

THE WORD

Fall 2023

Living the Word

*UIW Alumni
Share Their
Time, Talents
and Treasure*



THE WORD

Fall 2023

*A publication of the Office of
Communications & Brand Marketing*

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**UNIVERSITY OF THE
INCARNATE WORD.**



Homecoming 2023 was an incredible celebration
focused on traditions and bringing the UIW Community
together. Follow this link to see all the moments that
were captured during this festive week of events!
<https://www.uiw.edu/alumni/homecoming/index.html>



Homecoming

ONE WORD. FOREVER.



On August 18, UIW welcomed the newest Cardinals to the Nest. Marquez Diaz moved to his new home on Broadway Campus with the assistance of his parents Samantha (pictured) and Brandon. Follow this link below to read more about all of the excitement as *Cardinals Flock Home to the Nest*.
<https://www.uiw.edu/news/2023/08/cardinals-flock-home-to-the-nest.html>

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Do you know someone interested in attending UIW? For more information on what UIW has to offer or to schedule a campus visit, go to uiw.edu/admissions



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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Alumni and Friends,

Welcome to the fall edition of The Word Magazine! As you know, we often refer to our alumni as the “Word in the world” because they take the heart of our Mission and bring it to life across our international community. Every day, I am blessed to see further proof of our Mission in action.

In the coming pages, you will see just a few examples of how our alumni and members of our community are living the Word in their own ways. Meet Christie Cody, BBA ’82, who grew up on our Broadway campus as the daughter of beloved faculty member, Dr. Keith Tucker, who served Incarnate Word for 42 years. Now, as a member of the UIW Board of Trustees, Cody remains inspired by her father and is working to open doors for future generations of students (pg. 6) to be formed the UIW way. Hear from Michelle Casares Vasquez, BA ’03, MAA ’20, current doctoral student and UIW employee, who offers her reflection on a transformational trip to Mexico with UIW’s Ettlring Center for Civic Leadership and Sustainability through a partnership with Centro Fox, the initiative of former Mexican President Vicente Fox (pg. 12). Get to know Vanessa Jupe, BA ’02, whose spirit of entrepreneurship and passion for supporting new mothers and parents led her to found a unique new company (pg. 16).

There is so much more in store for you in this edition of the magazine. I hope you enjoy every story and find in each a little bit of inspiration to live the Word every day and in your own ways.

Praised be the Incarnate Word!

Thomas M. Evans, PhD
President

UIW Welcomed Vice Admiral Frank M. Bradley

Bradley visited with Summer Camp Participants and Toured UIW

UIW was proud to host U.S. Navy Vice Admiral Frank M. Bradley, commander of Joint Special Operations Command, and his team on campus on July 26, 2023. Bradley visited with participants in the UIW GEMS (Girls in Engineering, Mathematics, and Science) and iGEMS Summer Camp. The team toured the campus which included a visit to the UIW Military and Veteran Center.

During his visit, Bradley discussed his own experience in moving from his small West Texas hometown of El Dorado to the Naval Academy and earning both his bachelors and his master's degrees in Physics from the Naval Post Graduate School. He also discussed his life as a Navy SEAL and as a scientist, and how science has played an important role in both his personal and professional life. Bradley also talked about the importance of art and creativity in science



and research.

"It was great that our miniGEMS and GEMS students could hear about the importance of a STEM education from Admiral Bradley and how it is very important in his life," said Dr. Michael Frye, professor of Electrical Engineering. "He is a great example of a life-long learner and someone who is always asking hard questions. The students were really impressed that he wanted to get his PhD in Physics once he retired from a very successful Navy career."

Bradley had the opportunity to visit with UIW Provost Dr. Farrell J. Webb and Dr. Carlos Garcia, dean of the UIW School of Mathematics, Science and Engineering. Bradley also visited the UIW Military and Veteran Center with Jonathan Lovejoy, senior director for Military and Veterans Affairs where he got a first-hand look at how UIW helps veterans and military affiliated students navigate their way through higher education.

UIW Welcomed Nationally Renowned Nurse for Annual Lecture

Patricia Yoder-Wise delivered the Sr. Charles Marie Frank Lecture



UIW welcomed Patricia Yoder-Wise RN, EdD, NEA-BC, ANEF, FAONL, FAAN as this year's featured speaker for the Sr. Charles Marie Frank Endowed Lecture. Dr. Yoder-Wise spoke on the topic of "Creating Your Own Inspiration" at the UIW Rosenberg Skyroom on Tuesday, September 19. Yoder-Wise has been engaged in nursing leadership for over four decades.

In addition to holding leadership positions in both hospitals and schools of nursing, she has an extensive history of volunteer roles of leadership, ranging from local to national and international situations. She is past president of the Texas Nurses Association, the American Nurses Credentialing Center, the Association for Leadership Science in Nursing and the National League for Nursing. She also served as treasurer of the American Academy of Nursing and first vice president and secretary of the American Nurses Association.

This annual lecture is held in honor of Sr. Charles Marie Frank, CCVI (1908-1998) in recognition of her years of service to professional nursing and nursing education at UIW. Sister was a pioneer in bringing nursing in Texas from apprenticeship training to professional education by bringing a diploma-nursing program into the system of higher education at Incarnate Word College in the 1940s. For over 30 years, the lecture has featured nursing professionals making outstanding contributions to nursing in research, education and practice.

UIW Ranks No. 6 in the Nation in Social Mobility Among Private Schools

U.S. News and World Report
"Best Colleges" List

UIW ranked No. 6 in the nation in promoting Social Mobility among private schools. That placed UIW among the top 40 national universities coming in at No. 39 on the overall Social Mobility list and the highest-ranking local institution on the national list.

In addition, the University was ranked among the top 300 on the overall 2024 Best National Universities list. It's important to note that this is just the fifth year that UIW is ranked on the national list, as opposed to the regional list with many other local institutions.

The *U.S. News and World Report* Best Colleges list is now in its 38th year. This year the publication assessed an all-time high 1,500 U.S. bachelor's degree-granting institutions on 17 measures of academic quality.

UIW Makes “Great Colleges to Work For” List for 15th Consecutive Year

Named to Honor Roll for 14th
Consecutive Year

For the 15th consecutive year, UIW has been recognized as one of the best universities to work for in the nation according to a survey by the “Great Colleges to Work For” program. UIW was also named to the publication’s Honor Roll for the 14th straight year. That designation recognizes universities who received top marks in multiple categories and only 42 institutions made the Honor Roll. The results, collected by independent survey company ModernThink and released in a special insert of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, are based on a survey of 194 colleges and universities.

“At UIW, faculty, administrators and staff are united in our Mission to serve our students, provide transformational education experiences and support their journeys to becoming enlightened citizens in the global community,” said Dr. Thomas M. Evans, UIW president. “I am deeply grateful for the effort, commitment and great care that each member of our employee community takes to bring the Mission to life.”



Visiting Scholar from Korea

Joins UIW community for 2023-2024 academic year

The Department of Political Science, UIW International Relations and UIW International Affairs welcomed Mr. Chang Sup Lee to San Antonio and the University community in September. Lee is the former president and publisher of the *Korea Times* newspaper in Seoul, South Korea. He worked in the publishing business in South Korea for 34 years, including many years covering the Korean presidency (the “Blue House”), economics and more. He will be with the Incarnate Word community for the entirety of this academic year.

While in San Antonio, Lee is focusing on networking and educating people about Korea and U.S. relations with

South Korea. He will deliver several guest lectures in Professor Dr. Scott Dittloff’s Comparative Politics class, as well as lectures in Dr. Lopita Nath’s History courses and Mr. Michael Mercer’s Journalism courses, during which he will discuss the newspaper business and journalism in Korea. Lee’s presentations kicked off on Sept. 28 with a lecture called, “Korea – Land of Paradoxes and Surprises.”

“Korea has been a staunch ally of the U.S. for decades, has a fascinating culture and history, and a generous, kind and proud population; Few Americans know much about it,” said Dittloff. “This is a great opportunity for us, and I hope we can make the most of it.”



