ern pines of Georgia stand-ing strong and true,

Our wise Al-ma Ma-ter beck-ons to the Red and Blue,

Though you be in learn-ing found-ed youth-ful yet you be,

While thus guid-ed by tra-di-tion yet you still breathe free,

Dear West Geor-gia Dear West Geor-gia stand-ing strong and

ture, Our wise Al-ma Ma-ter beck-ons to the Red and the Blue.

Officially Adopted Spring 1984
Commencement
FALL 2023 CEREMONIES

University of West Georgia
December 9, 2023
The Coliseum
Carrollton, Georgia
Fall Semester Commencement • December 9, 2023 • The Coliseum

10 a.m.
Undergraduate Degree Candidates
College of Education
School of Communication, Film, and Media
Tanner Health System School of Nursing
University College

2 p.m.
Graduate Degree Candidates
All Colleges and Schools

5:30 p.m.
Undergraduate Degree Candidates
College of Arts, Culture, and Scientific Inquiry
Richards College of Business

CALL TO ORDER
Dr. Michael Hester
Director of UWG Debate & Coordinator of UWG’s African American Male Initiative

NATIONAL ANTHEM
10 a.m. Katie Sweeney, Soprano & Mackenzie Phillips, Soprano
2 p.m. Ethan Weaver, Tenor
5:30 p.m. Mary Jane Levann, Mezzo-Soprano

SGA WELCOME
Tyler McCoy
President, Student Government Association

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS
Dr. Brendan B. Kelly
President

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES
Dr. Jon A. Preston
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. André L. Fortune
Vice President for Student Affairs
Dr. Pauline Gagnon
Dean of the College of Arts, Culture, and Scientific Inquiry
Dr. Mike Dishman
Dean of the College of Education
Dr. Christopher Johnson
Dean of the Richards College of Business
Dr. Karen Owen
Dean of University College and Honors College
Dr. Jennifer Schuessler
Dean of the Tanner Health System School of Nursing
Dr. Matt Varga
Dean of the Graduate School
Dr. Brad Yates
Dean of the School of Communication, Film, and Media

10 a.m.
Jean Cook
Instruction Librarian

2 p.m.
Dr. Beth Sheppard
Library Faculty

5:30 p.m.
Charlie Sicignano
Library Head of Acquisitions
HOODING OF DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

- Dr. Kelly Dyar  
  *Associate Professor of Nursing Education*
- Dr. Robert Griffin  
  *Associate Professor of Literacy Education*
- Dr. Morgan Jenkins  
  *Clinical Assistant Professor*
- Dr. Andy Nixon  
  *Associate Professor of Educational Leadership*
- Dr. Elizabeth Pope  
  *Associate Professor of Educational Research*
- Dr. John Roberts  
  *Associate Professor of Psychology*
- Dr. Kathleen Skott-Myhre  
  *Professor of Psychology*
- Dr. Julia Whisenhunt  
  *Professor of Counselor Education*
- Dr. Matt Varga  
  *Dean of the Graduate School*
- Dr. John Roberts  
  *Associate Professor of Psychology*
- Dr. Kathleen Skott-Myhre  
  *Professor of Psychology*
- Dr. Reena Viswanath  
  *Assistant Professor of Higher Education Administration*

INDUCTION INTO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

- Christopher Sanders  
  *Chair of Alumni Association Board of Directors*

ALMA MATER

- 10 a.m.  
  Katie Sweeney & Mackenzi Phillips
- 2 p.m.  
  Ethan Weaver
- 5:30 p.m.  
  Mary Jane Levann

FACULTY MARSHAL

- 10 a.m.  
  Dr. Kathleen Morales  
  *Student Success Coordinator and Associate Professor of Nursing*
- 2 p.m.  
  Dr. Kelly Dyar  
  *Director of Inquiry and Scholarship and Associate Professor of Nursing*
- 5:30 p.m.  
  Dr. Javier Hasbun  
  *Professor of Physics*

MACE BEARER

- 10 a.m.  
  Dr. Nacy Capponi  
  *Assistant Professor of Nursing*
- 2 p.m.  
  Bridgette Stewart  
  *Chief Wellness Officer*
- 5:30 p.m.  
  Dr. Basu Dutt  
  *Professor of Economics*
Dear Graduates,

On behalf of the University of West Georgia, it gives me great pleasure to commend you on this momentous occasion! This significant milestone represents a tremendous achievement of which you and your families should be extremely proud.

The accomplishment of attaining your degree is immense, but your successes and contributions will not end today. This experience will open pathways to even more powerful opportunities well into your future and to the lives of those around you. I look forward to seeing the indelible impact you will make in your communities.

As a graduate of UWG, your educational credentials and experience, as well as your personal and professional successes, will forever be interwoven into the success of this institution. As such, it is vital for you to continue advocating for and supporting your university as it continues to build the value of your degree. Your continued involvement and engagement in your university will enhance and bolster our ability to continue serving future generations of students who will follow in your footsteps.

No matter what challenges we face in the future, I know the world needs you, your ideas, and your creativity now more than ever. So go out as alumni of UWG and do amazing things!

Go West, and Go Wolves!

Brendan B. Kelly, Ph.D.
President
University of West Georgia
Degree Candidates

College of Arts, Culture, and Scientific Inquiry

Bachelor of Arts

Art
Terrell Donavan Bolton
★ Kennedee Ja'Leah Williams

English
Henrietta Adjoa Bekor
△ Emily Elizabeth Brooks
Sydney Madison Buic
Jorge Carbalal
★ Sophia Marie Couch
Savonne DeMarcus Dennis
Tyrec Shamar Farmer
★ Isabella Claire Herring
★ Abigail Danielle Norton
Mariah Redmond
Amber Wieck

Foreign Languages and Literatures
Jasmine Biyaunka Dunn
△ Kaleb Douglas Hyatt
Oliva Janet Rodriguez
△ Courtney Lynne Vance

History
Michael Clayton Ballenger
Heather Cook
△ Seth Thomas Hopkins
Misty Sierra Mlack
Caleb Stanley Seldon
★ Benjamin Ryan Smith
Alaina Danielle White

