

Dear Graduates:



A collection of letters, quotes, Bible verses and other notes dedicated to the Class of 2022 from your Wesleyan family.

Compiled by the Kentucky Wesleyan College Alumni Association

I wanted to personally let you know how proud and humbled I am to have had the chance to partner with you in the areas of your education and personal growth along your Panther pathway.

You have experienced one of the most tumultuous eras the world has known in over 100 years. You have seen the economy shut down, you have watched as inflation reached 40-year peaks, you have borne witness to national movements for individual and group rights and you have realized that you must be an active participant in these daily occurrences. We discussed much this year about returning to "normal." At this stage, you have realized there is no normal. There are events that will occur throughout your life that require your action, your input, your guidance. There are times when your servant leadership to our world will test your resolve and will help shape your life as you help to shape lives around you. Yes, you have realized there is no normal of which to return. You have also learned that the challenges you have faced, and will continue to face, have made you stronger, wiser and not just accepting of change, but willing to enjoy what may lie in your future. The trials and tribulations through which you have passed in the last few years have forged you into one of the strongest graduating classes to arise from the KWC campus. Yes, you have realized there is no normal. Life is a series of valleys and peaks through which we trek. It is your attitude and your outlook that will determine whether that trek is full of joy and energy, or one that is trod upon with fear.

Your degree from Kentucky Wesleyan College has prepared you for much more than the major you studied. You joined a vibrant and forward-looking community when you stepped onto campus. You have learned to lead when called upon, you have learned to work in a team setting in a myriad of ways and you have learned how to integrate the good of the surrounding community into your actions. You have learned that challenges are not barriers that cannot be breached, but opportunities to be accepted and resolved. You have learned that life is similar to a puzzle. The fun is determining where all the pieces fit, and the joy of recognizing the design as it takes shape while you fit those pieces.

You have faced the last several years with steadfastness and strength. I am confident that you will continue to do the same as you branch out to help lead our society through the next generation. I have never been so proud of a group of graduates and what you have accomplished, both in the classroom and in the larger scope of your being.

Kentucky Wesleyan College believes in you, is proud of you and we are excited to follow the wonderful path you will establish as a Panther alumni! Go forward, graduates, and make your mark in this world! Create your "normal" for yourself and those around you. You have earned this opportunity! As you enter upon the next wonderful step of your life, remember the Panther family who will always be with you. Remember that this campus will always be your home and we hope that you will return often to share your wisdom and lend your support so that the college may continue to help mentor future generations of leaders!

President Thomas Mitzel, Ph. D

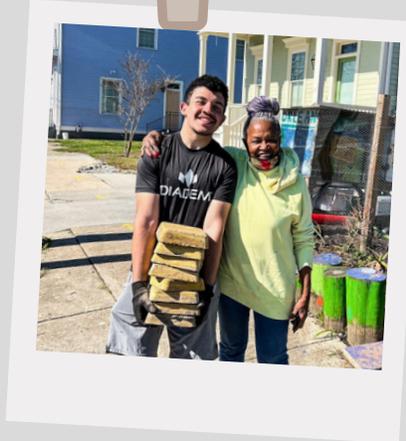
Congratulations to the Class of 2022! I am so proud of you all and how hard that you each have worked to attain this monumental goal in your life. Best wishes for your beautiful bright future!
"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13

*Dr. Sara Lynn Doolin-Thompson '92
KMC Health Services*



You own your own happiness, career and life. No one path equals success. Don't compare yourself to others. Daringly take risks and chart your own course. You may feel like you have it all figured out (you don't) or like you're lost (you're not). Put one foot forward, taking life's opportunities as they come. Work each day on personal growth and forward movement, and you will be shocked where life takes you.

Amanda Morgan '08



Congratulations on
 your success at KWC!
 I trust God will
 lead you in whatever
 direction you take
 from here!

Sonya (Schroader) Johnson '95
Administrative Assistant

Your life is the
 greatest novel you'll
 ever pen. Each success,
 failed attempt and
 milestone is a new
 chapter, a new
 adventure. Not every
 chapter may appear to
 be written in the
 correct order, but at
 some point it will all
 make sense, and you'll
 realize that it really
 was right all along.