UIW Teaching Graduate Won State and National Awards

Ellen Romious Honored as Clinical/Student
Teacher of the Year

“When I found out I won these two awards, it was actually very surreal. It’s one of those things that you apply for, but never actually expect to win.”

While Ellen Romious was surprised, her former UIW faculty, current peers and students certainly weren’t when she was nominated for and was awarded both the 2022-2023 Texas Clinical Teacher of the Year and the 2022-2023 KDP/ATE National Student Teacher of the Year.

“It’s very easy to doubt yourself when you are a student teacher, so it was really validating to know that, not just one, but two separate organizations thought I was doing a good enough job to be recognized,” says Romious.

“Making the state teacher of the year is fabulous and we are very, very proud,” said Dr. Denise Staudt, dean of the UIW Dreeben School of Education. “But to have the state and the national, it is very, very unusual and we are so proud of her. We knew she was a good teacher, but now she is being recognized for it.”

To Honor Her Father, Alumna Leaves a Legacy

Christie Cody, BBA '82

*Committed to a Transformative
Bequest*

Christie Cody fondly remembers playing in the halls of Incarnate Word College. Her father, Dr. Keith Tucker worked on the Broadway campus for over 42 years. During that time, she, her siblings and other children of employees would explore the then much smaller campus and visit with all the members of the community. Through her time exploring the buildings, visiting the lunchroom and interacting with students, faculty and employees, one sentiment struck her: “UIW felt like home.”





UIW's Mission is one she was raised with; Her father's dedication to it was part of what molded her into the woman she is today.

Dr. Keith D. Tucker, UIW Professor Emeritus, served as the director of counseling at Incarnate Word College, now UIW, before retiring in 2015. A beloved member of the community, Tucker's commitment to the health and well-being of the student population and the University was evident from his involvement in the UIW community overall.

"He has the capacity, in a kind of natural sense, to perceive how you are doing, not by what you say but by your presence. He can interpret that," shared Dr. Denise Doyle, then vice president of academic and student affairs, who oversaw counseling during Tucker's tenure. "With Keith, it was as if he already knew how you were doing. Oftentimes I had the experience of going across campus, running into Keith and he would pick up almost instantly on whether I was having a good day or a bad day, whether I was angry or afraid. The second part of that was that somehow his response and his presence were very reassuring. He always uplifted me, and I don't know that I have ever seen someone else with that same capacity."

"He is just the most empathetic person I have ever met. He was a wonderful pres-

ence on campus," said Doyle.

Those who witnessed his work at Incarnate Word say that it was his empathy that informed everything he did throughout his tenure. During his time at the University, Tucker taught courses in psychology, human development and cultural diversity, but his work didn't stop there. He developed an intern training program for the counseling department, an outreach relationship with the international student population, initiated a career development component and orientation for new students, conducted stress management workshops, and was a member of the original committee for the CCVI Spirit Award. Additionally, he assisted with drug and alcohol education programs and was also instrumental in the development and implementation of a Dispute Resolution program for University faculty, staff and students.

Tucker also proved to be very resourceful when it came to meeting the needs of students. Doyle shared an example of his ability to meet a tight budget while still expanding services for students through an internship program. "He went to St. Mary's University and got interns who needed hours of counseling experience and their supervisors to come to the University," she explained. "This doubled, if not tripled, the capacity of the counseling department." The groundwork and expansion of the counseling program laid by Tucker continues to this day.

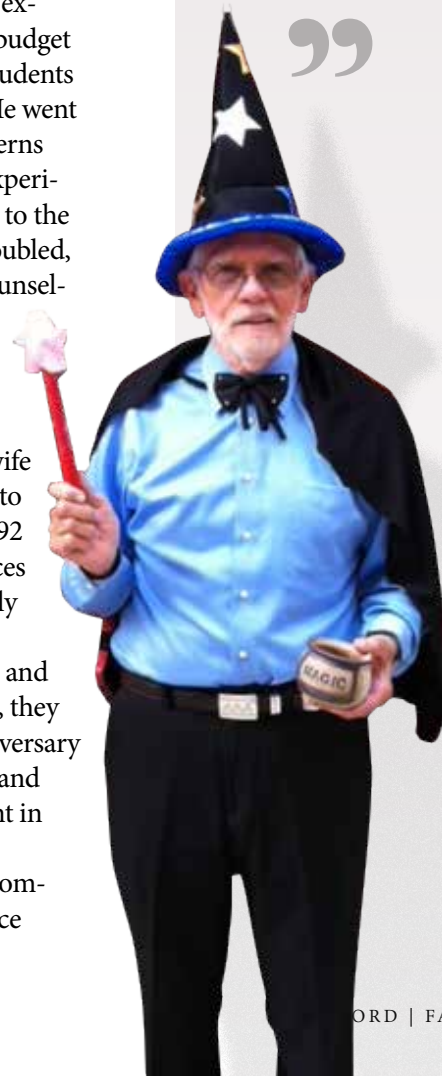
While at UIW Tucker met his wife Marveen Mahon, RN (stepmother to Cody). Mahon came to UIW in 1992 as assistant director of health services and after only one week, was quickly promoted to director. Tucker and Mahon met as colleagues, married, and after a collective 60 years of service, they celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary and retired in 2015. Today Mahon and Tucker are enjoying their retirement in Spring Branch, TX.

Beyond UIW and in the larger community, Tucker continued his service

“

He is just the most empathetic person I have ever met. He was a wonderful presence on campus.

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to others. He conducted five national workshops for the American Counseling Association as well as numerous state and local workshops. He volunteered for Bexar County Courthouse as a mediator, worked with the VA providing counseling for veterans and worked with suicidal clients with excellent outcomes.

As Doyle stated, “Keith was there for anybody who needed help, and in that, he embodied the Mission.”

Despite all he did for others, perhaps his greatest influence was on his daughter. Cody remembers watching students,

faculty and leadership alike interacting with her dad and those interactions made his gifts apparent. “I just know that he touched so many lives. I would visit campus and people would always greet him with respect and love.”

Tucker inspires Cody and others through his attitude and relationships with people. He is not judgmental and accepts all. He values each individual's thoughts, ideas and heart. Cody shared that this “openness to different ways and his non-judgmental approach to dealing with others is beautiful” and this love for others has inspired Cody to give throughout her life.

After years of watching the University's Mission take hold in her father's heart, Cody joined him at Incarnate Word when it was time for her to attend college. After graduating with her bachelor's in business administration in 1982, she started a career in finance.

A Chartered Financial Analysts and Certified Financial Planner, Cody's career has spanned approximately 33 years as a portfolio manager for high-net-worth individuals and charitable foundations. During the first 11 years of her professional life, Cody worked for

the trust department of Boatmen's Bank in Kansas City. The last 22 years of her career were with the Commerce Trust Company in Kansas City. When she retired in 2018, Cody was a senior vice president and the director of portfolio management for that organization with approximately \$30 billion under management.

Christie married her husband Mark Cody in 2003. Mark, a graduate of Kansas State University, had a successful 30-year career in the finance industry as well. His last position was as a vice president of Commerce Trust Company in Kansas City. During his career, he worked for Arthur Young & Company in Tulsa, Oklahoma; Bank of America, Country Club Trust Company, and lastly at The Commerce Trust Company. Mark brought three wonderful children to the marriage and today they share two granddaughters as well.

Christie Cody's commitment to service has been evident throughout her life. She has served on several charitable boards, including the Salvation Army of Greater Kansas City. She also served on the financial advisory board for the Endowment for the Central Region



Salvation Army in Chicago. Cody shared that her service on boards has given her compassion for what it is to be the “least among us.”

“I certainly didn’t come from wealth, but I had some advantages and a step up in life that a lot of people do not have,” she reflected. “And so I think for me, I appreciate getting insight into the challenges that those of us who are not as advantaged must overcome to succeed. There are baked-in biases and disadvantages for those from a lower socio-economic place or different races. Service to others gave back to me far more than I felt like I gave. I appreciated each experience because I gained insight into what it is to struggle.”

