




# STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY 2023-2024



UNIVERSITY OF THE  
INCARNATE WORD.

*A Publication of the Office of the President*



**NO. 1**

Largest Catholic University in Texas

**NO. 1**

Catholic University Conferring Bachelor's Degrees to Hispanics

**NO. 1**

Best Catholic University in Texas

**NO. 1**

"Best for Vets" University for Veterans

**11**

Schools and Colleges in the U.S.

**2**

Campuses in Mexico



# *Transformative* Catholic Education

Since our founding in 1881, the University of the Incarnate Word has been a place of transformative Catholic education. Our Mission has called us to shape concerned and enlightened citizens and to bring to life within them our core values of faith, education, service, innovation and truth. That work now spans more than 140 years and countless evolutions.

Today, the UIW Mission continues to guide our shared calling to support all students along their individual journeys so they may be academically, spiritually and professionally prepared to lead successful lives of purpose. And, in doing so, they lift their lives, their families and their communities.

The 2023-2024 academic year was extraordinary in many ways thanks to the work of our students, faculty and staff who make UIW all that it is today. As you will see from their amazing stories in the coming pages, the state of the university is resilient, responsive, innovative and united in Mission in a changing world.

**1**

European  
Study  
Center

**25**

DI Athletic  
Programs in  
the U.S.



## UIW WELCOMES LARGEST EVER FIRST-TIME-IN-COLLEGE CLASS

The Broadway campus was busier than ever thanks to a record number of first-time-in-college (FTIC) students. “This incoming class is as academically distinguished as it is large, while retaining all of the important measures of diversity that are a hallmark of the Cardinal community,” said John Bury, vice president for Strategy and Enrollment. The incoming class showed a strong interest in nursing, biology, animation and game design, pre-pharmacy and engineering, among other majors.

**1,067**  
Incoming  
FTIC Cardinals

**9%**  
Larger than  
fall 2022



### Coffee Talk

Just before classes began on the first day of the year, President Thomas M. Evans, PhD, joined student Emilia Denerville to film the first installment of the new web series *Cardinals in Carts Getting Coffee*. Inspired by the Netflix series, the UIW show brings together two community members for a drive in our UIW red golf carts and a chat at the campus Starbucks.



**Lisa R. Brown, PhD**, assistant professor in the Dreeben School of Education, received the Freedom Scholar Award from the Association for the Study of African American Life and History for her scholarly contributions to the empowerment of the African American community.



**Ellen Romious '23**, a graduate of the Teacher Education Program, was named the 2023 Texas Clinical Teacher of the Year, marking the third consecutive win for a UIW graduate. She was also recognized among clinical educators in the U.S., winning the 2022-2023 KDP/ATE National Student Teacher of the Year Award.



### Athletics Hall of Fame Inducts New Class

The Hall of Fame's Class of 2023 honored Terry Delgado '00 '02, Volleyball; Denzel Livingston '17, Men's Basketball; Alex Yatsko '10 '13, Men's Swimming; Trent Rios '13, Football; and the 2004 Men's Soccer Team. Kate Crosby '96 (above) and her late husband, Robert, were presented with the Order of Merit.

SEPTEMBER

## TOP HONORS

NO. 6

Among private universities promoting Social Mobility

*U.S. News & World Report*

NO. 39

Among national universities promoting Social Mobility

*U.S. News & World Report*

TOP 300

Among the top 300 overall 2024 Best National Universities

*U.S. News & World Report*

GREAT COLLEGE TO WORK FOR

15<sup>th</sup> year of designation and 14<sup>th</sup> year on Honor Roll  
*Chronicle of Higher Education*



**Monica Ayala Jimenez, EdD**, associate provost of Student Success, was selected for the first Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) Enlace Mid-Level Leadership Program.



**Javier Lozano, PhD**, director of International Affairs, was selected for the HACU La Academia de Liderazgo, designed to increase diverse representation in higher education leadership.

### FOCUS ON U.S.-KOREAN RELATIONS

**Chang Sup Lee**, former president and publisher of the *Korea Times*, brought his expertise in media, politics and economics to a series of presentations. The visiting scholar's first was "Korea: Land of Paradoxes and Surprises."

## UIW NAMED THE NO. 1 CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN TEXAS

UIW earned the top spot among Catholic colleges in the state by Niche.com. Rankings are based on analysis of academic, admissions, financial and student life data from the Department of Education, and reviews from students and alumni



### St. Anthony Catholic High School Earns Top Marks

Five students earned honors from the **College Board National Recognition Programs**, which celebrates academic performance from Black, Indigenous and Latino students and those from rural areas and shares their achievements with colleges and scholarship programs seeking diverse talent.



