

2024 Graduation Events

Sabbath, December 7, 3:00pm

Nurses' Dedication*

Sunday, December 8, 11:00am

Commencement*

* Watch live at uau.edu/utv

*All events will be held in the
College View Church sanctuary*

UNION
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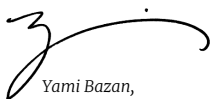
Dear Graduates,

Congratulations on your graduation! Today marks the completion of one chapter of your journey and the exciting beginning of the next. You've worked hard to reach this moment, and though there have been challenges along the way—challenges that may have tempted you to give up—you have demonstrated incredible grit, perseverance, and self-discipline. Your strength and determination have brought you to this day, ready to take on whatever comes next.

This is only the beginning of the road that God has prepared for you. No matter where your journey takes you, remember what we are told in Proverbs 3:5-6: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.” I pray that you will continue to trust in God's plan for your life, growing and learning with Him at your side. Whatever challenges lie ahead, know that you do not face them alone.

Your Union Adventist University family is incredibly proud of all you've accomplished, and we are excited to see how God will continue to use you. Keep learning, keep growing, and keep trusting in His plan for your life. We will always be here, cheering you on!

Blessings and prayers,



*Yami Bazan,
President, Union Adventist University*

NURSES' DEDICATION

Sabbath, December 7, 3:00pm

Prelude	Medley of Hymns	Ahchen Edwards
Processional	<i>Sonata Pathetique</i> Ludwig van Beethoven	Ahchen Edwards
Invocation		Elysia Ockenga
Program Director's Welcome		Elysia Ockenga
Introduction of Class		Renata Richardson
December 2024 Class Slideshow		
Presentation of Students and Pinning		Debbie Eno Jill Weyers
Nightingale Lamp Lighting and Presentation of New Testaments		Trista Ybarra Dr. Kristine Follett
Nightingale Pledge		Ruth Mendenhall
Musical Selection	<i>My Tribute (To God Be the Glory)</i> Natalie Grant Accompanied by Ahchen Edwards	Cherryl Figueroa Angeline Harper Emily Reyes Eliseo Mendoza
Presentation of Awards and Sigma Theta Tau Recognition		Dr. Rebecca Randa Nicole Badura
Prayer of Dedication		Shy Martinez
Recessional	<i>Sine Nomine</i> Ralph Vaughn Williams	Ahchen Edwards
Postlude	Medley of Hymns	Ahchen Edwards

CLASS OF DECEMBER 2024 PINNING PARTICIPANTS

- Ashlyne Aguilar Kristen Leal, family; Jenna Mancillas, family
- Madlain Dalbec. Trista Ybarra, instructor
- Gage Dush Cyndi Abbot, family; Audrey Sorensen, fiancé
- Cherryl Dianna Figueroa Cruz Dina Floro, mentor; Lila Cervantes, friend
- Angeline Harper Ruth Mendenhall, academic advisor/instructor, Rene Harper, father
- Laura Herndon Jill Weyers, instructor
- Kayleigh Hilyard. Jill Weyers, instructor; Isaac Gillett, fiancé
- Rosalyn Hofpar. Larinda Fandrich, former academic advisor/instructor
- Paw Htoo Shy Martinez, academic advisor/instructor
- Eliseo Mendoza Jill Weyers, instructor; Benita Mendoza, mother
- Ashley Reyes Jennifer Reyes, mother
- Emily Reyes Rebecca Randa, academic advisor/instructor
- Paw Say Shy Martinez, academic advisor/instructor
- Emma Stewart Jill Weyers, instructor
- Logan Vivian Hope Vivian, mother
- Elli Wid Trevor Wid, brother
- Aldo Wymer Morris Sitorus, mentor and friend

We appreciate the registered nurses who have joined us today to pin the graduates.

Nurses' Pledge

I solemnly pledge to place God first in my life
letting Him use me as an instrument in His service of love
by ministering physically, mentally, and spiritually to my patients' needs.
I will place my knowledge and skill in God's hands letting Him direct me in the
duties of my calling wherever He chooses to send me.

Watch the event live at uau.edu/utv

NURSING FACULTY

Elysia Ockenga, MSN, RN, *Program Director*

Nicole Badura, MSN, MFS, RN, SANE-A, *Assistant Professor*

Debbie Eno, MSN, RN, CNE, *Associate Professor*

Kristine Follett, DNP, APRN-NP, FNP-BC, *Professor*

Tracy Hagele, MSN, RN, CHSE, *Assistant Professor*

Shy Martinez, BSN, RN, *Instructor*

Ruth Mendenhall, MSN, RN, *Associate Professor*

Rebecca Randa, DNP, RN, *Associate Professor*

Renata Richardson, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, *Assistant Professor*

Jill Weyers, MSN, RN, MPA, *Assistant Professor*

Trista Ybarra, MSN, RNC-OB, CNE, *Assistant Professor*

Sandy Kolb, AA, *Office Manager Coordinator*

NURSING INSIGNIAS

The Nursing pin was given to the first Union Adventist University nursing students to graduate with a baccalaureate degree in nursing in 1949. The class of '49 designed the pin. The red and black colors that line the edges are the Union Adventist University school colors. The cross shape in the center symbolized the Christian philosophy of holistic nursing – the physical, mental, social and spiritual components. The Nightingale lamp is superimposed on the cross and gives voice to the idea that nursing is viewed as an act of service as modeled by Christ. So, as you wear the pin, we hope you will wear it with a humble pride and be all that it symbolizes.