Both Christie and Mark are now retired and living in Colorado, but that hasn’t stopped Cody from giving back. Instead, she felt called to return to the University that always felt like home. As of June 2023, Cody joined the UIW Board of Trustees and looks forward to supporting UIW leadership in all their endeavors.

She shared, “I have not been involved in academia. In terms of leadership opportunities, this is a new paradigm for me. I love it. It feels very natural because both of my parents were teachers. Over my career, I developed some investment and portfolio management expertise and if that can be a benefit to the University, that is my goal. I hope to contribute my expertise to support the Mission.”

The Mission, which harkens back to her father’s years with UIW, is ever-present. Though the University has grown and changed, the heart of UIW remains the same. Cody was touched by a recent quote shared by UIW President, Dr. Thomas Evans, “UIW is an institution with a stated goal of providing the type of transformational education that allows our students to secure a career that lifts their lives, their families and their communities.” Cody felt this articulated the vision well. “This is why I wanted to be a part of UIW. This speaks to what I want to do and what my dad wanted to do too.”

In honor of her love for her father and

for UIW, Cody has committed to funding a UIW scholarship endowment through a transformative bequest. The Christie Tucker Cody Endowed Scholarship established in honor of Dr. Keith D. Tucker, UIW Professor Emeritus, will fund scholarships for undergraduate students in need.

“I feel like a lot of the challenges that we experience in our society right now come from a lack of opportunity for education. I want to contribute to the solution for that. That is the kind of legacy that I would want to leave personally.” Shares Cody, “For me, it’s not about a personal legacy, but about making a difference in the long term. If I can give some students an opportunity for education that they would not have otherwise, then I have succeeded, and I think that is consistent with my dad’s work.”

1: Dr. Tucker and Dr. Diana Sanchez

2: Dr. Tucker and his wife Marveen Mahon, RN

3: Dr. Tucker with Dr. Kathi Light (left) and Sr. Teresa Maya, CCVI

4: Dr. Tucker picture with (left to right) Audrey O’Mahony, CCVI, Sr. Margaret Patrice Slattery, CCVI, Sr. Margaret Rose Palmer, CCVI and Sr. Teresa Stanley, CCVI

5: Dr. Tucker with Dr. Renee Moore celebrating Heritage Day anniversaries in 2014

6: Dr. Tucker and Christie Cody



6



REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

A New Mentoring Program Takes FLIGHT

By David Castillo

You can't miss them. If you're walking across the UIW Broadway campus, a new symbol adorns the halls and offices of over 100 faculty and administrators. Whether it's in the Student Engagement Center, Columkille Administration Building, Athletics support offices or the University's various academic buildings, the symbol reminds students of the many people on campus supporting their pathway through a new mentoring program called FLIGHT.

"The FLIGHT program, funded by a five-year, \$2.9 million Title V federal grant, is establishing a multi-pronged, campus-wide initiative that trains select faculty, administrators and students as mentors," explains FLIGHT Project Director Sandra McMakin.

FLIGHT, an acronym for Financial Lit-



eracy, Integrated Guidance, and health career tracts, supports the President's strategic initiative to establish a mentor program to help guide students on their path to graduation. To earn FLIGHT plates, mentors complete a training series designed by the Faculty Advisory Board (FAB) on thinking critically about the UIW Mission, financial literacy, student success, student wellness, and how mentoring can empower students to build networks for themselves and increasingly identify as future leaders.

Dr. Tanja Stampfl, chair of English and the FAB, stresses that FLIGHT is about organic mentoring and creating mentor

moments, rather than formal networking. "With FLIGHT, I aim to support students individually in mentoring moments as they arise, systematically by identifying larger processes or problems that can be addressed, and programmatically by training and supporting FLIGHT mentors across the University so that every UIW student has the opportunity to be mentored."

Once certified, mentors receive their FLIGHT plate, with the very meaningful symbol, further spreading the word to students that mentors are around every corner. UIW Graphic Design student Fiona Swisher, who designed the FLIGHT symbol explains the design, "Hands are nurturing a cardinal about to take flight. These hands represent the FLIGHT mentors while the cardinal taking flight represents the student."

“
It creates an indelible sense of belonging for our first-year students, not just as students but as people, which is really at the heart of the Mission.”

Training FLIGHT mentors to address the needs of the individual student may help to reassure students that they belong at UIW. To transform the student experience, FLIGHT’s presence is embedded across multiple activities funded by the grant. Activity 1 is the FLIGHT Virtual Mentor Center on social media, and on various UIW learning platforms. This virtual center, managed by Dr. Deborah Quiñones, is an interactive resource center for connecting students to faculty and administrators as well as mentors to each other.

Quiñones shared, “Empowering FLIGHT mentors, with knowledge and resources, to support our students through their academic journey and on to graduation is our goal.”

In the near future, the virtual FLIGHT Center will add a physical space to enhance the development of successful mentoring moments on campus.

Activity 2 is a first-year engagement seminar (FYES) course, taught by FLIGHT-certified mentors, with FLIGHT-certified peer mentors embedded in the course. FYES empowers first-year students to navigate their academic journeys by becoming involved and engaged, and begin career exploration so they are prepared for life after graduation.

Dr. Emily Clark, FYES coordinator and FAB member, affirms the impact of the course for our students, “I think one of the most powerful things about FYES is that it creates an indelible sense of belonging for our first-year students, not just as students but as people, which is really at the heart of the Mission.”

In addition to the Mentor Center and the FYES course, the FLIGHT Program also includes Activity 3. The third activity focuses on mentoring UIW students who are planning to pursue a professional health program. FLIGHT Health Advisor and Mentor, Dr. Roxanna Nelson is currently working with over 500 pre-health students to develop and monitor a pathway to their desired graduate health

professions program.

“The FLIGHT program has provided our pre-health professions students with additional guidance as well as the opportunity to develop a customized plan for their pathway leading to successful admittance and completion of a health professions program,” explains Dr. Rachell Booth, chair of the FLIGHT Health Professions Advisory Council (HPAC). The HPAC is comprised of faculty and administrators who guide the design of the pathway and review resources for the pre-health students.

These multiple activities support the FLIGHT design of a network of mentors, contributing diverse skills and varied backgrounds to assist UIW students at multiple stages of the college experience. The goal is that every UIW student can meet at least one and hopefully multiple mentors on their pathway to graduation. Stampfl emphasizes that the FLIGHT program “aligns with the Mission of the University, where we come together as One Word.”



FLIGHT mentors



Moment for Reflection

REFLECTIONS OF A STUDY

By Michelle Casares Vasquez, BA '03, MAA '20



When I first learned that I was nominated to participate in the Ettlign Center for Civic Leadership and Sustainability's UIW Centro Fox Leadership and Mission Program, I was overwhelmed with excitement to travel to San Cristóbal, Guanajuato, Mexico, to attend the program. This was my first international trip from the U.S. to Mexico to study abroad as a PhD student and two-time alumna of the University of the Incarnate Word. The Centro Fox Program is a nonprofit organization founded by

Former President Vicente Fox that offers leadership training to develop compassionate global community leaders in collaboration with the Vamos México Foundation, established by First Lady Marta Sahagún Fox, which supports local and national causes by helping people living in vulnerable situations through social action. A group of 15 undergraduate and graduate students with diverse backgrounds were nominated to participate in the leadership program. As a doctoral student in the Dreeben School of Education, I was excited to explore what I previously learned in my studies focusing on my concentration in adult education, social innovation and entrepreneurship.