### San Antonio Meets the Mission

More than 200 Cardinals, faculty and staff set off to serve San Antonio as part of the annual Meet the Mission event. Led by Betsy Leverett, PhD, associate professor of Biochemistry, and sponsored by the Office of Mission & Ministry, teams took part in community clean up, elderly visitation, animal care, food pantry support, community gardening and more.

Niche.com graded SACHS as the No. 2 **Best Catholic High School in San Antonio** scoring it high in culture, safety, diversity, clubs and activities. It was also praised for having a 100 percent graduation rate and a 10-to-1 student-to-teacher ratio.



## Nobel Laureate Rigoberta Menchú Tum Makes Historic Visit

Rigoberta Menchú Tum took the stage for the 2023 Leaders of the Americas speakers series address presented by the Liza and Jack Lewis Center of the Americas. The series invites world-renowned leaders to share more about issues facing the countries and peoples of the Americas.

Menchú Tum was awarded the 1992 Nobel Peace Prize for her social justice work on behalf of women, the indigent and vulnerable in her native Guatemala.

In front of a packed audience at the Diane Bennack Concert Hall, she spoke

about the power of education and shared connection and encouraged all to work for peace and care for the Earth. During her visit, she also met with UIW students and local dignitaries. She is the first Nobel Laureate to visit UIW.



**Michael Moon, Ph.D., MSN, APRN, CNS-CC, CEN, FAEN**, professor in the Ila Faye Miller School of Nursing and Health Professions, received the Authors of the Year Award with his co-authors from the *Journal of Emergency Nursing* for their research on the role and training of emergency department charge nurses.



**Lisa McDougle, EdD**, assistant dean for Academic Success and Student Affairs in the School of Rehabilitation Sciences, received the Dr. James E. Caswell Distinguished Service Award from the Texas Association of College and University Student Personnel Administrators.



## CIW Turns 20

Centro Universitario Incarnate Word (CIW) in Mexico City marked its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with “A View to the Future,” a symposium that honored CIW’s many accomplishments and explored what lies ahead. What began with a select group in 2003 is now a thriving campus with more than 15 academic programs and hundreds of students growing in the Mission.

## Communication Arts Students Take Top Honors

UIW students were stand outs at this year’s **Lone Star EMMY Chapter Student Production Awards**. Recognizing their excellence in various areas of video content, the organization awarded the Communication Arts students with Best Newscast for UIWtv, Best Serious News, Best Light News, Best Short Fiction Film, Best Public Service Announcement and Best College Magazine Program.



## Mariachi Cardenal Makes Debut

UIW’s first mariachi ensemble made their long-awaited performance debut. Mariachi Cardenal brought together talented student musicians under the directorship of John A. Lopez, a highly respected mariachi performer and teacher who launched mariachi, salsa and Latin Music Studies at Texas State University. In their first year, Mariachi Cardenal served as the demonstration group at the Texas Music Educators Association Convention.

# NOVEMBER

Nov. 2, 2023 was declared **Triple Helix Executive Leadership for Global Competitiveness Day** by the City of San Antonio. The designation honored the program developed by Osman Özturgut, PhD, dean of the School of Professional Studies, which unites education, business and government to elevate all.



## UIW is Best for Vets

In its “2023 Best for Vets” ranking, *Military Times Magazine* named UIW as the No. 1 university for its commitment to military and veteran students and their families. The magazine acknowledged many UIW efforts, such as the establishment of the Military and Veteran Center, which is a one-stop-shop for all veterans and military-affiliated students to get information, academic and financial counseling and much more.



## A First-Generation Celebration On National First-Generation Day

UIW celebrated its own first-generation college students with a one-of-a-kind event. Cardinals shared their stories with friends, invited family members, faculty, staff, and all who support their journeys. Rounding out the day were mariachi music, food, and presentations from first-generation alumni.



**Veronica Acosta, PhD**, professor of Biology, received the “2023 Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience (FUN) Award for Fostering Diversity & Inclusivity” for her work in developing programs, mentoring and more.

The **37th Annual Light the Way Holiday Festival**, which is considered UIW’s gift to the community, welcomed thousands to the Broadway campus for music, food, shopping, a kids’ corner, and a visit from Santa, under a million lights.



# DECEMBER



More than 815 graduates were celebrated during **Fall 2023 Commencement** activities in December. In addition to the commemoration of the completion of students’ undergraduate, graduate, doctoral and professional degree programs, the ceremonies also included Baccalaureate Masses, which gather the community in thanksgiving and praise.



**Cynthia Escamilla**, vice president of Legal Affairs and General Counsel, was named among the city’s best attorneys by *San Antonio Magazine*.