Bachelor of Fine Arts

Art
Andrea Altman
Sarah Elisabeth Beatty
Emily Sarah Boatright
△ Zoe Willow Brooks
★ Arianna Aadiyah Naomi Brown
△ Zhane Toni-Marie Brown
Hailey Nicole Cooper
Cheyenne Elaine Cox
★ Ansley B. Holland
Isabella Christina Lugo
★ Kamarezon Tovierre Mathis
★ John Elbert Moore IV
Saulee Smith
Jalin Nicole Walters
△ Victoria Love Weaver

Theatre
★ Dajia Cianci Jones
★ Ramey Belle Ward

Bachelor of Music
Brandon Nathaneil Cunningham
Karlee Cecilia Demmer

Bachelor of Science

Anthropology
Heather Danielle Brown
Allegra Wilhelmna Freeman
★ Emily M. Moon
Taylor Rae Staples

Biology
Kennedy Morgan Ash
Caitlyn Brooke Bivens
Alyssa C. Burke
Breanna Nicole Cain
★ Grace Elisabeth Camp
Michele Nicole Chastain
Michelle Cortines
Bessy Melissa Costilla Delcid
Dickson Leigh Currey
★ Madeline June Duke
Emma Elizabeth Ellis
★ Katelyn Enderle
★ Kameron Evins
Kaylee Jordan Faulkner
★ Aubrey Mack Gaines
Darius C. Giles
Jada Ayanna Lewis
Cynthia Shanice McCain
★ Abigail Lee McGlamery
Mohammad Loay Mustafa
Bryceton O’Neal Jernigan Noble
Spyncer Franklin Patron
Stephanie Ryo Tsubolino
Jack Phillip Wessels
Ryen Acoli Wiggins
Savannah Brooke Wilson
Hikeeneya Meshadet Wright

Chemistry
Tiera Deyana Allen
Abigail Sharon Baker
★ Leonardo Daniel Ibarra
Kennedy Kyle Montgomery
★ Abigail Renae Wester

Computer Science
Amelia Rose Reynolds
Janera Pauline Menae Smith
Matthew Olin Charles Thompson

Geography
△ Alexandra Morrell Easterwood
Triston B. Nowak

Geology
Nicholas Andrew Nance

Mathematics
Alexander Benjamin Gordon
Porsha L. Jones
Brian Keeler Luke

Physics
△ Daniel Thomas Byers
△ James Lee Land

Psychology
Zakiyyah Asiyah Abubakir
Mary Delaney Agur
Danielle Amankwah
★ Amber Nicole Baldwin
Hannah E. Bearden
△ Adela Belohlavovaa
Avery Jovan Benitez
△ Alyssa N. Biglow
△ Brooke Elizabeth Brady
Dessiana Marie Brown
Paris Kennedy Brown
MaKaila Dechelle Buchanan
★ Ayanna Kathryn Cephus
Caleb Bradford Chastain
★ Tyler Crowder
Ra’Shawn Jameel De Castro Jr.
Emily Delgado
Britton Jai Dothard
Katelyn Brooke Edwards
Emery Claire Faircloth
★ Niyah Monae Fontanez
△ Ti’Yanna I. Foster
★ Natalie MacKenzie Giddens
Santana Nishe Gilbert
Michael Peter Goodison
★ Christopher William Harp
Janiya De’Aonna Hicks
Timia Raquel Hinton
Destiny Nycole Holland
Ja’von Anthony Jackson
Catrice Jacques

★ cum laude
△ magna cum laude
★★ summa cum laude

△ also Biology
△ also Psychology
Nyah Janaé Jordan
James Zacquis Lane
Allison Renee Lester
Ashley N. Lewis
JaSta Tarje Lovelace
Lauren Elizabeth McElhaney
Megan A. Morgan
Kylie Mae Moses
Zachary Obi
Diamond Alexis Odom
Karen Elizabeth Rogers
Nicholas James Tarter
Alyssa Gabrielle Patricia Williams
Olivia Claire Zirkle

Taylor McKenzie-Bean Hammett
Taylor Bethany Mitchell
Gené Victoria Smith
Nacodie Churuin Williams Jr.

Sociology
★ Hailey Danielle Abercrombie
Jamia L. Battiste
Taleija Shanice Bennerson
Hailey Alexandra La’Ray Crosby Williams
Destini Edwards
Felicia M. Freeman
Ashley Amoure Gates
★ Jacqueline Lania Marie Kersey
Carlesia Smith
Amethyst Adriana Terrell

MASTER OF ARTS

English
Shelly L. Bressner
Allison Eidson Duncan
Sarah Kraft
Cheyenne Alexandra Miller
Katelyn Cheyenne Moss
Summer Elizabeth Rand
Dylan Jeffrey Reber
Landrin Carlyle Shelton
Michelle Harris Wooten

History
Eric Andrew Chaney
Camille Olivia Coe
Tracy A. Phelps

Psychology
Rebekah Elizabeth Baldwin
Adilene López Valenzuela
Joshua Mollenkamp
Jeremy Jontel Surry

Sociology
Hollis Clarke Hill
Laurin Howell Plummer

MASTER OF MUSIC

Michaela Elizabeth Brock
Katelynn Marie Crossan
Scott Matthew Gearhart
Lesley Jakovcic
Katie Anne Morris
Theresa Anna Rochowski

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Applied Computer Science
Chandan Jaladi

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN

Psychology

Consciousness and Society
Kimberly Ann Prince Korobov
Enlivening the Dead Places: ‘Dreaming
Psychosis’ in Analytic Field Theory
Faculty Advisor: Dr. John Roberts

Jacob Harrison Tengelsen
Tweets and the Child Sex-Trafficked Person
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Kathleen Skott-Myhre

Bachelor of Science

Health and Community Wellness
Jordan Darshe Adams
★ Bret Adkins
Afolasade Zainab Ambali
JoCee Patricia Barrett
★ Haley Nicole Brinkman
Alexis Nicole Conner
Nyelia Jade Davis
★ Logan Grant Dixon
★ Mary Grace Farmer
★ Kalyn Bre Friar
Amari Alexandria Hines

Lauren Shanice Jones
Luis Carlos Martinez
★ Kasilynn Faith McClain
Rajaez A. Mosley
★ Nia Janea Rachmann
Chemari Renell Reeves
Raegaan Amaree Rudolph
Courtney Allissa Saxton
Raqwam Altarek Smith
Sandra Latrice Smith