Michelle Vasquez with Former President Vicente Fox and First Lady Marta Sahagún Fox



Throughout the week, I traveled to various communities to visit museums, local businesses, and nonprofit organizations located in San Cristóbal, León, San Miguel de Allende, and Guanajuato to learn about

Mexico's rich history, culture, people, economy, government and community relations. One place in particular stood out to me called the Center for Integrated Rehabilitation of San Miguel de Allende (CRISMA) with Vamos México. The center offers professional care for children with disabilities to help them improve their quality of life. Free services are provided to patients who typically would not have access to therapy services due to their socioeconomic conditions. As I walked into one room filled with

colorful mats and therapy equipment, a mother watched as a therapist played with her child on the floor with small toys. The child was smiling as he looked at the toys and began to slowly roll a car



along the mat with his hand. The parent appeared to be filled with joy as she saw her child performing each task during the session. As a parent of a child with developmental disabilities, I was thankful to see how children receive therapy services for critical healthcare needs through an international lens. My current research focuses on parents of children with autism using action research to access services and support to healthcare in the US. Being able to immerse myself in this unique environment allowed me the opportunity to broaden my perspective and was truly transformational.

Living the UIW Mission and core values, students are encouraged to become enlightened citizens in the global community in search of truth, innovation, service and social justice. This trip allowed me to think about the mission of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, now being carried out by students traveling internationally. By learning from each other, sharing life experiences and joining in community service projects, the students of today are continuing the Sisters' legacy. I was impacted by the friendliness of the people, beautiful places I visited, and global leadership skills I acquired through the Centro Fox Program. My fellow students made me feel welcome and supported me through the process as we walked the path together, taking in the sites and learning about the culture. This leadership program has certainly shaped me into a better person, understanding what true leadership is within a global community.



For more information about this trip, follow this link:
<https://www.uiw.edu/news/2023/08/uiw-students-travel-to-mexico-for-centro-fox-leadership-program.html>

UIW ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME

Class of 2023

From outstanding former student-athletes, to a history-making team, to an inaugural award recipient, UIW's first Athletics Hall of Fame class since 2016 was inducted in a special ceremony this fall. The induction ceremony took place on Friday, September 22, in the Student Engagement Center Ballroom on the UIW Broadway Campus. "These Hall of Famers exemplify what it is to be exceptional both on and off the playing field," says UIW Athletic Director Richard Duran. "Around the athletic department we talk about being champions in the classroom, in the community and in competition. These individuals personified those words and we are blessed to have them be a part of our UIW family."



Terry Delgado
Volleyball, 1995-1998

Terry Delgado, BA '00, MA '02 was a standout volleyball player for UIW, leading her team to the NAIA National Tournament. Terry was named NAIA All-America, All-Region and Southwest Region Player of the Year while earning All-Heart of Texas Conference honors three times throughout her career. Delgado capped off a phenomenal senior season leading the team in kills, attacks and points.



Denzel Livingston
Men's Basketball, 2011-2015

Denzel Livingston, BBA '17 was an outstanding point guard earning many accolades at UIW. Among the many honors and awards, Denzel was named Southland All-Conference First Team and All-Defensive Team, NABC First Team All-District, College Sports Madness Southland Conference First Team, Breitbart Sports Southland First Team, 2014 College Hoops Daily Southland Player of the Year and was named UIW's Male Student-Athlete of the Year in 2014 and 2015. As a junior, Denzel averaged 20.3 points, 6.4 rebounds, 3.8 assists and 2.5 steals per game. He followed that with 21.5 points, 5.9 rebounds, 2.9 assists and 2.6 steals per game as a senior.



Alex Yatsko
Men's Swimming, 2008-2011

Alex Yatsko, BS '10, MA '13 was a two-time NCAA Division II National Champion (2008 and 2009). In addition, throughout his outstanding competitive career, Alex was named a NCAA Division II All-American a remarkable twenty times and was recognized as the All-Rocky Mountain Conference Swimmer of the Year. Out of the pool, Alex earned CSCAA Scholar All-America, CoSIDA Academic All-District, Rocky Mountain All-Academic and UIW Student-Athlete of the Year honors.



Trent Rios

Football, 2009-2012

Trent Rios, BBA '13 was the first-ever UIW football signee. He was named Lone Star Conference Honorable Mention All-Conference and All-Academic teams in addition to inclusion on the Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll. Trent finished his football career holding 40 UIW records while also making a name for himself nationally, earning ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District, FCS Super Region Third Team and Capital One Academic All-District.



Kate and Robert Crosby

Order of Merit

Kate Crosby, BBA '96 and her late husband Robert are the first recipients of the inaugural UIW Athletics Hall of Fame Order of Merit Award. Kate is an alumna of the inaugural class of students in the ADCaP program, now called the School of Professional Studies. Kate and Robert have been long-time friends and supporters of the University and were members of UIW's Development Board. They were also instrumental in the development of the Quarterback Club, which became the present-day Cardinals Club. Kate and Robert embodied the spirit of UIW through their leadership in developing the football tailgate experience and rallying community support for UIW football.



2004 Men's Soccer Team

Honor Team

The 2004 UIW Men's Soccer team, coached by Dennis Currier, was crowned Southwest Conference Champions, won the NCAA Division II Midwest Regional Championships and made an NCAA Division II Championship Quarterfinals appearance.

For more information and photos of this event follow this link: <https://www.uiw.edu/news/2023/09/uiw-inducts-athletics-hall-of-fame-class-of-2023.html>

Building a Support System for Moms to Succeed

By Callum Riley, BA '13



In 2002, after graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Information Systems from UIW, alumna Vanessa Jupe embarked on her career journey in website development. However, it was a challenging time for young graduates entering the industry following the dot-com bubble burst in 2000.

Despite the odds, Jupe secured a role working on the San Antonio Spurs' website. A few years later, in the mid-2000s, career growth opportunities in South Texas remained scarce, prompting her to explore job prospects beyond her native San Antonio.

With a sense of hope, Jupe applied for a position with the Jet Blue Airways web development team in New York. She recalled, "I applied for the job thinking they wouldn't take me seriously, this young girl from Texas applying for this role." However, her fears were unfounded, as the company contacted her for an interview

the day after she applied and offered her a job in New York the following day. This move proved transformative for Jupe.

"Moving to New York opened a whole new world of opportunities for me. It helped pave the way for me to transition from web development, which I thought I'd work in for my entire career, into product management. This led me to a rewarding career with various companies," Jupe explained.

Throughout her career, Jupe held senior leadership roles in industry-leading businesses, earning a reputation for growing product lines and revenues through her expertise in user experience. Her journey took her from DirectTV to USAA, H&R Block, and even startup companies.

Reflecting on her time at UIW and its impact on her career, Jupe shared, "I believe that the education at UIW, coupled with my drive as a student, translated into the career success I've enjoyed. UIW was

an excellent place to be. Students shared a strong sense of entrepreneurship, and the faculty was incredibly supportive. I had access to abundant assistance and career guidance."

Jupe's academic journey was further supported by a donor to the University, helping cover some tuition, books, and academic expenses as a scholarship recipient. Expressing her gratitude, she said, "I'm so grateful for the scholarship and thankful for the support. Earning my degree would have been much more challenging without it."

She added, "Looking back, perhaps I was too positive because it made me feel like I could do anything. It gave me a sense that I was unlimited in what I could pursue. However, the real world can be a bit more challenging."

Six years ago, Jupe faced one of these real-world challenges that many women encounter while pursuing careers. She had

just given birth to her first child, Roosevelt and embarked on a breastfeeding journey. Struggling with this new phase of life, Jupe sought resources and support.

"Personally, I really struggled with breastfeeding at the beginning. It felt like one of the biggest challenges I had experienced in my life. When I looked for resources or support, there really wasn't anything out there I was looking for. I thought to myself, there must be some answer here, some scientific data somewhere, something to help me," Jupe recounted.

This experience ignited a passion within Jupe. While enrolled in the master's program for technological innovation at the University of Texas, she conducted research on breastfeeding for her degree. She launched a survey on the topic, receiving an overwhelming response.

"So many moms responded to the survey, and many of them faced the same struggles I did. All the responses resonated with each other. When you work in product management, you're looking for that pain point to solve, that significant gap in the market. I thought to myself, what features or products can I build to solve this problem?"

In 2020, when COVID-19 sent people across the U.S. from offices to work from home with their partners, an unexpected phenomenon occurred – a baby boom. Although Jupe was still focused on her corporate career, several of her close friends were pregnant and expecting their first children during this time. Seeing them undergo the same struggles she had faced, she felt compelled to act.