The Nightingale lamp represents dedication to the principles of nursing care and to service. It was first used by Florence Nightingale as she cared for the soldiers during the Crimean War. It is surely fitting that Florence be a part of our rich heritage, as she later developed the first school for nurses in both England and later here in America.

The Gideon Auxiliary presents the small, pocket-sized testament. It symbolizes the spiritual component of Christian nursing. You will use the word of God often to bring comfort and hope to your patients and as a foundation to ground yourself in your personal life.

The Nurses' pledge is an oath of commitment, and the students will recite it together after receiving their pin, testament and lamp.

2024 Commencement

Sunday
December 8
11:00am



SPEAKER

DR. LESA KEAN

Dr. Lesa Kean graduated from Union Adventist University with bachelor's degrees in music education and math education in 1994. She taught at Enterprise Academy, then at Hinsdale Adventist Academy for a combined total of 11 years before going for her master's degree at Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. While completing her master's in 2006, she was encouraged by her master's advisor to continue with her PhD. She completed her PhD in mathematics education in December of 2012.

While working on her Master's and PhD: Lesa married, became a step-mother, bought a house, moved, bought a house and moved again, moved with her husband to Oklahoma (where they rented for a bit), became a grandmother, then bought a house in Wichita and moved again. She also held several part-time jobs while completing her education. First, she was a research assistant for her thesis advisor at Illinois Institute of technology. Later, she worked as an adjunct professor for Oklahoma City Community College. In Kansas she taught for Butler County Community College and Emporia State University. Finally, in the fall of 2014 she came home to Union.

Dr. Kean knows about persistence through change. She is proud of her PhD and the hard work it took to get there. But she is even more proud to be a daughter of Mike and Linda Conditt, sister to Todd Conditt, wife of Frank Kean, step-mother to David and Brittney Kean, and grandmother to Jane, Rylee, Kaleb, and Bryson. She believes that regardless of any titles a person may hold, the true value of life lies in relationships.

COMMENCEMENT

Sunday, December 10, 11:00am

Prelude	<i>Andante in G</i> R.M. Stults	Ed Wagner Organist
Processional	<i>Chancel Radiance</i> C.W. Kern	<i>Pomp and Circumstance</i> Ed Wagner
Invocation		Pam Cotton <i>Professor of Education</i>
Welcome		Dr. Yami Bazan <i>Union Adventist University, President</i>
Scripture	Proverbs 3:5-6	Eric Aakko <i>Public Health Program Director</i>
Musical Selection	<i>You Raise Me Up</i> Rolf Loveland and Brendan Graham	Flora Linda Chavez
Professional Activities Recognition		Debbie Eno <i>Vice President for Academic Administration</i>
Introduction of Speaker		Dr. Carrie Wolfe <i>Professor of Chemistry</i>
Address		Dr. Lesa Kean <i>Professor of Math</i>
Presentation of Class		Debbie Eno <i>Vice President for Academic Administration</i>
Conferring of Degrees and Presentation of Diplomas and Bibles		Dr. Yami Bazan, <i>President</i> Ysabella Dieguez, <i>Registrar</i> David Kabanje, <i>Chaplain of Campus Ministries</i> Buell Fogg, <i>Associate Chaplin</i>
Remarks		Dr. Shawntae Razo <i>Academic Dean of the College of Health Studies</i>
Alumni Association Welcome		Peggy Carlson <i>Director of Alumni Activities</i>
Benediction		Dr. Benjamin Holdsworth <i>Religion Program Director</i>
Recessional	<i>Psalm XIX</i> B. Marcello	Ed Wagner Organist
Postlude	<i>Rondo in G</i> John Bull	Ed Wagner Organist

Ed Wagner, *Organ*

Dr. Ricky Little, *Conductor*

Dr. Thomas Toews, *Grand Marshall*

UNDERGRADUATES

Ashlyne Cecilia Aguilar

BSN Nursing

Cody Jon Butherus Moser

BA History

Flora Linda Emerita Chavez

Magna Cum Laude

BMU Music Performance

-Vocal

Conner Lee Coe

BS Graphic Design

Madlain Sophia Dalbec

BSN Nursing

AS Biomedical Science

Gage Andrew Dush

BSN Nursing

Cherryl Dianna Figueroa Cruz

BSN Nursing

Angeline Fabiola Harper

BSN Nursing

AS Biomedical Science

-Pre-Allied Health (General Studies)