Sport Management
Gary Andrews Jr.
★ Nathaniel H. Austin

Psychology
Bryce Lawrence Busby
Anthony Ramoan Causey Jr.
Kiera Taylor Ellis
Camryn Perrion Feagins
William Tyler Gates
Andrew Paul Gautreaux
JeQwan George
Marvin James
Kristofer Tyler Kelly
Jhane McDonald
★ Derrick Dewayne McFerrien Jr.
Bachelor of Science in Education

Elementary Education
- Maria Liset Acosta
- Ivy Sue Altman
- Kierra Brianne Bailey
- Afton E. Boatman
- Bria Elizabeth Boatman
- Kierra S. Britt
- Sarah Elizabeth Bruce
- Christi Diane Buffington
- Marian Guadalupe Colindres-Gonzalez
- Lauren Allison DeFoor
- Saleathia Amari Green
- Haleigh Madison Griffin
- Kendall Nicole Kirby
- Aliyah Nicole Martin
- Aleah Gail McKenzie
- Natalie Marie Myers
- Dekaii Catera Ogletree
- Felicia Lynn Padgett
- Alexis E. Pierre
- Jasmine Alexis Pittman
- Chloe Paige Pledger
- Natalie Jewel Porter
- Almary Rodriguez
- Meagan Brooke Ryan
- Abigail Faith Sadler
- Zhakira Celeste Sainsbury
- Abigail Mackenzie Smith
- Madelyn A. Smith
- Mackenzie Rachelle Snyder
- Maya Amari Timberlake
- Kelsey Ashlyn Traylor
- Laurel Ann Vines
- Isabelle Kathryn Walters
- Megan Wheelless

Physical Education
- Shavar Lewis Reynolds

Speech-Language Pathology
- Robin Lee Golden-Bass

MASTER OF EDUCATION

Elementary Education
- Amanda Berlin
- Brooke Hambrick Brumbelow
- Idaja T’Meia Driver
- Kathryn Carlisle Gaona
- Dara Gramling
- Sara Harper
- Chasity Noel Harrison
- Shaikeria T. Hill
- Melissa Leigh Johnson
- Marshanda Bradshaw Lathbury
- Charlotte Ann Livingston
- Kailyn Alexandra Locklear
- Elizabeth M. Massenburg
- Ellen Hungerford Pierson
- Ashlyn Rose Popham
- Sadie-Grayson Sanders Prince
- Sarah Catherine Reagan
- Laura Louise Schultz
- Lauren Childs Sherrill
- DeJa Alisa Wilkerson
- Dru Alexis Wilson
- Julia Yeast

Instructional Technology, Media, and Design
- Carly Anglin
- Teavin Tramaine Applewhite
- Amy Kathryn Beasley
- Thomas Andrew Brown
- Tammy Marie Carnley
- Autumn Sydney Chance
- Zachary Paul Colley
- Eddrick Jaron Copeland
- Nicole Marie Crain
- Mercedes Dowling
- Katlyn Elizabeth Durham
- Cameron Elizabeth Eby
- Michael Tyler Ellis
- Amanda K. Evans
- Emily Mae Faulkenberry
- Thomas Porterfield Flowers
- Elizabeth Ann Gearhart
- Rachel Kane Hanawalt
- Tyler Curtis Hinesley
- Sandra Lee Jones
- Carol Kennemore Kleywegt
- Tuedee Lassiter Lambert
- Corey Latham Sr.
- Carlos Christopher Lovett Sr.
- Bonnie Catherine Luffel
- Brittany Maddox
- Emily Ann Moss
- Catherine L. Munson
- Jessica Murphy
- Andricque DeShaun Norwood
- Catherine Skye Nugent
- Erica Chloe Pater
- Sidney Kristine Paulson
- Linda M. Perez
- Corey Dakota Phillips
- Kayla Deduro Phillips
- Briyana Pearl Richardson
- Kaylee Ann Roberts
- Chrisanthi Robledo
- Amber Nicole Street
- Kathryn Teresa Thaxton
- Jessica Evelyn Vaca
- Lauren Elizabeth Watson
- Kelsey Wheeler

Physical Education
- John Kevin Booth
- Gregory Lee Busby
- Kirk Call
- Elzie Marshall II
- Jessie Pagett Reed
- Antwon Terreick Simmons

Professional Counseling
- Jason Paul Collins
- Karen Elizabeth Gearhart

* cum laude  ◆ magna cum laude  △ summa cum laude
Dixie Lynn Gill
Mary Faith Laughlin
Rachel Leigh Lewis
Alaina Victoria Navarro
Mya Alexis Patterson
Elizabeth Curry Sockwell
Indira Thomasson
James E. Vanlandingham

Reading Instruction
Kelsey Peck Davis
Logan Graves
Lindsey Monique Griffin
Elizabeth Smith Wanamaker

Special Education
Danielle Elizabeth Bazemore
Alexis Bedgood
Matthew Beecher
Abigail Elizabeth Croft
Ashley Elizabeth Dunlop
Stephanie Schlanger
Elizabeth Lynn Smith
Charity Hope Switzer
Amy Terlizzi
Stacey Reid Underwood

Master of Science

Sport Management
Riley Nicole Galpin
Antoine Hudspeth
Kalup Eugene Liszewski
Adia Ayanna Randall
Parker Rawlin
Jamie Ruengmateekhun
Ashly Brandt Salomonsky
Ari Najmah Samuel
Savannah Scharschmidt
Noah Allen Shobe
Jimmy Vinson
Savanna Walker
Kenneth Bailey Witcher

Specialist in Education

Educational Leadership
Holli Diana Brown
Patrick Craig Cuff
Porsha Davis
Richard Lewis Flowers
Stanley Gaddis
Nicholas David Gast
Latashia Louise Gosier
Jessica Felicita Layana
Toni G. Lovvorn
Janet Marotte
Soo Lee Son
Timothy Jason Sparks
Monique Lanee’ Swinger
Brandon Thompson
Bohanon Nicholas Tinney
Stacey Van Syckle