# JANUARY

## UIW Hosts Festival of Faiths San Antonio

San Antonio's inaugural interfaith celebration welcomed hundreds of people of many different faith traditions to the Broadway campus. UIW's Pastoral Institute collaborated with organizations such as Interfaith San Antonio Alliance and Compassionate San Antonio to create an event that centered joy, dialogue, respectful learning and interaction, and community building.

## Students Awarded for Excellence

Students and first-time competitors **Elizabeth Holland** and **Alexandra Goeke** earned a bid at the preliminary rounds of the American Moot Court Association national tournament, an honor awarded to only the top 25 percent of competitors nationwide!

Students **Mia Sandoval** and **Mia Ortiz** from the H-E-B School of Business and Administration's MARKeting Club were awarded third place in a four-week, national advertising competition hosted by Omnicom Health Group and Harrison/Star.

# FEBRUARY

## RSO Students and Faculty Honored



Rosenberg School of Optometry (RSO) professor, **Joseph Pizzimenti, OD, FAAO, FORS, FNAP**, and retired professor and dean, **Timothy Wingert, OD, FAAO**, were honored by the Poznan University of Medical Sciences in Poland with the Witelo Medal in Gold for their contributions to Polish optometry and optometric education. The award is an elevation of a previous Bronze medal.

**Sandra Fortenberry, OD, FAAO**, RSO dean, was named the 2024 Optometrist of the Year by the Texas Optometric Association (TOA).



**Ajay Patel, OD, '13** who practices in Plano, Texas, was named Young Optometrist of the Year by the TOA.



**Osman Özturgut, PhD**, associate provost for Strategic Outreach and Partnerships and School of Professional Studies (SPS) dean, traveled with SPS representatives, the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, and UIW Trustee and Chamber Chair Mario Barrera for their "S.A. to D.C." trip to advocate for higher education and workforce development.



## RANKINGS UP IN ONLINE BESTS

UIW Rises in 2024 *U.S. News & World Report*

NO. **57**

Best Online Bachelor's  
Up from No. 104 in 2023

NO. **38**

Best Online Bachelor's for Vets  
Up from No. 61 in 2023



Since 2006, UIW's **Red Dress Fashion Show** has worked to raise awareness of women's heart health and featured one-of-a-kind designs. Students of the Fashion Management program and visiting high school fashion students showcase their work and compete for scholarship funds.





MARCH



A transformational \$2.5 million grant from the Hector and Gloria López Foundation is creating new, life-changing opportunities through the **López Scholars program**, which will support the full cost of attendance for 15 Latino students for the entirety of their undergraduate studies up to five years.

### A Perfect Match (Day)

The third Friday in March is a big day for every medical school in the country. On this day every year, the National Resident Matching Program makes it known to aspiring doctors which hospital, program or facility has offered them a space in their residency programs. UIW's **Match Day Celebration for the School of Osteopathic Medicine (UIWSOM)** was abuzz with cheers from family, friends and faculty as students opened their envelopes and learned of their placement. UIWSOM hosted its first Match Day in 2021 with 96 percent of students matching, followed by 2022 and 2023 with 99 percent of students matching both years.

**100%**  
Eligible UIWSOM students who matched in 2024

**139**  
New residents

**16**  
Healthcare specialties

### UIW and Methodist Healthcare Form Partnership

A new agreement promises to unlock pathways for Methodist Healthcare employees and their families to pursue, advance or refine work skills through UIW School of Professional Studies (SPS) degree programs. The two institutions will also partner to provide customized training programs for specific needs within Methodist Healthcare.



**Jessica Parra, DBA**, assistant dean of SPS, was selected to serve on the board of directors of the Texas Women in Higher Education, which is dedicated to developing and advancing women employed at institutions across Texas.



**Elda Martinez, EdD**, director of the Teacher Education Program, received the Robert J. Connelly Faculty Leadership Award for her service as an exemplary leader of faculty.



**Patrick Muehlberger, MD**, assistant professor in the School of Osteopathic Medicine, received the Edward Zlotkowski Faculty Award for Service-Learning.



**Jakob Rinderknecht, PhD**, associate professor of Religious Studies, received the Moody Professor Award for teaching excellence, scholarship and community service.



**Tanja Stampfl, PhD**, professor of English, received the Dr. Kathleen Light Award for Outstanding Faculty, for teaching that exemplifies the role of teacher as mentor.



**Teresa Taylor Partridge, PhD**, associate professor of Psychology, received the Presidential Teaching Award for her extraordinary dedication to teaching.



# APRIL

## Celebrating the Spirit of CCVI

Annually, during Incarnate Word Week, the university honors an employee and a student who embody the spirit of our founding congregation, the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word (CCVI), with the year's CCVI Spirit Award.