"At that moment, I thought to myself, I can't just sit here and not do something when I know I can build something that will help people. It was a turning point for me," she said.

This experience inspired Jupe to utilize her industry skills and experience to create Leva, which means "lift." Leva is an app-based community that educates and empowers mothers and parents of babies, with a mission to support women on their journeys to success in life and career.

Reflecting on her decision to leave her career and start Leva, Jupe remarked, "It doesn't take a rocket scientist to build a business. But it does take a lot of drive and



“
I know I can
build something
that will help
people.
”

passion. There are times in our lives when we re-evaluate what's important to us and what we actually want to do. It's incredible how having a child is one of the biggest moments when that happens. In my career, I've been very fortunate, which allowed me to take a risk in starting my own company."

In the short term, Jupe has worked tirelessly to expand the app's reach to support more women. By establishing relationships with employers and health brokers, she

successfully pitched Leva as an employee benefit to several corporate clients and intends to further pursue this avenue.

Leva doesn't solely provide support for breastfeeding; it also offers content and guidance on postpartum wellness and career support for mothers at all stages of their lives. Regarding her long-term vision for the Leva community, Jupe shared, "In the next 10 years, my goal is to have my business support women throughout their entire life journey. Currently, we focus heavily on pregnant and postpartum moms in the first year after the baby is born. However, we've received a lot of interest from moms with slightly older kids. I've had women reach out and ask if we'll do anything for menopause or fertility. I want to help, but I can't yet. I want to address these needs in the future."

When asked what advice she would give to a UIW student today looking to balance a high-level career and family in the future, Jupe emphasized, "If you're interested in something, just go all in. Don't hold back. Find a way to do it! I don't think there really is such a thing as true balance. Being resilient and accepting that you won't always find that balance is crucial for your career and family."

If your organization is interested in learning more, please follow this link: <https://www.levaapp.com/for-employers>





Empowering Young Women Globally:

UIW Alumnae Mentoring High School Students

By Erika Haskins, BBA '05, MA '10, PhD '23

The University of the Incarnate Word is committed to cultivating the development of the whole person and fostering values of lifelong learning. This commitment is deeply intertwined with the mission and ministry of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word. In keeping with this mission, UIW alumnae Erika Haskins, Jennifer Stuart and Linda Gjergji are mentoring and facilitating a high school global leadership program that focuses on women and young women's global issues known as the UIW Young Women's Global Leadership Program (YWGLP). They are joined in their efforts with this program by Dr. Joan Labay-Marquez, YWGLP program sponsor and YWGLP advisors Sister Martha Ann Kirk, CCVI, ThD and Dr. Ricardo Gonzalez.

YWGLP: Nurturing Sustainable Global Leaders

The YWGLP is unique in that it is a girl-led global leadership program. Founded in 2012 under Women's Global Connection (a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word), the Young Women's Global Leadership Program, formerly Girls Leadership San Antonio, focuses on learning opportunities emphasizing leadership development skills, social justice issues, global citizenship, and cross-cultural awareness. The YWGLP is open to all 9-12 grade young women regardless of their academic capabilities, socio-economic level, or leadership potential. Over 80 high school students from Kenya, Turkey, Kosovo, Uganda and the United States participate in the YWGLP annually. YWGLP's collaborative global partners include Chango Secondary School (Kenya), Holy Cross Lakeview Secondary School (Uganda) and other partners including church and local communities located in Kaberamaido, Tororo, Jinja, Kampala (Uganda) and Kosovo.

While the eight-month mentorship program is ongoing throughout the academic year, the YWGLP members meet once a month on a Saturday morning. Under the guidance of their mentors and facilitators, the local young women gather in person and on

Zoom. At each meeting, the young women present with their team about issues they are passionate about. The meetings also serve as a time for the young participants to learn about each other's culture, engage in meaningful discussions, and develop their leadership skills. During the program year, the young women learn about the importance of the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals and gender equality. The young women present their research at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW) in New York each year. This year's UN CSW68 theme focuses on the empowerment of women and eliminating poverty.

The YWGLP members are at the forefront of advocating for care for others and the environment. They raise awareness about the interconnectedness of social justice and environmental issues, emphasizing the importance of sustainable living and empathy towards others.

For example, two years ago, San Antonio YWGLP members focused their research on the digital divide, the gap in access to technology between socio-economic demographics. The YWGLP presented their research at the UN CSW66, took the initiative to apply for a grant from the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, and purchased laptops for their YWGLP peers in Uganda and Kenya who did

not have access to computers in their homes or schools. This year, the high school young women, now in 11th grade, offer instructional workshops in technology, specifically cybersecurity, to their peers in Kenya. These initiatives, driven by the young women's passion, reflect the program's commitment to fostering global citizenship and advocacy for sustainable development.

The young women in Kenya have been actively engaged in climate change projects. This summer under the direction of their mentor, Hildah Nyongesa, YWGLP members attending Chango Secondary School planted 66 seedlings at their school with a goal to plant 100 trees in the surrounding area. The lack of trees in the region forces the young women to travel far when they are required to collect firewood, placing them in danger and at risk of harm. Further, this problem may cause the young woman to miss school. The young women initiated the plan to establish small tree nurseries with both indigenous and exotic trees.

Through their collective efforts, they are fostering a culture of caring within their schools and inspiring positive change in their communities, paving the way for a more empathetic and environmentally conscious society.



**Erika Haskins, BBA '05,
MA '10, PhD '23:
Championing Women's
Leadership,
Past, Present, and
Future**

Erika Haskins successfully defended her study on the experiences of young women in the Girls Leadership San Antonio program, which has earned her a doctorate in Organizational Leadership from the Dreeben School of Education. Her research focus is women's and girl's leadership and early Texas history.

Over the past four years, she has been a graduate research assistant to Dr. Lu-Ella D'Amico, an English professor and coordinator for the UIW Women's and Gender Studies program. Haskins has been invited to teach undergraduate theology at UIW in Spring 2024, and she also holds leadership positions for various women's organizations. As a former Women's Global Connection member, she has been a dedicated volunteer and mentor for YWGLP since 2020 and she is the YWGLP director. In 2022, Haskins was the first doctoral student to earn the CCVI Spirit Award. The CCVI Spirit Award is given to a faculty, administration, or staff member who exemplifies the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word spirit by serving the University and/or the wider community.

Haskins' journey in the Women's Global Connection, under the mentorship of the late CCVI Sister Dorothy Ettling, has been transformative, inspiring her to continue to teach globally and instill the values of leadership, entrepreneurship, and service to others in young women. In 2010, Erika traveled to Mongu, Zambia where she designed and implemented workshops in business, leadership, technology, and theology for women in rural areas. Today, in keeping with the mission and spirit of the CCVI Sisters and the Women's Global Connection, Haskins mentors high school young women and continuously engages in mentorship sessions with adult women in Uganda and Kenya. Haskins emphasized, "empower a woman or young woman with an education, support her aspirations, and nurture her desire to serve others, and you will witness the birth of a fearless leader who can change the world."



**Jennifer Stuart, BA '05,
MA '16:
Advocating for Single
Mothers' Education**

Jennifer Stuart is a UIW doctoral candidate in the Dreeben School of Education, earning her doctorate in Adult Education, Social Innovation, and Entrepreneurship. Her research focuses on the psychological aspects of single mothers pursuing higher education. With an extensive background in education, Stuart brings a unique perspective to the YWGLP mentorship team. Stuart has been an active mentor in the YWGLP for two years. In addition to her exceptional skills and knowledge in her field, Stuart possesses a unique ability to empathize with others, understanding their struggles and challenges on a profound level. She listens and truly hears the voices of those she interacts with, offering solace, support, and encouragement where needed most.