Elementary Education
Shannon Adams
Hilary L. Backstrom
Caroline Ashley Brashear
Jennifer Renee Clark
Tricia Lynn Fox
Brittany C. Gore
Margretta Walker Harris
Michele Nicole Harrison
Kelly R. Koch
Enasia Imani Lee
Lillian Katrina Monroe
Heather Beatrice Neil
Jennifer Morgan Peacock
Holly Rabino
Earla Georgia Reece
Natania Marie Riley
Jocelyn Pisauro Robbins
Maren Roedenbeck
Kathryn Ryan
Deborah Miranda Satterfield
Stephanie C. Shamblin
Katherine Johns Starkey
Jeanine Nicole Walker

Instructional Technology, Media, and Design
Kristen Nicole Alvarez
Emily Anne Ashworth
Elias Barber
Hollie Barrow
Sarah Torrance Beck
Chelsea Nicole Bowman
Ashley Brady
Drew Bryan
Elizabeth Scarborough Bryan
Pamela Brynien
Matthew Buckert
Susan Hunt Buckert
Toi Rourk Carter
Frances Renee Chandler
Leslie Ann Clay-McCoy
Jordan Benitez Cofer
Adam Vincent Collins
Christy Cook
Erin Elizabeth Corbin
Karson Elijah Creamer
Cristina Kay Crowder
Lindsay Dalton
Addison Reese Daniel
Alexandria Maria Daniels
Richard Michael Dierkes
Daphne Dobbin

Andrew Parker Doss
Cody Dyer
Andrew Hartman Eager
Tracy Farrow
Melissa Mary Fernandes
Colleen Frances Foy
George Randall Gabriel
Frankie Virginia Garner
Hannah Corene Godfrey
Lisa Washington Griffin
Cathey Elizabeth Hagerich
Jessica Lee Hall
Robert Jared Hamby
Maria Dalilas Hamill
Paige Hartley
Suzanne Haynes
Holly Hicks
Aimee Leigh Holcombe
Mikelle Gabriel Holmes
Molly Carol Hopper
Stevie Jackson
Camille Johnson
Janet Kimberly Jones
Deidre Anne Kell
Jessica Douglass Kelly
KeAnna Earle Kilpatrick
Amanda Jane Knopp
Rebecca R. Landes
Hope Marlena Lawrence
Jamie Strickland Lester
Kyle Thomas Manley
Deana Norris Martin
Lori E. McGovern
Teleah McTeer
Katherine Pettryjohn Molock
Lindsay Jane Moore
Laura Morrison
Donald Wes Parker
Sarah Elizabeth Parker
Lauren Meredith Peters
Amber Janay Peterson
Robert Norman Poff
Teara Williams Powell
Kathryn Pritz
Ashleigh Morgan Puckett
Ramona Janess Rhoden
Jeanane Patrice L. Robinson
Tiffani Renee Robinson
Tequila M. Sanders
Cameron Ann Sheldon
Margaret Dedman Shumake
Andrea Nicole Shurtleff
Karen Slaton
Tara Holder Stewart
David Stickel
Chelsea Taylor

Andrew Parker Doss
Cody Dyer
Andrew Hartman Eager
Tracy Farrow
Melissa Mary Fernandes
Colleen Frances Foy
George Randall Gabriel
Frankie Virginia Garner
Hannah Corene Godfrey
Lisa Washington Griffin
Cathey Elizabeth Hagerich
Jessica Lee Hall
Robert Jared Hamby
Maria Dalilas Hamill
Paige Hartley
Suzanne Haynes
Holly Hicks
Aimee Leigh Holcombe
Mikelle Gabriel Holmes
Molly Carol Hopper
Stevie Jackson
Camille Johnson
Janet Kimberly Jones
Deidre Anne Kell
Jessica Douglass Kelly
KeAnna Earle Kilpatrick
Amanda Jane Knopp
Rebecca R. Landes
Hope Marlena Lawrence
Jamie Strickland Lester
Kyle Thomas Manley
Deana Norris Martin
Lori E. McGovern
Teleah McTeer
Katherine Pettryjohn Molock
Lindsay Jane Moore
Laura Morrison
Donald Wes Parker
Sarah Elizabeth Parker
Lauren Meredith Peters
Amber Janay Peterson
Robert Norman Poff
Teara Williams Powell
Kathryn Pritz
Ashleigh Morgan Puckett
Ramona Janess Rhoden
Jeanane Patrice L. Robinson
Tiffani Renee Robinson
Tequila M. Sanders
Cameron Ann Sheldon
Margaret Dedman Shumake
Andrea Nicole Shurtleff
Karen Slaton
Tara Holder Stewart
David Stickel
Chelsea Taylor
Robin Anne Thompson  
Rekita Trenice Thornhill  
Eileen Walsh Tishken  
Joshua Timothy Tompkins  
Tomeka Nicosha Trussell  
Jennifer Goddard Turner  
Kimberly Ann Ureke  
Molly Humphries Valencia  
Dustin John Westbrook  
Brittany Bultman Wiggins  
Austen Garrett Williams  
Sandra K. Williams  
Breanne Wood  
Natasha Wright  
Charlee House Yancey  

**Professional Counseling**  
Robert James Arsenault  
Elizabeth Bishop  
Jessica Fleming Chester  
Eva Fedd  
Tiffany Patrice Gillians  
Phyllis Gay Hale  
Maria Antoinette Josey  
Bren Haven Lewis  
Margarita Poché  
Teah Marie Quinones  
Karen Robin  
Audrey Rodriguez  
Jade Sanches  
Rebecca Whitesel  
Wendy Williams  

**Secondary Education**  
Susan Elizabeth Aughey  
Phillip Babb  
Erin Meredith Blake  
Amanda Louise Bridges  
Paris Christian Brown II  
Jessica Erin Carter  
Ansley Cranford Giddens  
Priscilla Dawn Haynes  
Ebony N. Morrison  
Gregory Norman Nail  
Danielle Okamoto  
Katie Ann Peters  

Charles Frederick Petrea  
Carolyn Conley Simons  
Lee Spoors  
Taylor Lane Swilling  

