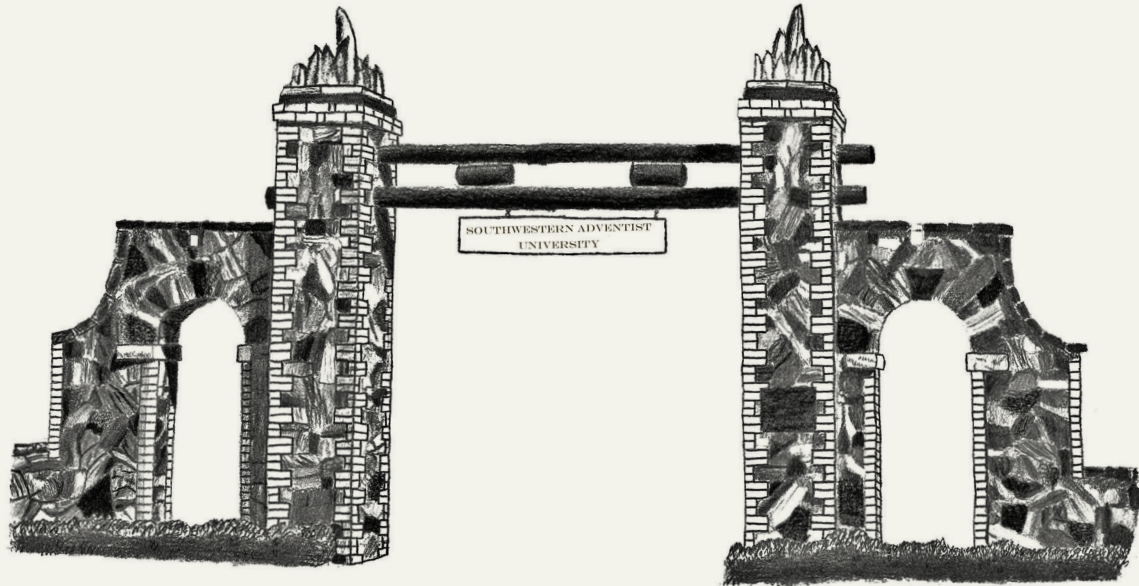




# GRADUATION

MAY 3-5, 2024



*Drawing by Laura Seery, 2006*

# THE MIZPAH GATE

## **SENIOR CLASS OFFICERS**

Benjamin Blanchard, *President*  
Carlos Aguiñaga, *Vice President*  
Jaleigh Garmon, *Secretary*  
Jeremy Perez, *Sargeant at Arms*  
Ania Ochoa, *Spiritual Vice President*  
Genesis Santos-Guzman, *Financial Vice President*  
Paola Giselle Gregorio Flores, *Class Representative*  
Kayli Dickson, *Class Representative*

## **CLASS OF 2024 GIFT**

Digital Display Screens for Pultar-Leiske Gymnasium

# GRADUATION 2024

## WEEKEND SCHEDULE

### FRIDAY, MAY 03, 2024

7:00 p.m. **Theology Commissioning Service**  
*Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church Chapel*

### SABBATH, MAY 04, 2024

10:00 a.m. **Elevate Graduation Service**  
*Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church Sanctuary*

3:00 p.m. **Education and Psychology Dedication**  
*Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church Sanctuary*

4:00 p.m. **Business Administration Recognition and Reception**  
*Wharton Auditorium, Mabee Center*

6:00 p.m. **Nurses' Pinning Ceremony**  
*Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church Sanctuary*