Kelly Flick
Grant Writer

"If you keep running
 into the same obstacle
 over and over again,
 it's just God's way of
 telling your dumb butt
 you still haven't
 learned your lesson."

Kelly Flick
Grant Writer



Isn't it fantastic
that you accomplished
your goal of
graduation? Just think
of all you can do now!
Be happy! Reach for
that twinkling star,
because it's
reachable! I'm so
proud of you all!

Professor Heather Logsdon



Hearty congratulations on this significant achievement. While others will tell you how proud they are of you, also be proud of yourselves. You have earned a degree in one of the most challenging environments in modern history. Thank you for making Wesleyan your undergraduate studies, and best wishes in your next chapter. Forward Ever!

Tom Major '79



Dear Seniors,
As a staff member at the College, I have enjoyed watching you all learn, grow and lead in your time at Wesleyan. I can't wait to see what the next chapters hold for you. Your Panther family is proud and will be rooting for you!

*Jenna Brashear
Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Research*

The Wesleyan Way



Praying the Lord will bless you and keep you; may the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. I am so grateful and honored that you have allowed me to serve you in prayer through Campus Ministries. You have been prayed for and are each special and uniquely gifted and created by God. Thank you to those who have served in prayer with me; you are definitely like my family, and I love you dearly. Graduates can be a vital part of the prayer team, so please stay in touch. You are still being prayed for and know that God has amazing plans for your future, full of the hope of Jesus Christ! He loves you so much!

Many blessings and prayers,

Vicki Sims '90



As you start a new chapter as an alumni of Kentucky Wesleyan, remember and be mindful of the network of love, support and encouragement which surrounds you not only in your professional lives, but in your personal lives as well. Through all of the friendships, relationships, and memories you've made - one thing reigns true and stays certain - you will always have a home at Kentucky Wesleyan College. And with that, remember, whenever you feel down or need to be lifted back up, you always have a place at home waiting for you! Congratulations, and wishing each and every one of you the best and most successful futures you can attain!

Dillon Schueler '18

Find Yourself





Keep your eyes on your dreams.
They will come true!

Briana Willoughby '21



With your degree from Wesleyan and the life experiences and skills you have developed, you are on your way for great and extraordinary things. Don't forget to enjoy the small but profound things along the way: the gentle splendor of a spring day, that special song that gives you energy, a smile from a loved one. Proud of you all and wish you all the best!

Jony Hardesty

Administrative Assistant for Student Life

Congratulations on making your accomplishments throughout your undergraduate career and the culmination of that this year! Please remember that a degree is a privilege that the majority of people don't have access to. Use it wisely to share your knowledge for the betterment of humanity and the world. But, also pat yourself on the back and appreciate what you've accomplished!

Ruby Hammond
Assistant Professor of Zoology



Fifty-five years ago I graduated from Kentucky Wesleyan College. After all these years, I can honestly say that the years at KWC were some of the best of my life. I have good friends to this day that I met at KWC. I wish you each the blessings of those years of friendship.

You're beginning a journey that may take you in many different directions before the right path emerges.

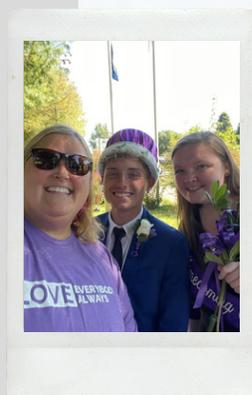
Remember: Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. Plans to prosper you and give you peace."

Blessing to all and especially dear Madeline Clements, former student in school and Sunday school, church family, sister in Kappa Delta, and now fellow alumna at Kentucky Wesleyan College.