**Linda Gjergji,
MBA '17:
Empowering Women
in Developing
Countries**

Linda Gjergji, another driven UIW alumna pursuing her doctorate in Adult Education, Social Innovation, and Entrepreneurship, exemplifies the spirit of global service. She is currently working as a program specialist for PTAC (Procurement Technical Assistance Center), part of the Institute for Economic Development at UTSA. She coordinates the procurement assistance for 37 counties in the San Antonio area. As an United States Agency for International Development fully funded scholar for the Transformational Leadership Program in Kosovo, Gjergji established a non-profit organization focused on women's empowerment in her home country. Her research interests, spanning women entrepreneurs, entrepreneurship in developing countries, and women's issues in developing nations, align perfectly with the YWGLP's mission of addressing global women's issues and promoting education as a catalyst for change.

Gjergji has been a mentor in the YWGLP for two years. She was instrumental in advocating for young women in Kosovo to join the YWGLP. While attending her graduate studies courses at UIW, she mentored young women through technology. During her holiday breaks, she returned to her home country and continued her mentoring in person. Gjergji believes that increasing women's education, leadership, and business involvement is the first step toward improving gender gaps in access to economic opportunities in developing countries.

Aligning with UIW's Mission: Cultivating the Whole Person

At UIW, the Mission is to cultivate the development of the whole person and promote values of lifelong learning, community service, and social justice. The YWGLP embodies these principles, nurturing academic excellence, compassion, empathy, and leadership. The mentors and facilitators, including UIW's alumnae members, exemplify these values, ensuring that the young women involved in the program are prepared to tackle the global challenges with confidence and resilience.

A Life for God and a Heart for Others: A Shared Commitment

In the spirit of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, Haskins, Stuart and Gjergji epitomize the essence of "a life for God and a heart for others." Through their unwavering dedication to the Young Women's Global Leadership Program, they continue to inspire, mentor, and uplift the lives of countless young women, echoing the profound impact of the CCVI Sisters' living legacy. Their dedication is a testament to the enduring impact of education and mentorship, inspiring us all to contribute to a more equitable future for women and young women worldwide.

If you are interested in supporting or volunteering for the Young Women's Global Leadership Program, you may email Haskins at ywglp@uiwtx.edu. To learn more about the program and past projects, please follow this link to visit the YWGLP website: <http://tinyurl.com/ywglp-sa>

CLASS NOTES

Celebrate UIW success stories. Keep up with your class, and be part of *The Word* in print and online! Send your achievements to alumni@uiwtx.edu.

Photos submitted for Class Notes may be included on the online alumni community site.

1990s

Joe Moralez II, BS '98

Promoted to the rank of Commander. Moralez currently serves as the Director of Homeland Defense at U.S. Marine Corps Headquarters Health Services in Arlington, Virginia.

2000s



Rosa Sylvia Cruz, MA '04

Celebrated the graduation of granddaughter Sophia Viagran from St. Anthony Catholic High School, Class of 2023. Viagran started at UIW this Fall. Welcome to the Nest!



Abigail Fuller, MSN-Ed '04

Appointed to serve on the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) National Public Policy Council for a 3-year term. The Public Policy Council provides guidance to AFSP chapters on public policy impacting mental health and serves as a liaison between the AFSP Public Policy Office and public officials at the state and federal level. In addition, council members serve in an advisory role to the AFSP National Board of Directors on mental health and suicide prevention policy and advocacy.

2010s

Ann Islas, BA '08, MA '10

Selected by her peers in District 2A-2 Lions Clubs to serve on the board of directors for the District 2A-2 Lions Sight Research Foundation. The Lions Sight Research Foundation is dedicated

to supporting research into diseases that impair vision or even cause blindness. To complement that work, the LSRF helps Lions in the 21 counties of District 2-A2 provide a variety of needed vision services. She will serve a 3-year term ending in 2027. Islas was also appointed as the 2023-2024 District Pediatric Cancer chairperson by the Lions Clubs District governor. She will serve these roles in addition to her role as president of The San Antonio Bexar Necessities Lions Club.

Martin Padron Jr., BBA '11

Previously, UIW Alumni Association president, was selected to be the zone chair for Zone 2 of the District 2A-2 Lions Clubs. As zone chair Martin will work with 5 clubs from San Antonio as an advisor to ensure that each club has the resources needed to be successful in serving the community and providing amenities for those in need. This role is in addition to being treasurer of his home club, The San Antonio Bexar Necessities Lions Club.

Steve Burgamy, BBA '12

Recently passed the Texas Real Estate Exam and has joined Keller Williams Heritage as a licensed REALTOR*. Steve is also a licensed CPA in the State of Texas and has over 9 years of experience in public accounting focusing on taxation. Steve, a former UIW football player (2008-2011), is also the co-founder of the Forever First Foundation, a local nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization aimed at supporting UIW Athletics. Steve is also a former board member of the UIW Alumni Association and currently sits on the UIW Development Board's Athletic Committee.





2009 Rachel Cywinski, MA '09 Shares her recent partnership with The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment as a Texas Stream Team community scientist. She monitors two sites in San Antonio, Elemendorf Lake on Apache Creek in West San Antonio and the Greenline Park at the former Brooks Air Force Base. Cywinski is certified in almost all trainings offered by the Texas Stream Team, which highlights her unwavering commitment to safeguarding our natural resources.

Follow this link to read the full article spotlighting her work.
<https://www.meadowscenter.txst.edu/leadership/texasstreamteam/waterways-newsletter/june-2023/rachel-cywinski-spotlight.html>

"I am so excited to begin my new career in real estate. As a Texas CPA and lifelong San Antonio resident, my mission is to provide all my clients with exceptional knowledge about the local market and a luxurious level of service tailored to fit your real estate needs. If you're a former Cardinal or Crusader, please contact me if you or anyone you know is interested in buying, selling, or investing in real estate. It truly is a great day to be alive and to be a UIW Cardinal!"



Carla Sorbel, BS '11, PharmD '15
 Announces that she is the proud new owner of Comfort Pharmacy in Comfort, Texas.

WE WILL MISS YOU

- Mr. Howard (Ben) E. Davis, Donor**
- Mr. Bobby Mendez, BA '13**
- Mr. Michael Santiago, Former Employee**
- Ms. Jo A. R. Bland, BA '59**
- Mr. John H. Seffel, Former Employee**
- Sr. Helen M. Robin, SSND, MA '77**
- Sr. Marjorie Muldowney, CCVI, BS '63**
- Ms. Doris A. Muldoon, BS '57**
- Mrs. Linda C. Duelm, BS '71**
- Ms. Kathleen A. Odem, BA '74**
- Ms. Patricia Davidson, BSN '68**
- Mrs. Joy E. P. Fromme, MA '76**
- Mrs. Joann R. Marfin, BA '85**

UNIVERSITY COLLECTIVE

NEWS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACCOLADES FROM OUR ILLUSTRIOUS FACULTY AND STAFF



Dr. Michael Romero
Director of the Pastoral Institute

UIW welcomed Dr. Romero as the new Director of the Pastoral Institute. The Pastoral Institute prepares men and women for positions of leadership and service to communities and the Church through contemporary roles in ministry. In keeping with UIW's Mission, the department provides students with a breadth of knowledge in the liberal arts and Catholic culture, offers a solid foundation in biblical and theological studies in preparation for ministry and equips students with the leadership skills and intercultural fluency needed for effective pastoral ministry in today's multicultural dioceses, parishes and institutions.

Originally from El Paso, Romero taught English and writing courses in San Antonio for many years at campuses such as Northwest Vista College before returning to school to study Theology. After completing his doctoral studies, he taught in the Religious Studies department and as a Research and Instruction librarian at the University of Dayton. Romero's areas of research interest are the Catholic Church of colonial Spain, Mariology and Franciscan spirituality and history. He is also a member of the Mariological Society of America.

"I am happy and proud to have been selected to fulfill this role at UIW," says Romero. "I look forward to doing all that I can to serve our students and the community through the Pastoral Institute, Deo volente."



Dr. Javier Lozano
Director of International Affairs

Dr. Lozano was selected as a Fellow in the Hispanic Association of Colleges and University's (HACU) 2023/2024 Leadership Academy/La Academia de Liderazgo yearlong program. The program is designed to increase diverse representation in executive and senior-level positions in higher education.