**Terry Peak**  
Instructional Designer  
*Office of Teaching, Learning  
and Technology*



**Luis Valdes**  
Senior Rehabilitation  
Science Major  
*Pre-PA Concentration*



## Research Week

The Office of Research and Graduate Studies spotlighted the exceptional research produced by UIW scholars at the **17th Annual Excellence Summit 2024** (Research Week 17.0). Faculty and students from all disciplines gathered to share their latest discoveries via poster presentations, a service-learning showcase, keynote addresses and a roundtable.



## Building UIW: Founders Hall

In May, UIW received a pledge of \$5 million to support the development and renovation of Founders Hall. Envisioned as a gateway to global understanding, the San Antonio community and academic excellence, Founders Hall is the planned home for the Liza and Jack Lewis Institute of the Americas, an auditorium, a health clinic, programs within the School of Mathematics, Science and Engineering and the School of Media and Design, among others. The eight-story, 350,000-square-foot, 10-acre property was designed by noted architect Atlee B. Ayers in the 1950s and is currently undergoing extensive renovation in preparation for the first phase of development. The purchase of Founders Hall in 2018 expanded the Broadway campus by 20 percent.

1,154

Total undergraduate, graduate, doctoral and professional degree program graduates in spring 2024

58,395

Total hours of community service completed by the spring 2024 graduating classes across all programs

\$1,865,136

Total economic impact of graduates' community service



## Spring Commencement

With thousands of friends, family and supporters cheering on, UIW proudly conferred professional, doctoral, graduate and undergraduate degrees to more than a thousand students at the 2024 Spring Commencement ceremonies. Two ceremonies were held, celebrating undergraduate and graduate students in the morning, and health profession program students in the afternoon. Faculty lined the coliseum aisle applauding their students as they processed. At the conclusion of both ceremonies, President Evans left the graduates with a final piece of advice invoking UIW's core values: "The world is uncertain – no one knows this better than you – and the road ahead will present you with new and unpredictable challenges. When you meet them, do not doubt yourself or your abilities. Instead, look to your FAITH, apply your exceptional EDUCATION, tap into your INNOVATION, seek the root of TRUTH, approach life with hearts for SERVICE, and then, take action."



# BIG IDEAS

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Faculty innovations, student discoveries and novel endeavors marked an extraordinary academic year.

## Ambassadors for AI Innovation

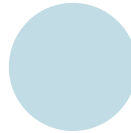
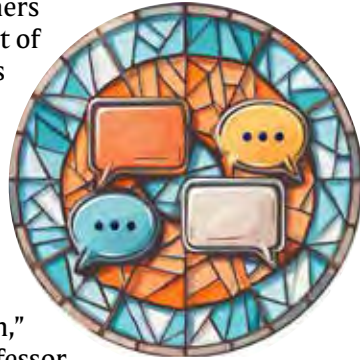
ChatGPT launched a year ago, but in its young life, the artificial intelligence platform, and others like it, have impacted nearly every facet of education and industry. At institutions like UIW, this poses unique challenges for faculty tasked with broadening students understanding of the world, forming them in Mission and the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, and preparing them for ethical leadership in rapidly changing professions.

“I liken AI to the industrial revolution,” said Lucretia Fraga, PhD, associate professor of Teacher Education. “We learned that we don’t have to be redundant to machines, but instead work with machines. Now, we have to work within new parameters, again. So, we have created an interdisciplinary group to determine how UIW moves forward to prepare students for careers that are impacted by AI.”

The Teaching and Learning with Artificial Intelligence Fellowship, co-coordinated by Fraga, seeks to address these challenges as well as the emerging opportunities that AI presents for faculty. This spring, 10 faculty fellows were selected from a pool of dozens to serve as peer mentors and ambassadors for best practices.

Fellows will take part in professional development sessions and explore questions of ethics, bias and all of the ramifications AI has on teaching and learning. In turn, fellows will lead professional development sessions within their individual schools and help empower faculty to view AI through the lens of experiential and problem-solving learning.

Jazmín Contreras Corona, María Claudia Vargas Arvizu, Héctor Campos de Anda and Ángelo Navarrete Pérez, celebrate with their advisor, Dr. Santiago Gutiérrez, after winning the StartUp Challenge.



## Social Entrepreneurship & Global Good

Every year, student teams test their entrepreneurial mettle at the Startup Challenge. The semester-long competition sponsored by the H-E-B School of Business and Administration and Beckendorf Center for Innovation and Global Entrepreneurship seeks the best social entrepreneurship solutions to real-world challenges.

Teams took part in workshops and mentoring, and moved through rounds of business model presentations in hopes of making the top three and coming away with seed money to fund their new enterprises. This year’s theme was Impact, Innovation, & Sustainability.