Marcia Fowler Shaw Garland, '67

There is so much I can say about how much you will learn once you graduate. The two biggest questions you will get are "What is your degree in?" and "What are your plans now?" I am beyond proud of the triumph and strength you all carried throughout your 4 years at Kentucky Wesleyan. Graduating is such an amazing accomplishment! You will have your mountain highs and struggle in your valley lows. Always keep pushing forward and never give up! Congratulations! "May the Lord bless you, keep you, make His face shine upon you, be gracious to you, turn His face towards you, and give you peace." Numbers 6:24-26

Jia Chavella '21



Take time to appreciate where you are and don't wish away this part of your life. You have been working so hard to achieve this and make it to this moment. You've been dreaming of being finished with undergrad. A few short years ago, you anxiously awaited this time. Well, now you're here - take the time to enjoy it! Don't start looking for the "next thing" to get here. Whether it be the weekend, next month, a vacation, a job, starting a family, buying a home, etc. Savor the moment you are in. Life continues to move (and it moves fast), so all those things will come in due time, but right now, you're a college graduate. Revel your accomplishment. Congratulations!

Simeon Pogue '16



Congratulations on completing this important chapter in your life journey. You are part of the unique group who has experienced education during a pandemic and succeeded! This alone should tell you that each of you has the ability to face any obstacle that would attempt to prevent your forward movement. My prayer is that each of you discovers your gifts and graces so you are motivated daily to do everything possible to make your world the best it can be regardless of the circumstance. Hold close your classmates and remember your Alma Mater wants to stay connected throughout your life. This is the Wesleyan family, and I welcome you!

Blessings,

Dr. Philip Hill '77

Congratulations and Welcome!

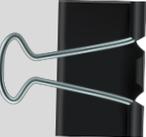
Congratulations on your hard work and achievement. It is still very special to receive that diploma after working hard for several years of your life. Nobody will ever be able to take the memories you have from your time at KWC...cherish them. Feel very proud of your accomplishment...you have earned it.

Welcome to what I believe is one of the greatest groups of people on the planet...KWC Alumni. As you begin your post-KWC life, I encourage you to stay connected to your friends, your professors, your fellow alumni and to KWC. You will find KWC Alumni everywhere and that will always be a common bond that may result in a new friend, a job, that crazy opportunity you never thought would happen or a new family member.

The Wesleyan Way is part of your DNA. KWC prepared you; now make your place in this world.

Doug Hoyt '84
Alumni Board President





Congratulations to this year's Senior class!

So much has happened to you during your four years. Moments of joy, peace, discovery and love. Also, moments of anxiety, fear, loss and never-before-seen trials. Choose to take with you all of it - because that was the "walk-thru" for the next steps in your lives.

My favorite verse, Jeremiah 29:11, says, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." This verse has meant so much to me over the years in the ups and downs of my personal and professional life. You will experience triumph, love and sadness and adversity - that is life. Take comfort in this verse and lean on those around you when you need them and be the first to offer your support and kindness when those around you need it, too.

For our student-athletes, our goal is that you leave us having had the opportunity to continue in your sport, to have experienced the joy of competition at a high level, to have learned to accept both victory and defeat humbly and to have been the best teammate you were capable of being. The lessons learned through your time as a Panther will carry you far in life, and we are grateful you were on our team. You will always be one of us and welcomed back with open arms.

Finally, for everyone, although graduation is often looked at as an "end," it should be celebrated more as a "beginning" to the next amazing chapter in your lives. You are a Panther, you will always wear the "W" and will always be a part of our family here at Kentucky Wesleyan College.

Best wishes and God Bless you always,

Mark Shook, Vice President of Intercollegiate Athletics



Congratulations Class of 2022!

The end of your Kentucky Wesleyan College experience is often bittersweet. Not only is there the end of your time at KWC, but the excitement of all the new adventures that await you. We are so very proud of you and all of your accomplishments. Please know that if you ever need anything I'm only an email, phone call or text message away. You've all been a joy to work with during your time at KWC!

Scott Kramer '87, VP of Facilities and Executive Initiatives

I truly wish the most prominent memories of your senior year didn't include words like Inflation, Supply Chain, War, Nuclear, Fentanyl, Omicron, Unprecedented, and Crises (plural!).

Did you notice I left out "Labor Shortage?" Ironically, if anyone is to benefit from today's labor shortage, it's probably the graduating Class of 2022. From what many of you shared with me recently, you already have GOOD jobs lined up!

What does this tell me? FOR THE MOMENT, the bargaining power (not to be confused with collective bargaining power) belongs to YOU instead of employers. Savor this golden opportunity while you can. Make the most of it (ethically, of course). You'll find out soon enough that the pendulum swings in perpetuity.