### SUNDAY, MAY 05, 2024

10:00 a.m. **Commencement**  
*Leiske-Pultar Gymnasium*

# COMMENCEMENT

SUNDAY, MAY 05, 2024, 10:00 A.M.  
*Leiske-Pultar Gymnasium*

<b>PRELUDE</b> .....	<i>Cumberland Cross</i> .....	Southwestern Concert Winds Directed by Dr. Samuel Hood <i>Adjunct Professor of Music</i>
	Carl Strommen	
<b>FACULTY PROCESSIONAL</b> .....	<i>Fanfare and Flourishes</i> .....	Southwestern Concert Winds
	James Curnow	
<b>PROCESSIONAL</b> .....	<i>Pomp and Circumstance</i> .....	Southwestern Concert Winds
	Sir Edward Elgar	
<b>INVOCATION</b> .....		Elder Carlos Craig <i>President of Southwestern Union</i> <i>SWAU Board of Trustees Chair</i>
<b>WELCOME</b> .....		James The <i>Vice President for Student Services</i>
<b>PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE</b> .....		Ana Patterson <i>President of Southwestern Adventist University</i>
<b>SCRIPTURE</b> .....	<i>1 Samuel 17:34–37</i> .....	Thea Plosceanu <i>Class of 2024</i>
<b>MUSICAL SELECTION</b> .....	<i>Great Day!</i> .....	The University Singers Directed by Jonathan Wall
	arr. Stacey V. Gibbs	
<b>INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER</b> .....		Jeremy Perez <i>Sargeant-at-Arms</i>

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS .....	“3 Essentials for Success: Identity, Calling, and Assignment” .....	Benjamin Lundquist <i>Pastor &amp; Top Motivational Speaker</i>
SENIOR CLASS RESPONSE.....	.....	Benjamin Blanchard <i>Class President</i>
PRESENTATION OF CLASS.....	.....	Dr. Donna Berkner <i>Vice President for Academic Administration</i>
CONFERRING OF DEGREES .....	.....	Ana Patterson <i>President of Southwestern Adventist University</i>
		Dr. Donna Berkner <i>Vice President for Academic Administration</i>
		Michelle Karmy <i>Registrar</i>
		Duane Valencia <i>Assistant Vice President for Student Financial Services</i>
ALUMNI WELCOME .....	.....	Christopher Rhodes <i>Class of 2015/Alumni Association President</i>
PRESENTATION OF HONORARY DEGREES.....	.....	Ana Patterson <i>President of Southwestern Adventist University</i>
BENEDICTION.....	.....	Russ Laughlin <i>Vice President for Spiritual Development</i>
RECESSIONAL.....	<i>Second Suite in F, Op. 28 No. 2</i> .....	Southwestern Concert Winds Gustav Holst

Dr. Renard Donesky, Ph.D., English Professor, is serving as Marshal for the graduation services.  
Elizabeth Niua, Enrollment Counselor, is presenting the University flag for the graduation services.

*It is requested that the audience remain seated during the processional and recessional.*

# MACE

Traditionally, the mace is a symbol of authority. Early ones were used as weapons of offense, capable of breaking through the strongest armor. The first ceremonial maces were borne by sergeants at arms in the courts of Philip II of France and Richard I of England. By the 14th century, royal maces had become items of great beauty, decorated with precious metals. The academic mace also goes back a long way; Oxford University's, for example, was constructed in the 16th century.

Southwestern Adventist University's four-foot brass-and-wood mace is a symbol of authority, as it represents education's ability to break through ignorance, poverty, and prejudice. Made of wood from the original building on campus, Heritage Hall, the mace is crowned by the cross of Christ, the basis of Christian education. Other symbols incorporated in the design are the law of God; the biblical passage of love, I Corinthians 13; an Olympic runner, which represents growth; and the lamp of learning.

The mace declares Southwestern's heritage and is used on all ceremonial occasions to represent the University's authority. It is a perpetual symbol of the University's reason for existence. It is also a symbol of the qualities that motivate students to love God and to serve others.



## TASSEL COLORS

Business Administration—*Drab*  
Communication—*Crimson*  
Education—*Light Blue*  
English, History—*White*  
General Studies—*Black*  
Kinesiology—*Sage Green*  
Music—*Pink*  
Nursing—*Apricot*  
Psychology—*Golden Yellow*  
Science, Mathematics—*Gold*  
Social Science—*Citron*  
Theology, Religion—*Scarlet*

## DISTINCTIONS

**Bachelor Degree Graduates**  
*cum laude* (burgundy cord) | 3.50–3.74  
*magna cum laude* (silver cord) | 3.75–3.89  
*summa cum laude* (gold cord) | 3.90–4.00

# CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION 2024

## SENIOR CLASS OFFICERS

**Benjamin T. Blanchard**, *President, magna cum laude*  
BM, Music

**Carlos Aguiñaga**, *Vice President, cum laude*  
BS, Psychology

**Jaleigh Love Garmon**, *Secretary, summa cum laude*  
BA, Communications emphasis in Online Media

**Jeremy Frank Perez**, *Sargeant at Arms, summa cum laude*  
BS, Biology, Biomedical Emphasis

**Ania Ochoa**, *Spiritual Vice President, cum laude*  
BS, Psychology

**Genesis Madai Santos-Guzman**, *Financial Vice President, summa cum laude*  
BA, Communications

**Paola Giselle Gregorio Flores**, *Class Representative*  
BS, Psychology

**Kayli Dickson**, *Class Representative, cum laude*  
BS, Psychology

## HONORS PROGRAM

**Keith Barrow**, *summa cum laude*

BA, Communication

**Andrea Cardenas**, *cum laude*

BS, Communication, Advertising & PR Emphasis

**Esteban Deku**, *magna cum laude*

BS, Biochemistry

**Thea Plosceanu**, *summa cum laude*

BS, Biochemistry

**Isaak Tamez**, *summa cum laude*

BS, Exercise Science

## BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Oliver Y. Cao, *magna cum laude* Biology, Biomedical Emphasis  
Katherine Adriana Marrero Gomez Integrative Biology  
Felix Paul Montes Lopez, *cum laude* Biology, Biomedical Emphasis  
Aubrey Johanna Peterson Integrative Biology

## BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Joshua Alexander Anderson Management  
Justin Thomas Anderson Management  
David Flores Marketing  
Nicholas Adam Flores Accounting  
Joshua A. Harris Operations & Supply Management  
Zachary Jones Marketing  
Nilson Oscar Jorge Management  
Miguel A. Lopez, *magna cum laude* Accounting  
Shane A. Merrifield Professional Accounting  
Beatriz Miraflores Parilla, *cum laude* Management  
Dulce Jared Quevedo Accounting  
Emily Louise Watts, *magna cum laude* Accounting

## BUSINESS

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Carlos A. Charnichart Business  
Manuel Eduardo Dorame Business  
Marc Dwayne McAllister Business  
Sofia Fernanda Torres-Salinas Business

## COMMUNICATION

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Urna Uganbayar Advertising & PR Emphasis

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Carlos Samuel Noverola, *cum laude*  
Samantha I. Szelest, *cum laude* Advertising & PR Emphasis  
Nolan Westerman, *cum laude* Radio/TV/Film Emphasis

## COMPUTER SCIENCE

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Kayla Marie Anderson, *summa cum laude*  
Nicholas Campos  
Alanna Grosboll, *cum laude* Emphasis in Cybersecurity  
Preston Jayden Palmer, *cum laude*  
Isaac Porter, *summa cum laude*  
Luis J. Rivera-Lebron  
Jonathan Swena, *magna cum laude* Emphasis in Cybersecurity

## EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Michelle Carmen Aviles Cortes, *summa cum laude* Elementary Education  
Sarah Marie Ferreira, *magna cum laude* Elementary Education  
Cristina Flores Elementary Education  
February Anne Hanson Elementary Education  
Saulo Alexis Hernandez Elementary Education  
Dennise Longoria Elementary Education  
Elisabet Romero-Moreno, *summa cum laude* Elementary Education

## ENGLISH

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Vivian Harper  
Davenee James

## GENERAL STUDIES

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Jairo Cortez Emphasis in Social Science  
Willie Padilla Emphasis in Professional Studies  
Shania Ramirez-Robles, *summa cum laude* Emphasis in Professional Studies  
Chase A. Yancy Emphasis in Professional Studies  
Sharon Lissette Farias Yang Emphasis in Sciences

## HISTORY & SOCIAL SCIENCE

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Seth Carrizosa History



BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Isaac Serna

Criminal Justice

**KINESIOLOGY**

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Stacy Rose Perea, *magna cum laude*  
Parker Kevin Malone Wells