**Special Education**  
Angela Gates Acree  
Reshma Bakshani  
Tonica Burden Barolette  
Bejewel Brown  
Charles Dante Cheek  
Marissa Coney  
Adrian Barrington Cross  
Amy Nobuko Filatreau  
Wanda Gibson  
Agnieszka Elzbieta Haley  
Heather M. Hamilton  
Lauren Elizabeth Hayde  
Angela Lynn Hodge  
Alma Adriana Lopez  
Karyn O’Miller  
Taylor Pearson  
Kyum Tonya Perkins  
Anna Kathryn Ray  
Sherry Diane Roberts  
Torian Ross  
Kelly Hart Scott  
Kendra Leann Sewell  
Julia Michelle Tannehill  
Megan E. Tucker  
Dylan Jessie Windom  

**Doctor of Education in Higher Education Administration**  
* Paul Anthony Bradley, Jr  
  Adenike Marie Brewington  
  *Black Women in STEM: Experiences With Double Bind Discrimination and the Role of Same-Race Mentoring on Their Persistence*  
  Faculty Advisor: Dr. Ashton Cooper  

Christian M. Gallie  
Non-Traditional International Students’ Perceptions of Support Services: A Phenomenological Study  
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Robert Griffin  

April Wood Stewart  
The Effects of Dual Enrollment on K-12 and Georgia Postsecondary Institutions  
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Matt Varga  

Lindsey Elizabeth Woods  
Institutional Response to Student Activists’ Requests for Increased Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Practices on a College Campus  
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Matt Varga  

**Doctor of Education**  
**School Improvement**  
Kristina White Richardson  
An Evaluation of a Developing Leaders Program to Increase Leadership Capacity and Confidence to Lead Change  
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Andy Nixon  

Keyaneshia Archetta Richmond  
Elementary Students Learning Online: Instructional Best Practices for Engagement and Ideal Characteristics for Online Learning  
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Elizabeth Pope  

**Doctor of Education in Counseling**  
**Professional Counseling and Supervision**  
Cayce Nicole Pope  
An Examination of School Counselors’ Use of Telemental Health to Support Students in Crisis  
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Julia Whisenhunt  

Grenetta Gunn Turner  
School Counselors’ Perceptions of the Effects of School Mental Health Services on Gifted Students  
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Morgan Jenkins  

*Posthumous Degree*
Bachelor of Arts
International Economic Affairs
- Courtney Lynette Buice

Bachelor of Business Administration
Accounting
- Clifford M. Barrett
- Emma Catherine Bartlett
- Robyn Nicole Brass
- Sara Shea Brooks
- Serenity M. Burns
- Christen Taylor Copeland
- Yareli Hernandez
- Gage Burns Jackson
- Bieyri Servando Molina Ibarra
- Emmanuel Tochukwu Okonkwo
- Spencer Lawrence Rowe
- Halie Elizabeth Spears
- Morgan Taylor Tingle
- Blake Alexander Velez
- Alicia Renee Wall

Economics
- Savannah M. Ford
- Tanner Jones Griffin
- Luke Anthony Joyner

Finance
- Christina Nicole Baker
- Ben Michael Bradley
- Nathanael James Finley
- Christian Van Griffith
- Donald Tyler Hicks
- Alec Samuel Andres McDonald
- Jahaad Cinqué Ra-Hashim
- Ashton Taylor Roberts
- Salvador Rodriguez
- Jaxson Manuel Sanker
- Braedon M. Smith
- Olivia Faith Sorrells
- Jade Marie Teague
- Carlin E. Vedane
- Samuel Bradley Yates

Management
- Irving Alvarez
- Caleb Donald Babb
- Palmer Thomas Bachelder
- Shayla Marie Britt
- Lilia Grace Carrington
- Steven Nolan Carroll
- Savannah Marie Childers
- Gracie Leighton Clifton
- Terrill Cole
- Zachary Ryan Crawford

Deia Janaise Dennis
Callie Lane DuBose
- Adrian M. Galbraith
- Cody C. Gast
- Ryan Christopher Ginnity
- Maryo Lenn Hudgins
- Damaris Ruth Isham
- Lauren Nicole Johnson
- Savannah Marie Dendinger Johnson
- Mamiya Rakell Kight
- Keyshonda Lashae Knight
- Jade Alexandria McDaniel
- Christopher Blake McElroy
- Reid Olin Morris
- Shiv Suresh Patel
- Oliwer Karl-Johan Persson Toiminen
- Ethan William Redick
- Anahi Rivera
- Madison Camille Robinson
- DeAndre Anthony-Michael Rodriguez
- Rachel Rose
- Akili O’Shea Smith
- Crystal Renee Smith
- Matthew Caleb Smith
- Nevia Simone Timmons
- Lizbeth Abundis Trejo
- Ka-Lyn Jeannean Waldrop
- Zechiah Monae Weekley

Management Information Systems
Christopher David Brackett
- John Brown Jr.
- Aaron Dakota Cheatwood
- Tiffany Chanelle Davidson
- Moses Chidiebere Uzoma Dike
- Brent L. Dobbs Jr.
- Vo Mong Tuyen Le
- Jala Amara Marie Leak
- Tori Martin
- Miles Tyler McDaniel
- Christian Callier Mills
- Jadarius Antwan Mosley
- David Miles Neary III
- Brandon Matthew Pippen
- Joa’ n Walker
- Markayla Jakia Witchard
- Antonio Darnell Woods

Marketing
- Lauren Marie Baker
- Kylee Elayne Brazel
- Dana M. Brown
- Katlynn P. Clackum
- Chase Perry Coker
- Carolyne Danielle Curlee
- Timothy D. Driver

Ashton Riley Duffey
- Lakera Jeneise Earley
- Sarah Victoria Fehr
- Adriel Nicole Gardner
- Sabrina Mavis Gonsalves
- Samantha Kaila-Rose Harbour
- Christopher Reid Honeycutt
- Jordan Danielle Hughes
- S’Brasha Ariana Jones
- Tyrique Korrione Knox
- Cierra Cheyenne Latham
- Kylie Laurel Leo
- Ellie Rose Maria
- Christian S. Merritt
- Garret Ivan Mshoe
- Natstasia Alina Nicolas
- Steven Davis Peterson
- Michaela Marie Price
- Madelyn Radford
- Gabrielle Elise Respess
- Addie Nicole Thomas
- Camarri Leon Totten
- Cayla Gloriaan Wheeler
- Jon Allen Williford

Bachelor of Science
Economics
- Gregory Armwood Jr.