As for those other "words" I mentioned, your generation is sure to feel the effects of those as well. For example, you'll likely see an unprecedented growth in automation, as well as an unprecedented drawback from globalization. And, when you become bosses some day, you'll probably shudder at the thought of "labor shortage."

Nevertheless, if I've learned anything in my 55-year life, it's that you can learn and benefit from just about anything. No matter where that pendulum is on its journey, you can learn something valuable. You might even turn that 'something' into a competitive advantage for yourself, your family or your business. The key to finding that advantage is to NEVER STOP LEARNING. Know what's going on all around you all the time (and, yes, this means you need to read a lot). Always be two steps ahead.

I can't possibly share all the words of wisdom I'd like. But for those of you who know me as a business professor, you know I like to end things with a certain motto (and here it is): Hone both your soft skills and your hard skills. One without the other doesn't do you much good.

Danielle (Benson) Woodward '88

Graduates,
Congratulations! You did it! You should be extremely proud of all that you have accomplished. You have worked hard to get to where you are today, and I am so proud of each of you. I wish you each the very best as you begin the next stage of your journey.

*Rachel Pritchard
Associate Professor of Biology*

Congratulations Class of 2022! The last four years have been a constant up and down, but you made it. Best of luck in your next adventure.

"There are no limits to what you can accomplish, except the limits you place on your own thinking." -
Brian Tracy

*Dr. Kayla Keller
Assistant Professor of
Chemistry*



Present  *Future*



Make Impacts - Not Excuses!

*Sol Stephens
Head Cross Country Track & Field Coach*



I am excited to welcome you as our newest class of Alumni. I certainly hope that being an alumni of Kentucky Wesleyan College means as much to you as it does to me. I will tell you that in my earlier years, I did not think that it was that big of a deal. However, I was wrong. It was a big deal. It was a big deal for my dad, my grandmother, my sister and everyone who invested in me (since I was a first-generation college graduate). Once I realized this, I found a greater sense of pride in my accomplishments. I hope that every one of you can find that sense of pride and passion much sooner than I did. As a young man, I did not realize how much the Wesleyan community shaped my life. I did not appreciate the developments that came to fruition from each chapter that was written at Wesleyan. Not only did Kentucky Wesleyan College make some of the greatest impacts on my life, but it also taught me values. I did not realize that immediately. I hope that you are grateful for your education and your time at Kentucky Wesleyan College as it is a gift. Here are few words of advice that I would like to pass on that I hold in high regard:

First, never let anything or anyone come between you and your character. Your character says everything about who you are. People will know you by your character. Having character means to have courage and willingness to do the right thing all the time. People with character always do their best and never give up. They work hard for themselves, their family, their church, their community, their friends and more. Do not do anything that might compromise your character. It takes forever to build and only a short time to destroy.

Secondly, I would invite you to take a moment and reflect on what integrity means to you. To me, it is about honesty and doing what is right even when it's the not the cool thing to do. I know that sounds cliché, but that is the easiest way for me to share it. Your integrity can be one of your greatest attributes in life. It is also a trait that you can teach others, especially your children. Think about it, do you want to do business or be in a relationship with someone who holds integrity up high or someone that cuts corners, misleads or stretches the truth?

Lastly, I would encourage each of you to figure out what your "BRAND" is. You may be asking what that means. Think about some of your favorite brands of clothing, restaurants and businesses. Why are they your favorites? Now use that information to establish what your brand is. What words do you want associated with your name? What will people think of you when it comes to business, teaching or community? If any of those words have a negative connotation, you may want to re-brand. Also, please keep in mind that all the hard work that you put into building your character, integrity and brand can be shattered in moments by poor choices in behavior, actions and words.

I want to wish you the best upon your graduation and congratulations on this great accomplishment, and, as you will see from this album, I hope you will realize that your Wesleyan memories are just beginning. Hold your heads up high, build your brand and lead with character and integrity. You are a Kentucky Wesleyan Panther and that is something to be proud of. Wear your purple often and wear it with pride. Hopefully, we will see you, the Class of 2022, at Wesleyan events. It is my honor to welcome you into the Kentucky Wesleyan College Alumni Association.