"I am honored to represent UIW in the HACU Leadership Academy program," says Lozano. "The opportunity to live the University's Mission of supporting each other in the search for and communication of truth, thoughtful innovation, care of the environment, community service and social justice will be the foundation of every discussion and interaction that I will have with my 49 fellows representing higher education institutions across the United States. My active participation in HACU's national leadership program is a testament to the many opportunities that UIW offers to our community members wishing to make a positive impact in our diverse community."

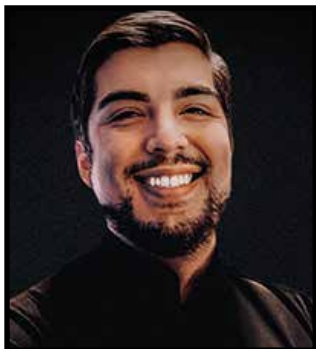
Fellows participate in an array of leadership development activities preparing them for leadership roles in the full spectrum of institutions of higher learning, with an emphasis on Hispanic-Serving Institutions and Emerging HSIs. The one-year fellowship program includes webinars and three seminars.



Dr. Ashley S. Love
*Director of Graduate Studies
Dreeben School of Education*

Dr. Love was named the new director of Graduate Studies for the Dreeben School of Education. Love is a multi-disciplinary professional with a deep commitment to interdisciplinary learning and a passion for empowering diverse communities. With a teaching journey that spans over two decades in higher education, she is an award-winning professor who holds multiple degrees from Columbia University and a Doctor of Health Sciences degree from Nova Southeastern University, where she pursued a dual concentration in telehealth and education for health-care professionals. Love's educational background reflects her unwavering pursuit of excellence, her belief in the transformative power of education and her strong spirit of service.

"I am excited and energized to have Dr. Love as the new Director of the DSE Graduate Studies Department," said Dean Dr. Denise Staudt. "I know she will accomplish great things as she guides the department with her expertise and dedication. I look forward to working with Dr. Love in her new role."



Dr. Nieves Villaseñor
*Coordinator of Music Education
 College of Humanities, Arts
 and Social Science*

Dr. Villaseñor joined UIW as the new director for the UIW Marching Cardinals, UIW Wind Ensemble and UIW Red Basketball Band. Previously, Villaseñor served as visiting assistant director of Bands at James Madison University, where he served as assistant director of the Marching Royal Dukes, director of the JMU Pep Band, and conducted the JMU Symphonic Band. He also served as artist-in-residence at the Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community (VMRC) in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

As Coordinator of Music Education and the Instrumental Area, Villaseñor will teach courses in instrumental music education and the music-major sequence conducting course.

Villaseñor shared, “I want the “Pride of the Incarnate Word” to be an undeniable part of the fabric of UIW. In my first year, I want to instill a strong sense of pride in the community that we live in, and what that means for us as a band. Whether that be Texas-pride, pride in living in Military City USA, pride in our Hispanic heritage roots, or in our faith, I want our students to be the heartbeat of what makes our University so special.” He continued, “I’m proud to be part of the Cardinal community at UIW. I can’t wait to see what energy our students create, and how that translates to the University community and beyond.”



Dr. Monica Ayala Jimenez
Associate Provost of Student Success

Dr. Monica Ayala Jimenez was selected to be a part of the very first Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU); Enlace Mid-Level Leadership Program. Only 56 professionals nationwide were selected to be a part of the program which began this fall. The six-month leadership development program for mid-level college and university professionals is designed to increase the number, variety and quality of Latino/a talent in leadership positions at Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) and in higher education overall. The University of the Incarnate Word is a proud HSI.

“I am grateful for the opportunity to engage in learning from a powerhouse organization like HACU,” says Ayala Jimenez. “I’m especially looking forward to attending the Capitol Forum in Washington, D.C. where I can enhance my skills as an advocate for HSI work here at UIW. As a Latina, I recognize that my voice matters and I represent others whose voices are not at the table.”



Faith Gómez Clark
*Lecturer, Department of English
 College of Humanities, Arts
 and Social Science*

Faith Gómez Clark of Austin, Texas was awarded a fellowship by the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts (VCCA). Clark will be among more than 20 other fellows focusing on their own creative projects at this working retreat for writers, visual artists, and composers.

The artists who come to VCCA, whether emerging or established, are selected through competitive peer review based on the important or innovative work they are doing in their respective fields.

VCCA is a unique Virginia-based organization of national stature and international impact. One of the largest year-round artist residency programs, VCCA typically hosts over 400 artist-Fellows annually at Mt. San Angelo in Amherst, Virginia, and 50 annually at the Moulin à Nef in Auvillar, France.

WHAT'S NEW @ THE NEST



RSO CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF GRADUATES

The weekend of July 7-9, the Rosenberg School of Optometry (RSO) Class of 2013 celebrated their 10-year reunion with companionship, continuing education, and faith. The weekend kicked off with a gathering at Elsewhere Garden Bar & Kitchen and concluded with Mass. The Class of 2013 greatly enjoyed this weekend of fellowship.

Reunion Chair Dr. Ajay Patel OD '13 shared, "Our reunion was a great success and it couldn't have been done without the support of Rosenberg School of Optometry and the Incarnate Word Alumni Department. It was great seeing our classmates and even better seeing all the accomplishments each of our classmates had made. With everyone's accomplishments and achievements, it really shows how Incarnate Word has shaped each of us to be out in the world to succeed. It was so nostalgic seeing our old administration and professors. We want to thank everyone who made this event possible and want to thank all the faculty and staff who joined us."

Follow this link for the full article: <https://www.uiw.edu/news/2023/11/rosenberg-school-of-optometry-class-of-2013-reunion.html>



On Sept. 18, construction started on the new baseball and softball bleachers and press boxes project. The softball bleachers will seat 230 spectators, and the baseball bleachers will seat 420 spectators. Construction is scheduled to be completed in late January 2024, just in time for next season! Don't miss the action this Spring while enjoying the updated facilities.



NEW SPECIALTY LABS FOR UIW'S OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAM

The inaugural class of UIW's Occupational Therapy Doctorate program has four new specialty laboratories for hands-on learning this year thanks to a generous grant from the Nancy Smith Hurd Foundation. The grant funded the construction and outfitting of spaces which will help the OTD students' study of physical, cognitive, emotional, and social skills through the use of tools including virtual reality simulation programs and headsets. As these future practitioners of Occupational Therapy gain insight into these areas, they are then able to provide direction for patients that will help them engage and participate fully in life.





STUDENT-ATHLETES REFLECT ON THE IMPACT OF WOMEN'S SPORTS

By Devin Castillo

UIW is proud to be the home of many competitive and determined athletes. Each is dedicated to their chosen sport as they continuously work to grow and develop their athletic skills. This fall, the UIW women's soccer and volleyball teams experienced whirlwind seasons, both enjoying record starts. Each game they played was a demonstration of our women student-athletes' tenacity and proof that they are true exemplars of Cardinal spirit.

continued on next page



Peyton Adams, who plays both defender and midfield positions on UIW’s women’s soccer team, played with the team throughout all four of her undergraduate years, and continued into the first year of her graduate program.

“I started playing soccer when I was about four years old. I played a lot of other sports growing up as well, but I just love soccer the most and it stuck through high school. Then I decided that I wanted to play in college,” Adams shared.

She noted that her favorite part about playing for UIW is the community it has to offer. She feels that the campus has a smaller feel that allows her to build genuine bonds with those who are part of the University com-

munity, especially when it comes to the other women on her team, who she views as sisters.

As an athlete, Adams acknowledges that in addition to experiencing the jubilation that comes with wins, she can also experience the difficulty that comes with losses. She’s found that the support of her UIW women’s soccer family has helped her persevere through it all.

“When you do fall, you’re not just falling by yourself. There are so many people to help you pick yourself up like coaches, staff and teammates. They’re always there around you. And I think honestly, you learn the most from losing. That’s when I found the most success and then moving forward.”