Laura Jean Herndon

Cum Laude

BSN Nursing

Kayleigh Elizabeth Hilyard

Summa Cum Laude

BS International Rescue and Relief

-Health Care Leadership

BSN Nursing

Rosalyn Marie Hofpar

BSN Nursing

Paw Htoo

BSN Nursing

Kim Melanie LeeWong

BS General Studies

Eliseo Ezequiel Gonzalez Mendoza

BSN Nursing

Ashley Hannah Reyes

Cum Laude

BSN Nursing

AS Rescue and Relief/Allied Health

-Communication Science and Disorders

Emily Giselle Reyes

BSN Nursing

Gabriel Allen Sanders[^]

Cum Laude

BA English

-Writing and Speaking

Paw Say

BSN Nursing

Emma Danielle Stewart

Cum Laude

BSN Nursing

Logan Michelle Vivian

BSN Nursing

Branden Mareese Watson

BA Theology

Joella Nicole Weaver

BS Business Administration

-Accounting, Small Business Management

Angela Renee Wells

Summa Cum Laude

BS General Studies

Elli Lynn Wid

BSN Nursing

Aldo Sitorus Wymer

BSN Nursing

PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

The Professional Excellence program seeks to provide the highest level of preparation for a career that is possible at Union Adventist University. Students graduating from the program have maintained at least a 3.5 GPA and have completed specific courses within the categories of the General Education curriculum that will uniquely prepare them for professional excellence. Red cords on the academic regalia designate Professional Excellence graduates.

Ashley Hannah Reyes

BSN Nursing

AS Rescue and Relief/Allied Health

VISITING GRADUATES

Sherri Lou Cash

Master of Business Administration

–Accounting, Human Resource Management

Louisiana State University

UNDERGRADUATES

^ Actual December 2024 graduate

(P) Personalized major

– Emphasis

Students listed are prospective December 2024 graduates unless otherwise noted.

Information listed as of November 22, 2024.

Degrees are awarded upon successful completion of all degree requirements. Participation at commencement and/or listing of a student's name in the program does not guarantee degree conferral.

ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

Honor cords designate high-achieving students. Union Adventist University awards degrees with academic recognition on the basis of minimum cumulative grade point average attained prior to the start of the final semester as follows:

SUMMA CUM LAUDE, 3.90—GOLD

MAGNA CUM LAUDE, 3.75—SILVER

CUM LAUDE, 3.50—WHITE

ACADEMIC REGALIA

The pageantry and costume of the college commencement is a part of the traditional setting of higher education extending back into the late Middle Ages. Beginning as everyday wear for students and faculty, today's academic regalia is symbolic of academic achievement and distinction. Academic life began in the church and then in the guilds. The teaching guild was the Guild of the Masters of Arts, where the Bachelor was the apprentice of the Master and the dress was the outward sign of privilege and responsibility. Rather early colleges and universities set rules to preserve the dignity and meaning of academic dress. Most American universities have adopted a uniform code for the costumes, drafted and occasionally revised by the American Council on Education.

GOWN—The usual color of the gown is black. The doctor's gown is trimmed with a wide velvet band on either side at the front and with three velvet bars across the upper portion of the sleeve. Gowns of the bachelor or master are untrimmed.

HOOD—The hood, which passes around the neck and extends down the back, is the most distinctive item of the costume. It is lined with the official colors of the college conferring the degree; these colors appear where the hood turns outward at the center back. The bands of velvet on the center turnback indicate the branch of learning. The width of the band and the length of the hood are greater for master's degrees.

CAP—The mortarboard or beret is worn with all degrees. The color of the tassel denotes the discipline. Gold tassels indicate the doctor's degree.

COLOR—Colors associated with the branches of learning are exhibited either on the tassels of the graduates or on the hoods of the faculty as indicated above. Gold on the student hood indicates a Bachelor of Science; white indicates a Bachelor of Arts. Black and red are Union Adventist University's school colors.

<i>Business and Computing</i>	<i>Drab</i>
<i>Communication</i>	<i>Crimson</i>
<i>Education</i>	<i>Light Blue</i>
<i>General Studies and Personalized Major</i>	<i>White</i>
<i>Graphic Design</i>	<i>Brown</i>
<i>Health and Human Performance</i>	<i>Sage Green</i>
<i>International Relations and Psychology</i>	<i>White</i>
<i>Music</i>	<i>Pink</i>
<i>International Rescue and Relief</i>	<i>Burnt Orange</i>
<i>Nursing</i>	<i>Apricot</i>
<i>Occupational Therapy Assistant</i>	<i>Navy Blue</i>
<i>Sciences and Mathematics</i>	<i>Golden Yellow</i>
<i>Social Work</i>	<i>Citron</i>
<i>Theology</i>	<i>Scarlet</i>
<i>Associate Degree</i>	<i>Black</i>

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Thank you

Our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to the Union Adventist University Board of Trustees for their ongoing support, guidance, and leadership.

We are humbled and honored by your dedication, time, wisdom, and willingness to serve.