Exercise Science  
Exercise Science

**MATHEMATICS**

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Dejeanee Maduro Connell  
Jasper Neal T. Delim  
Luke Shepherd

**MUSIC**

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Kayla Marie Anderson, *summa cum laude*  
Sofia Fernanda Torres-Salinas

**NURSING**

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Paola Aguilar  
Vivian Ahenkorah-Marfo  
Olubukola Akomolafe  
Ellen Amoakoa, *cum laude*  
Rebekah Azevedo, *cum laude*  
Dylan Barnes  
Simon M. Biayi  
Kristen Bossaller, *cum laude*  
Holly Bryant  
Josseline Cano, *cum laude*  
Angelina Carithers, *cum laude*  
Omar Carrizales  
Daniel Castellanos  
Danna Allie Dela Cruz Ciron  
Kairin Abigail Espinoza  
Parmpreet Singh Gill  
Nathanael Gillis, *cum laude*  
Daraine Gonzalez, *magna cum laude*

Evan Grant  
Kassie Groom  
Erika Herrera-Ocaña  
Blandina Lima  
Patricia Natali Martinez  
Beckey McBroom  
Ron Alden Satuito Mendiola  
Chelsea Monroy, *summa cum laude*  
Jenna Phelps  
Reagan Rene Sandefur  
Everardo Sifuentes, II  
Caroline Tochtermann, *magna cum laude*  
Adriana C. Tufiño  
Mackenzie Vargas  
Misty Vaughan  
Solomon West

**PSYCHOLOGY**

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Yunis Scarlett Balboa  
Savannah Carlson, *summa cum laude* Emphasis in School Counseling  
Isaac Antonio Fernandez, *magna cum laude*  
Paige Findorff, *magna cum laude*  
Asher Garcia, *magna cum laude*  
Ashley Nicole Grellmann  
Karla Alejandra Martinez Cortez, *cum laude*  
Faith Wilson, *magna cum laude* Emphasis in School Counseling

**RELIGION**

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Jose David Castro Laynez, *cum laude* Theology  
Hector David Mendoza, Jr. Theology  
Abigail Esther Minett, *cum laude* Theology  
SamanthaLee Perez-Mitchell Theology

**MASTER OF ARTS IN EDUCATION**

Bradley Colvin Educational Leadership  
Eric Enright Educational Leadership  
Amanda Marie Patterson Educational Leadership

# SPEAKERS



## Benjamin Lundquist

**BENJAMIN** has traveled the world for over 25 years as a speaker, sharing hope, while helping students and professionals reach their fullest potential in life and leadership. His message is one of extreme ownership and empowerment, giving audiences of all ages the tools to unlock their greatness. Benjamin's passion is evident, he lives his message—everyone has greatness inside of them and with the right tools, what God has put in them, will change the world.

In 2019, Benjamin launched the Rise and Lead Podcast, which has quickly grown to reach over 132 countries around the world, raking in the top 1%. Rise and Lead is designed specifically to motivate and equip people to live their greatest life by helping them discover what makes great leaders great, and how they can start growing themselves, expanding their impact, and living the life they have been created to live.

Benjamin is a pastor of pastors and a leader of leaders and is an executive coach with Patterson LifePlans and Primal Question Coaching—helping people write new chapters in their story and transform their lives. He lives in the Pacific Northwest with his wife of 19 years and two children.



# HONORARY DEGREES



**Bilung Gloria  
Gibbon Salii**  
*Queen of Palau*

**BILUNG GLORIA GIBBON SALII**, the Queen of Palau, is a remarkable leader who has dedicated nearly 50 years to preserving the environment, traditions and serving the people of Palau. Born into a legacy of leadership, she ascended to the top of the traditional matriarchy of Koror and Palau in 1975 after the passing of her grandmother. As the Head of Kerngab, the council of female title holders of Koror, Bilung has been a beacon of strength and wisdom in her community.

Passionate about promoting good health through local food and traditional practices, Bilung has partnered with various organizations in Palau, including health providers, educators, and church ministries. She is a trainer of traditional dancing for younger Palauan girls, ensuring that the rich cultural heritage of Palau is passed down to future generations.