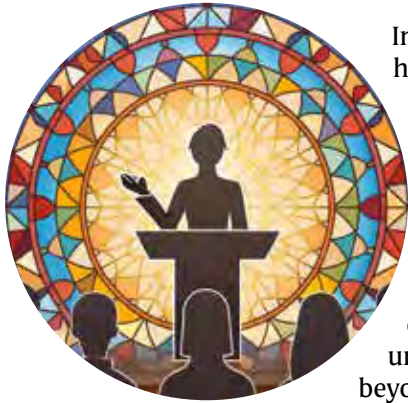
Beckendorf Center Directors Jose Moreno, PhD, and Teresa Harrison, PhD, noted that the top three winners “were chosen based on criteria like feasibility, creativity, scalability, and market potential.”

First place and \$8,000 in funding went to 2Hydro Hero, a sustainable automated irrigation system designed by a team of students from UIW Campus Bajío in Irapuato, Mexico. RGV Freeze Dried Treats, which creates pet treats from invasive species in

Texas, earned the second place prize and \$2,000 in funding. Finally, GYV, a business focused on holistic, clean energy solutions to promote more sustainable lifestyles, won 3rd place and \$1,000.



## UIW Talks TEDx



In September 2023, after more than a year in the making, UIW hosted its first TEDx event. It marked UIW's first collaboration with TED, the global non-profit dedicated to sharing ideas that ultimately drive change. TEDx UIW 2023 focused on a central theme: the 21st-Century Revival of the Liberal Arts.

"The idea developed from three prongs," said Dr. Javier Clavere, dean of the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences. "The first was the promotion of scholarship on a global level with high impact in a way that is sustainable and distributable. The second was to support the branding of the university as an academic think tank. The third was to think beyond the academic journal and offer a new platform for sharing the scholarly work being created at UIW."

Nine faculty members delivered talks on topics ranging from refugee experiences as told in stories, to erasing mental illness stigmas, to the art of giving feedback, among many others. Clavere's own presentation on humanistic entrepreneurship proposed an approach to business enterprise that upholds and perpetuates human dignity. Together, their presentations offered a spectrum of work as broad as the liberal arts themselves.

All talks are available to stream via the TEDx Talks YouTube page. Clavere is looking forward to the next TEDx event in September 2024 that he plans to make available to all faculty members interested in applying. He hopes to be able to open the third event to student presenters.



Doshie Piper, PhD, associate professor of Criminal Justice, discusses "Cultivating Institutional Belonging."



## Incubator for International Leadership Formation

Fifteen students and alumni were nominated for a first-of-its-kind mission trip just before the start of the fall semester. The UIW Centro Fox Leadership and Mission Program, sponsored by the Ettlting Center for Civic Leadership and Sustainability, was formed to help foster greater understanding of contemporary Mexico and community leadership through engagement with the agencies and actors at the forefront of advancing social change.





The interdisciplinary group visited cultural and religious sites such as Templo Expiatorio del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús (left) and met with former First Lady of Mexico Marta Sahagún Fox and former President, Vicente Fox (above).

The interdisciplinary group of students from different backgrounds and academic programs met with leaders at partner organizations such as Centro Fox, founded by Vicente Fox, former president of Mexico, and Vamos México, founded by Fox's wife and former first lady Marta Sahagún Fox. Additionally, the group discovered on-the-ground approaches to addressing real community needs. One such experience focused on providing therapy for disabled children of low-income families.

"As a doctoral student, I was excited to explore what I previously learned in my studies focusing on my concentration in adult education, social innovation and entrepreneurship," said Michelle Vasquez, '03, '20. "Throughout the week, I traveled to various communities to visit museums, local businesses, and nonprofit organizations ... to learn about Mexico's rich history, culture, people, economy, government and community relations."

Dailen Castillo, OTD, MBA, OTR, associate professor and academic fieldwork coordinator, at work in one of the OTD program's specialized labs.

## A Transformative Grant with Community Impact



Before it had even welcomed its first cohort of incoming students, UIW's new Occupational Therapy doctorate program (OTD) was already making history. Last spring, OTD announced their award of a landmark \$5.2 million Mental Health Service Providers Grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

Together with grant partners Our Lady of the Lake University's School of Psychology, and two San Antonio school districts, UIW's OTD program had three goals: increase the presence of mental health professionals in public schools, develop comprehensive and streamlined trauma-informed training, and establish pathways for high school students to pursue careers in mental health.