Master of Business Administration
Blessing Ameh
- Bolatito Khadijat Aremu
- Jaylin M. Austin
- Alexandra Gunter Bell
- Hannah Nicole Dunajek
- Mason Gregory Farrar
- Miles Harris
- Matthew David Harrison Huddleston
- JacksonSpinner Johnson
- Destiny Cherelle Kilgore
- Raymond Lewis
- Patricia Martin Gomez
- Isaiah Witherspoon Neloms
- Augustine Ngalia
- Ashley Kanoelani North
- Tina Michelle Skinner Reece
- Brooke Marie Wade
- Kirstin Kathleen Zell

Master of Professional Accounting
Mason Gregory Farrar

- cum laude
- magna cum laude
- summa cum laude

Δ also Accounting
Ω also Finance
Ψ also Management
✓ also Marketing
Bachelor of Science

Film and Video Production

Asia Loreal Burkes
Aiyana Nicole Cooper
John Joseph Gallo
Joi’ Anna Faith Partee
Luis Ignacio Roque
Thomas A. Shultz

Mass Communications

Karla V. Benitez
Nia Brielle Binning
Alicia J’kai Booth
Kelli Ann Breed
Cheldee Elizabeth Bruton

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Audrey Yeboah Agyemang
Kimberly Carolina Almonte
Catherine Ariel Andre
Alexis Rayann Atkins
Brinsley Pierce Bagley
Zaria Monique Banks
Rachel E. Bice
Stuart Joseph Bishop
Casey Marie Black
Robyn L. Brantley
Mayci Lynn Brasfield
Daysha Jonnelle Brown
Jourdan N’Jai Brown
Lenny Michelle Bryan-Perez
Valerie Nichole Byrd
Charsye Charelle Callahan
Zemtris Carter
Cynthia Castillo
Sawyer Lixian Chaffin
Brittney Lynn Colvin
Xiann Laneice Cooley
Heather Marie Evelyn Crockett
Tyler Crowder
Holley Nicole Dalton
Jennifer Duah
Jada Michelle Dupree
Emily Catherine Edwards
Ebonie Janiya Enzor

Ansleigh Carter Findlay
Blythe Cheyenne Floyd
Stanesha Lynae Ford
London Marie Fowler
Kimberly Michelle Fulmer
Tiyonna Ziquerreia Gamble
Susan Kristen Gardner
Camryn Savannah Gore
Mia Najai Grenade
Hailee Michelle Hartfree
Savannah Marie Herren
Madison Grace Fennel Holbrook
William Adkins Horne
Amy Huber
Jayne Michelle Hutchins
Emani Lynette Jones
Angel Marie Justice
Elizabeth E. Kaba
Alina Elisabeth Lauderdale
Kristina Lavern Lindsay
Farrah Pierre Louis Mahotieres
Lissette Arely Maldonado
Lauren Elizabeth Meadows
Alyssa Jade Miller
Abby Noelle Moore
Riley Blake Moore
Kylene G. Moreland
Kiera Vanshion Mosley
Lyla Claire Norton
Mekenna Amelia Lawrence
Jada R. Little
Matthew Wyatt Mason
Jamaya De’ Yonna McRae
Mercedes Nicole Nelson
Ashley Ann New
Angelo Van Parker II
Lauren Elizabeth Ridley
Ireland Grace Robertson
Taron James Still
Ayana Danielle Ware
Jared R. Webster
Shelby Adele Whitmire
Tora Aniyah Wright
Zoey Marie Zucker

Doctor of Education

Nursing Education

Tonya Michelle Herring
Prelicensure Academic Nurse Educators’ Use of Exam and Item Analysis
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Kelly Dyar
Bachelor of Arts

Global Studies
Oladapo Olumayowa Bankole

Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies
Jayla Shaniece Cochran
Akiria Talaiya Evans
Jillian Rachel Gerson
Hannah Marie Glass
John Wesley Kennedy III
Margery Klepinger
Nicole F. Lemoine
Malaya Angelina Miles
Zachary Andruw Norman
Miranda Skye Paschal
Sianni A’kemi Robinson

Bachelor of Science

Criminology
Aldo Avellaneda
Dinko Cepic
Lexus Leighann Cheatwood
Victoria Meghan Cheatwood
Arielle R. Cummings
Kelsi Faith Davis
Logan Paul Dewberry
Ariel LaShae Nicole Dildy
Kay Driver
Todd Nicolas Edwards
Dusty Allen Fox Jr.
Hope Horne
Heather Jenkins
Cheyanna R. Jones
Aericka Bennae Josey
Sage Janai Kelley
Khadijah Aaliyah Linder
Dah’Taijha Lachelle Lloyd
Marla G. Lorenzo-Martinez
Patshoko Kimbangi Luumba
Landan Kyle Malone
Bryce Jared McKelphin
Van Meadows
Ellyn Louise Mills
Chloe Olivia Piper
Sydney Marie Putman
Kayla Monet Rogers
Kensley Erin Sharrar
Daron Sims
Jakobi Samajai Smith
Olivia Elizabeth Strother
Brooke Marie Thompson
Phillip H. Turrubiartes
Zoe Nicole Waddle
Andrea Dawn Wadsworth

Organizational Leadership
Rosemarie Ashton
Autumn Taylor Bangura
Omar Andrew Barrett
Resha Mahri Birdine
Chris Carter
Joseph Clinton Duncan
Emma Caroline Hernandez
William Deon Hooks
Misty Latham
Christine Janell Lewis
Christa Miller

Jennifer Owens
Latissus Sparks
Jonathan Blaine Thomason
Heather Worthy Topping

Political Science
Erik Christian Brzoska
Devin Conway
Aaron Robert Lattery
Adam Christopher Lattery
Chandale Nassiah Lott
Sydney Martin
Dhayna C. Portillo-Martinez
Sheri Rose Marie Taylor
Desheila Elise Webster
Taylor Marie Williams

Master of Arts

Criminology
Katherine Faith Ashley
Janet Guyton
Symphony Tiyanna McCord
Adreana Swanson
Tiffany Lene Williams

Master of Public Administration
Robert Keilhey de Andrade
Tyshsa Princess Barlow
Kennedy Paige Dickerson
Rawn Gerrad Mashburn
Devante Matthews
Peyton Mia Puckett
Eric Va’Shon Williams Jr.
Monica Renee Woods

cum laude
magna cum laude
summa cum laude

also Anthropology
Honors College Graduates

The Honors College curriculum is the most academically rigorous curriculum offered at this university. To graduate with Honors College distinction, students must: (1) complete all of the requirements for their degrees in their majors; (2) earn credit for 25% or more of their course work in Honors College courses, including at least two seminars at the junior or senior level; (3) complete a research project; and (4) maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.2 in Honors College courses and in all other academic work. Completion of this distinctive curriculum is a mark of scholarly excellence and is recognized on all official University of West Georgia transcripts and diplomas.