Meanwhile, in the world of women’s volleyball, middle blocker and opposite hitter, Annamarie Alvarez has been exemplifying her own impressive embodiment of athleticism.

Alvarez has been playing volleyball since she was nine years old and is now wrapping up her fourth year on the women’s volleyball team while completing her senior year.

She noted how much her coaches and team supported her throughout her time at the University. She’s especially grateful for the bonds that she has had the opportunity to form with her teammates.

“We’ve had a lot of girls come in and out (of the team), but I think just the culture that we’ve built and continue to build, it’s been one of my favorite parts,”

“I think that the biggest thing for me is keeping a positive influence on and off the court by being there for my team. That’s what I love.”

Alvarez shared. “We’re all pretty tight as a team, we have been for every single team that I’ve been a part of.”

As a senior member of the team, she shared that she strives to continuously offer leadership to her team members when times are hard. “I think that the biggest thing for me is keeping a positive influence on and off the court by being there for my team. That’s what I love.”

While much admiration is shared between teammates, the coaches of UIW’s women’s athletics teams are just as proud of their student-athletes.



Head Women’s Volleyball Coach Gabryel Ording shared that she is pleased with how Alvarez and the rest of the team have shown resilience and passion on and

off the court. She trusts that her team is always going to bounce back and give it their all during each match.

Beyond that, she is also proud of how her players have grown as individuals. “I

think that to me, it’s more important that they leave here prepared and being great humans,” Ording noted. “They learn a lot through the sport as they compete. If we win a championship, awesome, but at the end of the day, there’s life after volleyball.”



Head Women’s Soccer Coach Jake Plant also holds similar sentiments when it comes to Adams and the rest of his players.

“Really pushing them to be the best version of themselves is something that I get a kick out of and that’s what I’ve dedicated my coaching career to. I must make sure that this group is ready for the next stage of their lives, which is to be really good professionals, but most importantly, good human beings,” explained Plant.

As the student-athletes’ regular seasons come to an end, they reflect on the memories, learned lessons and lasting bonds they have made throughout their time here at the Nest. As they begin new adventures, prepared by all they learned

from being on a team, they encourage young women to pursue their own interest in women’s sports.

To Adams, her experience participating in UIW women’s sports is one that she admits will be hard to let go of and will benefit her for years to come. “I would recommend it to anyone. I think it’s such a great opportunity. Just enjoy it and embrace it all because it goes by quickly too. I can’t believe it’s almost done.”

As we celebrate the accomplishments of our current women athletes and welcome new additions in the coming years, we at the Nest are grateful to these extraordinary ladies for allowing UIW to be a part of their stories.



COACH MIKE SANTIAGO
1955-2023



Our community mourns the passing of Mike Santiago. Mike will always remain special to the UIW football program as its first-ever head coach.

We extend our condolences to his wife and long-time UIW faculty member, Rochelle Caroon-Santiago, and his family. May he rest in peace.

CALENDAR

ALUMNI EVENTS

37TH ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MARCH AND CELEBRATION

Monday, Jan. 15, 2024

3501 Martin Luther King Drive
9 a.m. - Noon

Bus transportation will be provided from UIW to the march and back to campus after the event. We ask all guests joining us to wear Cardinal Red in a showing of unity as we march together for racial justice.

14TH ANNUAL ALUMNI EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, March 23, 2024

UIW Broadway Campus, 3 - 5 p.m.

Bring the little Cardinals in your life back to the Nest for our annual alumni Easter egg hunt!

REDZONE TAILGATE: SOUTHLAND CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS WOMEN'S GOLF

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort & Spa, 9 a.m.

Join our UIW alumni and friends to cheer on our Cardinals women's golf team as they compete in the Southland Conference Championships right here in San Antonio! Coffee and a light breakfast will be provided.

REDZONE TAILGATE: SOUTHLAND CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS MEN'S & WOMEN'S TENNIS

Saturday, April 20, 2024

UIW Broadway Campus, 9 a.m.

Join our UIW alumni and friends to cheer on our Cardinals men's and women's tennis teams as they compete in the Southland Conference Championships right here at the Nest! Coffee and a light breakfast will be provided.

REDZONE TAILGATE: SOUTHLAND CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS MEN'S GOLF

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort & Spa, 9 a.m.

Join our UIW alumni and friends to cheer on our Cardinals men's golf team as they compete in the Southland Conference Championships right here in San Antonio! Coffee and a light breakfast will be provided.

ARTS, MUSIC AND THEATRE PERFORMANCES

ORCHESTRA OF THE INCARNATE WORD

Sunday, Dec. 3

Diane Bennack Concert Hall, 5 p.m.

Admission: Adults: \$15, Children: \$10, UIW Faculty, Staff, and Students: Free with UIW ID

UIW THEATRE PRESENTS "FADE"

Friday, Feb. 23 - March 2, 2024

UIW Broadway Campus - Cheever Black Box Theatre

WIND ENSEMBLE CONCERT

Sunday, Feb. 25, 2024

Diane Bennack Concert Hall, 3 p.m.

Free admission and open to the public.

ORCHESTRA OF THE INCARNATE WORD

Saturday, March 2, 2024

Diane Bennack Concert Hall, 8 p.m.

Admission: Adults: \$15, Children: \$10, UIW Faculty, Staff, and Students: Free with UIW ID

NOCHE DE MARIACHI

Tuesday, March 6, 2024

Fine Arts area, 3 - 8 p.m.

Free admission and open to the public.

UIW THEATRE PRESENTS WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S "TAMING OF THE SHREW"

Friday, April 12 - 20, 2024

UIW Broadway Campus - Coates Theatre

**Please visit UIW Box Office to purchase tickets for theatre productions.*

SPECIAL EVENTS

SWING-IN DINNER AND GOLF TOURNAMENT

Auction Party

Thursday, April 4, 2024

McCombs Center Rosenberg Sky Room

Golf Tournament

Friday, April 5, 2024

Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort & Spa

GRADUATION

Saturday, May 11, 2024

Celebrate the Spring 2024 Graduates at Freeman Coliseum.

SPECIAL SERVICES

CARDINAL COUPLES MASS

Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024

Our Lady's Chapel, 11 a.m.

If you met your soulmate at UIW and want to celebrate Valentine's Day in a special way, join us for the annual Cardinal Couples Mass!

BACCALAUREATE MASS

Friday, May 10, 2024

Celebration of Mass for the Spring 2024 Graduates.

Please check the UIW Mission and Ministry Website for updates and information on additional services, times, and locations.

LINKS:

Alumni Events

<https://events.uiw.edu/group/alumni>

UIW Mission and Ministry Website

<https://my.uiw.edu/ministry/index.html>

UIW Box Office

<https://www.uiw.edu/chass/academics/departments/theatre-arts/box-office.html>

Swing-In Golf Tournament

<https://www.uiw.edu/giving/campaigns/swing-in/>

INSTITUTIONAL *Charism*

By Dr. Javier Clavere



Rev. Mother Pierre Cinquin, during the founding years of the Congregation, advised the Sisters, “In all of our works, the glory should be for God, the utility for others, and the trouble for ourselves.” In this profound statement, Mother Cinquin outlined the basis

for the charism of our institution and encapsulated our Mission to serve others. This charism should accompany and enlighten us on our educational and transformational journey, allowing us to mirror the Sisters’ cultural values and behaviors, educational philosophy, and sense of social justice. “A life for God, and a heart for others.”

At the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CHASS), we are honored to house our Mission, identity, and charism, compelling us to continue striving to model by example the incarnational word, incarnational love, and incarnational peace, enacted so humbly and brilliantly by the congregation. It is both a privilege and a profound responsibility to be entrusted with this Mission as part of our endeavors at the University; to provide emotional, social, and spiritual support to others in an educational, academic, and transformational environment.

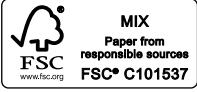
Follow this link for the extended article:
<https://www.uiw.edu/news/2023/11/institutional-charism.html>





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SEE THE LIGHTS
 NOW THROUGH
 JAN. 6

Join us as we Light the Way
 through the holiday season!



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