Incoming OTD students supported the grant work and helped ensure that outcomes surpassed every benchmark. "Our goal was to place eight occupational therapy students in schools. We placed 11. They served 190 students, more than our initial goal of 100," said Marcie Campbell, OTD, OTR, TIE, the grant's principal investigator and project director. "We also placed a social worker in the schools as a pathway specialist who mentors high school students to pursue mental health careers."



The trauma-informed training developed through the grant and in partnership with the nationally recognized Community Resilience Initiative, generated broad interest nationally. In the coming months, up to 2,500 occupational therapists in New York City will take part in the training, and later so will others in Philadelphia, Oregon and Alabama.



# Mission *in Action*

As a Catholic university founded more than 140 years ago by pioneering women religious, UIW was gifted a Mission to prepare concerned and enlightened citizens to make positive impacts in the world. Today, that Mission continues to fuel our approach to education, formation, culture and service. The UIW community embodies and furthers the Mission in many ways.





## PRAYER, WORSHIP & CELEBRATION

- Through the effort of the Office of Mission & Ministry, opportunities for prayer, worship and formation are abundant at UIW.
- They are foundational to everyday university life through daily noon Mass, prayer groups, bible studies and the presence of places of worship on every campus.
- Beloved traditions, key points in the year, and rites of passage are often marked with a special Mass or liturgy of the Word.
- Dedicated retreats designed to support the formation of students, faculty and staff take place throughout the year

The Chapel of the Incarnate Word is home to some of UIW's most meaningful traditions, such as the annual Welcome Mass, Heritage Day and Baccalaureate Mass.

## VOICES & VIEWPOINTS

UIW welcomed many notable speakers to share their insights on faith, scholarship and expression.

- For the first time, an artist was invited to offer the annual Bernadette E. O'Connor Lecture on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition. Painter, glass artist and restorer, **William Rerick** shared his reflection on the impact of Catholicism on his work.
- Internationally recognized theologian **Dr. Thomas Groome** also visited the university to discuss "What Makes Education Catholic" at UIW.
- **Dr. Jessica Coblentz** was the featured speaker of the Pierre Lecture, which focuses on the contributions of women scholars to the fields of theology and religious studies. Coblentz explored theological resources for living with depression.
- During Women's History Month, contemporary author **Katy Carl** was invited to offer her perspective on keeping the Catholic literary tradition alive.
- Incarnate Word Week festivities included two presentations from **Dr. Kim Harris**, assistant professor in the Department of Theological Studies at Loyola Marymount University. First, she offered a lecture on "The Ritual Gifts and Cultural Advocacy of Servant of God Sr. Thea Bowman." Later, she led the UIW community in reflection and song in "Digo Sí, Señor: A Song of Sustainability as We Dance with the Sun and the Moon," which focused on the relationship between care for the Earth and care for our brothers and sisters.



Dr. Kim Harris led UIW in reflection and song.

At work in Guatemala (here and below left) and Oaxaca (below right).



## WORD IN THE WORLD

Students, faculty and staff also serve communities around the world. Throughout the year, several interdisciplinary teams from UIW's health professions and liberal arts programs set off throughout the Americas to support community health and health education.

- A team of students and faculty from the departments of Nutrition, Education, and Religious Studies partnered with the Lewis Center of the Americas for a **Guatemala solidarity trip**.
- Another team led by the Ettling Center for Civic Leadership and Sustainability in connection with non-profit Los Quijotes of San Antonio engaged faculty and students from UIW's Nursing, Osteopathic Medicine, Community Health, Pharmacy, Optometry, Physical Therapy and Nutrition programs for a **medical mission trip** to help provide much-needed care for families in Oaxaca, Mexico.



## SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Community service is an integral part of the student and academic experience.

- Thousands of **hours of service** are completed annually and make distinct differences in the community. Students, and often faculty and staff, take part in efforts such as childcare, environmental clean-up, blood drives, care for animals, senior citizen engagement, clothing drives, community gardening, food drives and many others.
- **Service-learning opportunities** through UIW's clinics the Bowden Eye Care and Health Center, School of Rehabilitation Sciences Community Clinic, Nursing Cardinal Clinic and others provide care for communities in need and support the professional development of health professions students.

Rosenberg School of Optometry students and faculty offer care at a heart health fair.



## BELONGING & INCLUSION

Engaging in respectful encounter and learning from all in UIW's diverse community is key to community building and to fostering an environment of belonging.

- Throughout the academic year, **DEI Circles** welcomed hundreds to listen and discuss issues related to racial justice, peace, life and human dignity, the gifts of diversity, LGBTQ+ allyship, and implications in healthcare.
- **Cultural celebrations and holiday events** such as Asian New Year, Cardinal Ceilidh, Holi, Hangul and Día de los Muertos invite all to come together to learn about our international community.