Henrietta Adjoa Bekor  
*Bachelor of Arts in English*

Erik Christian Brzoska  
*Bachelor of Science in Political Science*

Courtney Lynette Buice  
*Bachelor of Arts in International Economic Affairs*

Grace Elisabeth Camp  
*Bachelor of Science in Biology*

Blessing Ameh  
*Nigeria*

Richards College of Business

Bolatito Khadijat Aremu  
*Nigeria*

Richards College of Business

Chandan Jaladi  
*India*

College of Arts, Culture, and Scientific Inquiry

Patricia Martin Gomez  
*Spain*

Richards College of Business

Aiyana Nicole Cooper  
*Bachelor of Science in Film and Video Production*

Katelyn Enderle  
*Bachelor of Science in Biology*

Akiria Talaiya Evans  
*Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies*

Bailey Elizabeth Higgins  
*Bachelor of Science in Sociology*

Joi’Anna Faith Partee  
*Bachelor of Science in Film and Video Production*

Devan M. Stanek  
*Bachelor of Science in Psychology*

Courtney Lynne Vance  
*Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Languages & Literatures*

International Graduates

Blessing Ameh  
*Nigeria*

Richards College of Business

Chandan Jaladi  
*India*

College of Arts, Culture, and Scientific Inquiry

Patricia Martin Gomez  
*Spain*

Richards College of Business

Augustine Ngalia  
*Nigeria*

Richards College of Business

Oliwer Karl-Johan Persson Toiminen  
*Sweden*

Richards College of Business

Honorary Degrees

University System of Georgia senior institutions are allowed to recommend to the Board of Regents honorary degree recipients for each academic year. UWG’s basic criteria for an honorary degree recipient are notable achievements in an academic field, the arts and letters, the professions, or public service. Nominations are solicited from the college community and are reviewed by the Honorary Degree Committee, which makes nominations to the president. The president then submits a candidate’s name to the University System staff for final consideration by the Board of Regents. The chancellor then makes a recommendation to the Board of Regents.

UWG began awarding the Doctor of Humane Letters in 1996, and recipients of this honor include:

Roy Richards Jr., 1996  
Dr. Julian Stanley, 1997  
Howard “Bo” Callaway, 1998  
Millard Dean Fuller, 1999  
Dr. Nikki Giovannini, 2000  
Dr. Richard Neal Zare, 2001  
Alice H. Richards, 2002  
Dan T. Cathy, 2004  
Richard H. Glanton, 2005  
Dr. Andrew C. von Eschenbach, 2006  
Dr. J. Willis Hurst, 2009  
Robert J. Stone, 2012  
A. Paul Cadenhead, 2012  
Phillip E. Kauffman, 2013  
Stephan Lyall Penley, 2014  
Melissa P. “Missy” Dugan, 2016  
Steve R. Adams, 2017  
Nellie Duke, 2018  
Laura Richards, 2018  
Zachry “Zac” Brown, 2023
Welcome from the Alumni Association

Congratulations on your graduation from the University of West Georgia, and welcome to the Alumni Association! You have joined a distinguished group of people who have graduated from or attended UWG. We represent a group with a variety of socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds, vocations, ages, and opinions, but one thing we resoundingly share is our dedication to the University of West Georgia.

Every graduate of the University of West Georgia is a member of the UWG Alumni Association. We strive to keep you connected to your alma mater long after you graduate and support you along your journey through life and your career. You belong at UWG as a student and as a graduate. We invite you to engage with the Alumni Association through joining an alumni network in your area, attending events on campus or virtually, following us on social media, and keeping in touch with us. Remain an active member of the UWG community as you participate in UWG traditions like Homecoming and A Day, UWG’s annual day of giving.

You’ll also have opportunities to invest in UWG as you volunteer your time to speak to a class, mentor a student, and make career connections. You can show your UWG pride as you celebrate UWG with your networks and on social media or cheer on the Wolves at an athletic event. Your opportunities to continue your connection to UWG are almost endless.

We will reach out to you soon. You can also learn more at westga.edu/alumni and keep up-to-date with the latest alumni and university news. We look forward to your involvement with your Alumni Association and to seeing you again soon!

Mr. Christopher Sanders ’03  
Chair of Alumni Association  
Board of Directors

Mr. Christopher Sanders ’03  
Chair of Alumni Association  
Board of Directors

GO WEST UWG

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

/uwgalumni  
@uwgalumni
Leadership

University System of Georgia
Board of Regents
Dr. Sonny Perdue, Chancellor
Harold Reynolds, Chair
Erin Hames, Vice Chair
Doug Aldridge
Tom Bradbury
Richard “Tim” Evans
W. Allen Gudenrath
Bárbara Rivera Holmes
Samuel D. Holmes
C. Thomas Hopkins Jr., M.D.
James M. Hull
Cade Joiner
Patrick C. Jones
C. Everett Kennedy III
Sarah-Elizabeth Langford
Lowery Houston May
Jose R. Perez
Neil L. Pruitt Jr.
T. Dallas Smith
James K. Syfan III

University of West Georgia Leadership
Dr. Brendan B. Kelly, President
Dr. Jon A. Preston, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Meredith N. Brunen, Vice President for University Advancement and CEO of University Foundations
Dr. André L. Fortune, Vice President for Student Affairs
Scott McElroy, Vice President for Business and Financial Services and Chief Business Officer
Kimberly Scranage, Vice President for Strategic Enrollment Management