Keep living The Wesleyan Way!
Go Panthers!

Sam Taylor '97
Alumni Board Past President

Congratulations!

After years of work on your part that culminated in you completing the Alumni Evolution process and walking across the Commencement stage, it's my pleasure to welcome you to the Kentucky Wesleyan College Alumni Association!

As I hope you've realized while reading this publication, being an alumni of Kentucky Wesleyan is a very special thing. As you continue to sit with that realization, I wanted to let you know of a few ways your alumni office is here for you:

- We're here to sing your praises. Whether you're advancing in your career, getting married, starting a family or celebrating another life or career milestone, we want to know about it! We share these accomplishments on the alumni social media channels (@kwcalumni), in the Alumni Monthly e-newsletter and in the biannual Pillars magazine. You can always share these at kwc.edu/ClassNote
- We're here to connect you with others. We host a multitude of alumni events every year and would love to have you join us! We also love reconnecting alumni. As you move through life, you might lose touch with someone you were once close with. When you're ready to reconnect, give me a call and I'll do my best to make it happen.
- We're here to help you give back. We lean on our alumni to act as mentors for current students, to serve on the Alumni Association's Board of Directors and to give financially so that future students can have the same opportunities that both you and I did. When you're settled and ready to give back, let us know. It might take months or years - or sometimes even decades - for you to feel ready to pay it forward, and that's okay. We're all on different roads and there is no expiration date for when you can begin getting involved.

I'm your new friend. I'm here to answer your "dumb" questions, to be your first friend at an alumni event where you don't know anyone else and for you to lean on as life ebbs and flows.

Reach out to me any time at summer.aldridge@kwc.edu or on my cell at 270-619-6993.

P.S. Make sure to make some time to come visit the new Wesley N. Panther when you're back in town - because of the dedication and generosity of your class, our future Panthers will always be welcomed by his cheerful smile when pulling into campus. May you never forget the impact your dedication and generosity can have on the world and others around you.



Warmly,
Summer (Crick) Aldridge '14
Director of Alumni Relations

Congratulations!

Let's face it, you have completed your undergraduate education in incredible circumstances. Yet, you have persevered and accomplished that which you set out to do and are now proud members of the Kentucky Wesleyan College Alumni Association. The best part of this accomplishment is that you now have a family and network that is over-8,000 strong to support you. Be sure to stay in touch with our KWC family and return home to campus as often as possible, while also tapping into the network wherever your career or continuing education may take you.

These days of celebration and achievement are the culmination of your hard work and that of those who have invested in you - your family, faculty and countless others. Now you have the opportunity to give back by showcasing the skills and education you received. Go and change the world!

May God always bless you abundantly.

Eddie Kenny
Vice President of Advancement

Congratulations on achieving your dream of a college degree! All your hard work, passion and sacrifices brought you to this moment. Although it may feel like it, graduation isn't the end of your journey, it is the beginning. Proverbs 16:3 says to "commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed." If you keep God at the center of your life, He will show up for you in ways that you never imagined.

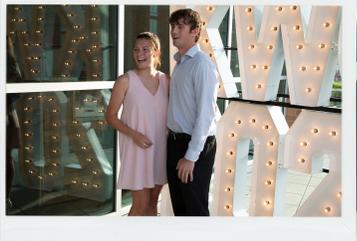
I hope as you reflect back on your time at Wesleyan, you'll realize that each moment helped to shape you into the person you are today. Please stay connected, remember those who helped you on your journey and consider giving back.

The Class of 2022 is a special group and I consider it my honor to have known many of you. Here's to your next adventure...may it be as awesome as you! The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

Leigha Taylor
Senior Director of Development



Class of 2022
Senior Dinner



Join us for
Homecoming 2022

Sept. 29 - Oct. 2 2022



All Roads Lead Home
To KENTUCKY
WESLEYAN
Homecoming 2022

SAVE THE DATE
Sept. 29-Oct. 2

kwc.edu/homecoming

Visit kwc.edu/Homecoming for the full schedule!