The community altar commemorates el Día de los Muertos annually.



## MINISTRY CONNECTION

Deepening our connection with our founders, the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, and our sister ministries is a strategic priority. New initiatives and special celebrations honoring our connection have taken place throughout the year, and two significant projects have undergone further development.

- UIW's historic home on the Broadway campus borders other ministries, including the Headwaters of the Incarnate Word nature sanctuary and the Village at Incarnate Word retirement community, as well as the Sisters' own property, chapel and Blue Hole. The **Spirit Reach Contemplative Path** project would connect those ministries in a more meaningful way by providing walking and biking paths that are accessible to all. The project secured \$10 million in funding and is currently in the design phase.
- The **CCVI Migration Project**, spearheaded by the Lewis Center of the Americas in partnership with the Sisters and the Migration, Immigrant and Refugee Network, seeks to create a digital directory of resources for immigrants who are making their way through Mexico, typically with hopes of reaching the United States. Many of these migrants are coming into Mexico from Central and South America, while others are Mexicans themselves but traveling from their home state into new Mexican territories. The goal is to help those seeking refuge and alleviate suffering along their journeys.

The Blue Hole is a source of the San Antonio River and is considered a sacred site.





# Cardinals

## Take Flight

UIW student-athletes soar to new heights.



### Champions in Competition

It was a year for the record books for UIW Athletics as stellar student-athletes proved that they are champions in their sports. The Artistic Swimming team was named **2024 USA Artistic Swimming Collegiate Champions**, earning UIW's first ever team national championship. Head Coach Alyson Tshuma was named National Coach of the Year. Men's Track & Field had a tremendous season, bringing home the Southland Conference (SLC) Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field Championships. Men's Tennis won the SLC Regular Season Championship, Coach Jonas Andersson was named Coach of the Year and six team members earned all-conference recognitions.

Cardinals also came away with individual honors. Kyle Sieracki was named Athlete of the Year, Most Valuable Performer and Outstanding Field Athlete at the Indoor Track & Field Championships. Rico Braun received a Men's Fencing All-American Honorable Mention. Brandon Porter was named Southland Football Offensive Player of the Year, Stats Perform All-American and Associated Press All-American.

## Champions in the Classroom

As successful as Cardinals were on the field, on the court, on the track and in the pool, they were equally as exceptional in the classroom. This year, student-athletes started strong, earning the highest department GPA for the fall semester on record. Three hundred and sixty six student-athletes recorded GPAs of 3.0 or higher with more than 50 earning a 4.0 or higher. UIW student-athletes also led the Southland Conference Commissioner's Honor Roll with the most appearances from any member university in Fall 2023.

**3.32**

Cumulative  
department GPA

**118**

Student-Athletes  
on fall 2023 Conference  
Commissioners Honor Rolls



## Champions in the Community

Another critical component of student-athlete life is a commitment to putting the Mission into action through community service. Cardinals' good work supported organizations throughout San Antonio such as the San Antonio Zoo, Boys and Girls Club of San Antonio, Haven for Hope and others. Cardinals also took part in river clean-up efforts, assisting with Special Olympics events, and leading Big Brother Big Sister donations, and volunteering with the ministries of our founders, the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word.

**4,153**

Community service  
hours completed

**625**

Professional  
development  
hours completed



# By the Numbers

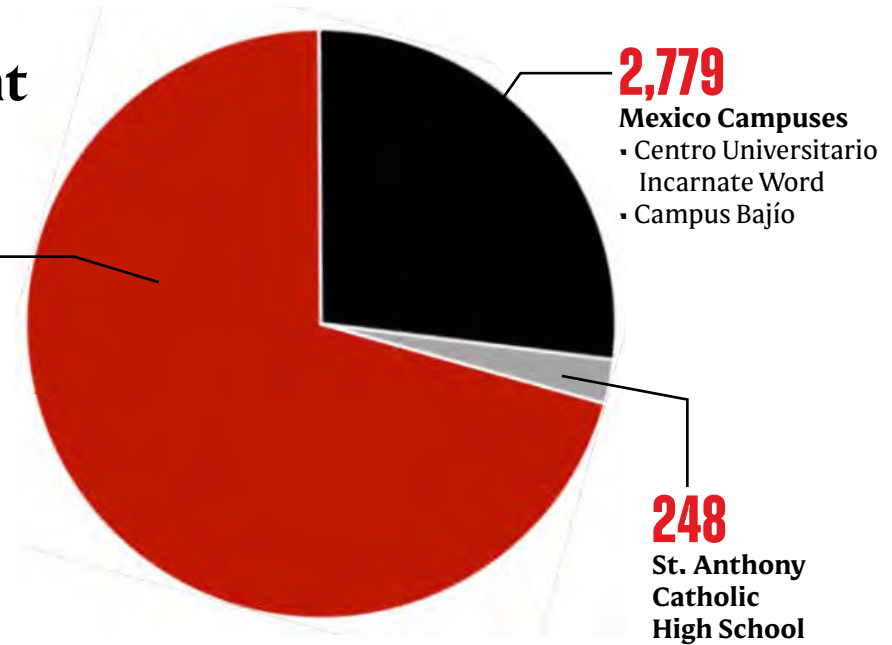
The UIW system is multi-dimensional, international and diverse. Collectively, our many campuses and programs create a vibrant community united in Mission.