As an advocate of progress, Bilung founded the Mechesil Belau, an organization led by women who meet annually to present resolutions to the national government that enact change in the community. 44 of the proposed resolutions have become laws in the government of Palau.

In addition to her traditional duties, Bilung is a successful businesswoman, serving as the President of U-Corp, Toirois, Malakal, a family-owned business. She is also the founder and operator of the Ngarachamayong Cultural Center, a hub for preserving and celebrating Palauan culture.

Bilung's influence extends beyond Palau, as she has represented her country in various international conferences and events. From chairing delegations, to speaking

at conferences. Bilung has been a powerful advocate for women's rights and social change in the Pacific region and beyond.

Recognized for her outstanding contributions, Bilung has received prestigious awards such as the Gusi Peace Prize for International Women's Rights Advocacy (2003). She was also granted an honorary degree from The University of Guam as she was conferred with the designation of Master of Micronesian Traditional Knowledge. Her dedication to her community, her commitment to preserving tradition and culture, and her leadership in promoting positive change make Bilung Gloria Gibbon Salii a truly inspiring figure in Palauan history.

Serving God in all her endeavors is how Bilung finds the most joy. She is heavily involved in various ministries of the Koror Seventh-day Adventist Church. From leading Woman's Ministry to her support of the Visitation and Prison Ministry. She enjoys spending time with her children Ibedul Lebuu Littler and her daughter Techekii Uroi Salii as well as her extended church family and numerous missionary kids.

Bilung has achieved many great honors in her life but one of her proudest experiences was attending Southwestern Union College, now known as Southwestern Adventist University. Her time in Keene was truly life-changing, as she considers it a crucial element in shaping her spiritual growth, as she left Southwestern to assume her traditional responsibilities.

Knowledge. Faith. Service.

## Dr. Barbara Damron

**DR. BARBARA DAMRON** is a tenured professor of nursing at the University of New Mexico (UNM) Health Sciences Center College of Nursing. She is also a tenured professor at the UNM Health Sciences Center School of Medicine in the Department of Family & Community Medicine. Dr. Damron serves as Senior Advisor to the Dean and has responsibility for all government work at the UNM College of Nursing, among other administrative duties. Dr. Damron also holds the UNM College of Nursing *Ridenour/Mason New Mexico Nursing Education Consortium Fellowship*. Dr. Damron also serves as Senior Advisor to the Director at Project ECHO®, with responsibility for government work at Project ECHO®. Additionally, as the Chair of the Faculty Senate Government Relations Committee, Dr. Damron leads all government activities for UNM's Faculty Senate.

Before her current roles, Dr. Damron was the Chief Government Relations Officer for the University of New Mexico, including central campus, the health sciences center, and all branch campuses. As the first person to hold this position, she oversaw all federal, state, tribal, county, and city government affairs for the entire UNM system. During this time, she



## HONORARY DEGREES *continued*

was the only in-house registered lobbyist. Prior to this, she served from 2015-2018 as the New Mexico Higher Education Department Cabinet Secretary, and as the State Higher Education Executive Officer, where she had oversight of the state's 28 public institutions of higher education, 4 tribal colleges, and over 190 private and proprietary post-secondary schools. She also chaired the New Mexico Education Trust Board, New Mexico's 529 college savings plan. She currently is a Commissioner and Vice-Chair of the Western Interstate Commission of Higher Education (WICHE) and serves on the Boards of Complete College America and Southwestern Adventist University. She previously worked as the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/National Academy of Medicine Fellow on the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, & Pensions in Washington D.C., for Senator Lamar Alexander. Dr. Damron has over 40 years' experience as an education executive, a health care executive, a college professor, an international consultant, an advanced practice nurse, and a cancer scientist.

Dr. Damron led New Mexico's state-wide Common Course Numbering System, aligning all lower division courses amongst community colleges, comprehensive/regional universities, research universities, and tribal colleges throughout the State. As Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Damron oversaw the 34 state- and federally-funded post-secondary student financial aid

programs and worked to secure funding for ELL training for teachers state-wide. Dr. Damron serves on numerous national and state education and health governing boards and has received over 30 state, national, and international awards.