University of West Georgia Deans
Dr. Mike Dishman, Dean of the College of Education
Dr. Pauline Gagnon, Dean of the College of Arts, Culture, and Scientific Inquiry
CJ Ivory, Interim Dean of Libraries
Dr. Christopher Johnson, Dean of the Richards College of Business
Dr. Karen Owen, Dean of University College and Honors College
Dr. Jenny Schuessler, Dean of the Tanner Health System School of Nursing
Dr. Matt Varga, Dean of the Graduate School
Dr. Brad Yates, Dean of the School of Communication, Film, and Media

University of West Georgia Foundation Inc., Executive Committee
2023 – 2024 Trustees
Gary Kinard ’91, Chair
Josh Chapman, Vice Chair
David R. Edwards, Treasurer/Investment Committee Chair
Honey Shackelford ’76, Secretary
Ann Newman ’01, Past Chair
Dr. Jason Thogmartin ’06 ’07, Audit Committee Chair
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Christa Pitts ’97, Resource Development Committee Chair
Scott Kauffman ’97, Real Estate Committee Chair
Dr. Meredith Brunen, CEO/Vice President for University Advancement
Dr. Brendan B. Kelly, UWG President

Alumni Board Executive Committee
Christopher Sanders ’03, Chair
Ashley Bush ’11, Vice Chair
Justin Monsewicz ’13, Secretary and Treasurer
Ashlyn Arp ’15, Task Force Liaison
Brad Mock ’12 ’15, Past Chair
Traditions of Commencement

Academic Regalia

The academic regalia worn by today’s participants dates back to the Middle Ages. The clergy were the literate class, so early academic costumes were clerical. The monk’s habit and cowl worn over the head were predecessors of the modern black gowns. Hoods and capes were also necessary during European winters because the buildings where scholars lived and studied were cold.

Over time, gown styles became standardized for the three types of degrees. Those holding the bachelor’s degree wear a gown distinguished by long, pointed sleeves. Master’s and specialist degree candidates wear the traditional black gown with full-length square sleeves. The doctor’s gown is faced with a broad strip of velvet and has three horizontal velvet bars on each sleeve.

The greatest symbolism is shown by the hood. The bachelor’s hood is three feet long with a three-inch band of velvet. The master’s and specialist hood is three-and-one-half feet long, faced with a three-inch band of velvet. The doctor’s hood is four feet long, faced with a five-inch band of velvet. The color of the velvet band on the hood indicates the field of study in which the degree was earned or granted, and the hood is lined with the color of the university granting the degree.

The Mace

During the Middle Ages, the mace was a weapon used in battle, but as newer and more powerful military arms developed, it was adopted by academia as a symbol of the power of ideas, truth, and wisdom. In modern times, the mace is carried to symbolize the unity and aspirations of the collegial community.

The mace is constructed of cherry wood, black walnut, hand-turned walnut, and walnut burl. The institution’s seal adorns the head of the mace and complements the presidential medallion.

About the University of West Georgia

The University of West Georgia has been a beacon for learning since 1906. Originally founded as an agricultural and mechanical school, the institution became a two-year college and charter member of the University System of Georgia in 1933. In 1957, it expanded to a four-year institution and received university status in 1996. Today, UWG is a leading residential, doctoral comprehensive university that offers a broad undergraduate and graduate curriculum based on a liberal arts foundation.

At UWG, students are positioned to launch their careers upon graduation— if not before. In 2021, UWG began implementing its strategic plan for 2021-26, titled “Becoming UWG.” With members of the university community dedicating themselves to the curation of a first-choice university, the plan establishes a path for the institution’s long-term growth and excellence.

With an enrollment of more than 12,700 during the fall 2023 semester, UWG currently offers 106 programs of study, including two two-year degrees, 46 at the bachelor’s degree level, 24 at the master’s level, six at the specialist level, five at the doctoral level, and 13 post-baccalaureate, six undergraduate, and four post-master’s certificates. The university prides itself on a diverse student body, as students come from most counties in Georgia, as well as from 31 other states and 62 other countries.

UWG has many ways for students to become involved on campus. The university hosts more than 170 registered organizations in addition to many intramural and recreational sports. Effective July 1, 2024, UWG will elevate to compete in NCAA Division I Athletics as a member of the Atlantic Sun Conference. The university fields eight women’s and five men’s intercollegiate athletics teams, as well as co-ed and all-female cheerleading squads. Service-learning is also a basic tenet of the institution, as it has been recognized by the Carnegie Foundation for its institutional commitment to community engagement through teaching, research, and public service.

Over the past five years, the campus has improved and expanded facilities that enhance opportunities for students to thrive and succeed, such as renovation to the Biology Building and new construction for the Student Health Center and Roy Richards Sr. Hall, home of the Richards College of Business. The university is currently renovating the Humanities Building, home to programs in art, English, film studies, history, language, performing arts, and philosophy. UWG Newnan has also expanded its location at the historic Newnan Hospital, and more course options are becoming available at UWG Douglasville.

Visit westga.edu for further information on the university or call 678-839-4000 to schedule a tour.
Welcome to Commencement at the University of West Georgia! An academic commencement is unlike any other ceremony. The importance of the occasion is underscored by the use of symbols and traditions which have their origins in the medieval academies. The academic dress, the mace, many of the words we use, and even the diplomas themselves derive from a long and distinguished academic history.

We hope you will take time to look through this program. In it, you will find explanations of some of the customs and symbols you will witness today. We hope your understanding of these academic traditions will add to your enjoyment of the commencement ceremony.

We are happy to have you with us today as we celebrate the achievements of our graduates.

Welcome!

Alma Mater

Felton Dunn

Bruce Borton

In the western pines of Georgia standing strong and true,
Our wise Al-ma Ma-ter beck-ons to the Red and Blue,
Though you be in learn-ing found-ed youth-ful yet you be,
While thus guid-ed by tra-di-tion yet you still breathe free,
Dear West Geor-gia Dear West Geor-gia stand-ing strong and true, Our wise Al-ma Ma-ter beck-ons to the Red and the Blue.

Officially Adopted Spring 1984