## SYSTEM ENROLLMENT

**10,278**  
Global Enrollment

**7,251**  
U.S. Undergraduate, Graduate, Professional and Global Online

- Broadway Campus
- Feik School of Pharmacy
- Ila Faye Miller School of Nursing & Health Professions
- Rosenberg School of Optometry
- School of Osteopathic Medicine
- School of Professional Studies
- School of Rehabilitation Sciences
- Global Online



### KEY AREAS OF GROWTH



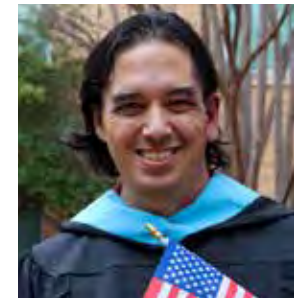
#### FTIC

UIW recorded the largest ever class of first-time-in-college incoming students in fall 2023.



#### First-Generation

The number of students who self-identify as first-generation students rose among new undergraduate students.



#### Global Online

The Global Online program, which offers classes in Spanish to learners in Latin America, has seen a steady uptick in students since its first incoming class in fall 2021.



## DIVERSE & DYNAMIC

The 10,000-plus students that make up the UIW system reflect the diversity of South Texas, Mexico and the world.

**60%**

Students from the San Antonio area

**47**

Students' states of origin

**77**

Students' countries of origin

**54%**

Students of Hispanic heritage

**27%**

Students who identify as first-generation

**20%**

Military-connected students

## FUNDING THE MISSION

The generosity of our community is deeply important to the students and faculty who directly benefit from all it makes possible. In 2023-2024, UIW received many notable gifts, including:

**\$5 million**

Commitment for the renovation of Founder's Hall from the Elma Dill Russell Spencer Foundation

**\$2.5 million**

Commitment from the Hector and Gloria López Foundation to establish the Lopez Scholars Program

**\$750,000**

Gift from Santa Rosa Health System for an Athletic Trainers Fund

**\$500,000**

Commitment for Athletics

**\$300,000**

Gift to establish an endowed scholarship in Biology

**\$290,000**

Gift for a lab renovation and scholarship for the Feik School of Pharmacy

## SUPPORTING CARDINALS

UIW is committed to helping students graduate with the lowest possible debt so they may continue to pursue their callings.

**\$212M**

Total financial aid administered from all sources

**\$24,651**

Average amount of need-based scholarships and grants awarded to FTIC students

**99%**

FTIC receiving financial assistance

**54%**

FTIC students who were eligible for the Pell Grant

## OPENING DOORS & LIFTING LIVES

**\$14 M**

raised from generous alumni and friends of UIW. This represents the most successful fundraising year in terms of cash and pledges in UIW history.

.....

**17**

new endowed scholarships established by alumni and friends of UIW.

.....



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INCARNATE WORD**

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San Antonio, Texas 78209  
uiw.edu

**FEIK SCHOOL OF  
PHARMACY**

703 E. Hildebrand,  
San Antonio, TX 78212  
pharmacy.uiw.edu

**ROSENBERG SCHOOL OF  
OPTOMETRY**

9725 Datapoint Dr,  
San Antonio, TX 78229  
optometry.uiw.edu

**SCHOOL OF  
OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE**

Brooks City Base - 7615  
Kennedy Hill, Building 1,  
San Antonio, TX 78235  
osteopathic-medicine.uiw.edu

**SCHOOL OF  
REHABILITATION SCIENCES**

9160 Guilbeau Rd,  
San Antonio, TX 78250  
physical-therapy.uiw.edu



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SAN ANTONIO

**SCHOOL OF  
PROFESSIONAL STUDIES**

3200 McCullough Ave.,  
San Antonio, 78209  
sps.uiw.edu

**CAMPUS BAJIO**

Carretera Panamericana  
#6553, Irapuato –  
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Guanajuato  
uiwbajio.mx

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161 Rue Mélanie, 67000  
Strasbourg, France  
uiw.edu/esc

**UIW Global Online**

global.uiw.edu