Dr. Damron's earlier research focused on cancer prevention and early detection. She was funded by the National Institutes of Health, the American Cancer Society, and the Susan B. Komen Foundation, among others. Her research has now turned to higher education where she is conducting a study to test the effectiveness of Project ECHO<sup>®</sup> in implementing co-requisite remedial education across colleges and universities. Dr. Damron is also writing a comprehensive reference and policy book chronicling the history of higher education in the State of New Mexico, and pathways for the future.

Dr. Damron received her BSN from Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska. She received her MSN from The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. She completed a PhD in Educational Psychology, with a concentration in social/personality/developmental psychology applied to oncology, from the University of Texas at Austin in 1996. She has received over 30 state, national, and international awards.

Dr. Damron and her husband, Dr. J.R. Damron, live in Santa Fe, and have 2 grown children and 1 dog. She enjoys hiking, cooking, reading and all things higher education.

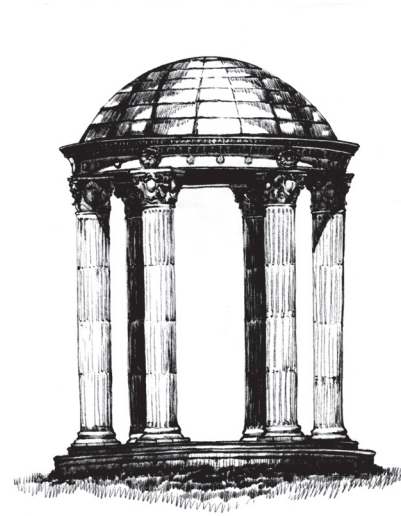
# FACULTY

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Nathaniel Adu, Ph.D.  
Jean Alway, M.S.N.  
Heather Archer-Wilson, M.Ed.  
Joaquin Azevedo, Ph.D.  
Marcia Azevedo, D.N.P.  
Elizabeth Bowser, M.A.  
Adrian Cecotto, M.S.  
Katherine Davis, M.S.N.  
Emily De la Garza, M.S.  
Jayne Ann Doneskey, M.A.  
Renard K. Doneskey, Ph.D.  
Jonathan Duarte, Ph.D.  
Lakicia Foster, D.N.P.  
Lindsey Gendke, Ph.D.  
Terri Gibson, D.N.P.  
Pablo Gonzalez, Ph.D.  
Elisane Grellman-Almeida, M.S.N.  
Eric Gren, Ph.D.  
Richard Brett Hadley, M.F.A.  
Alison Hill, M.A.  
Devon Howard, D.M.A.

Chad Hutchinson, M.S.Ed.  
R. Steve Jones, Ph.D.  
Kerrie Kimbrow, D.N.P.  
Nicholas Madhiri, Ph.D.  
Erin Maloney, Ph.D.  
Joyce Melius, Ed.D.  
Lance Millam, M.L.S.  
Aaron Moses, Ph.D.  
Vesa T. Naukkarinen, Ph.D.  
Rogerio Nunes, D.M.A.  
Gabriel Perea, M.Div.  
Jared Rice, Ph.D.  
Jorge Rico, Ph.D.  
Zaira Rico, M.S.  
Heidi Saenz, M.A.  
Chanda Santo, M.B.A.  
Paulino Santos-Andino, Ed.D.  
Keila Santos-Crespo, Psy.D.  
Arthur Schwarz, Ph.D.  
Rima Seaman, Ed.D.  
Andrew Stojanovic, M.Div.

Tevita Tameifuna, Ed.D.  
Cheryl The, Ph.D.  
Daryl D. Thomas, Ph.D.  
Jonathan Turk, M.B.A.  
Jonathan E. L. Wall, M.Mus.  
Tony Zbaraschuk, M.L.S.  
Licci Zemleduch, M.B.A.



*The Rotunda—an alumni gift  
given as a symbol of thankfulness*

# Knowledge. Faith. Service.



**SOUTHWESTERN**  
**ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY**  
Knowledge. Faith. Service.

And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God. David said moreover, The Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the Lord be with thee.

1 SAMUEL 17:34-37

**THANK YOU**

**CLASS OF 2024**