

CLASS OF

2021

CONGRATULATIONS
GRADUATES!

DAILY HERALD
Better than ever!

 **KDH**
MEDIA
GROUP

kdhnews.com
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD



Congratulations

to our seniors who excelled in their high school careers.



Alexcia Gaines
Valedictorian



Kacy Carter
Salutatorian



Emma Miller
Class President



Cameron Day
U.S. Air Force
Academy
Preparatory School



Brody Sanders, Isabella Dickson, Savanna Walker,
Russel Cochran
International DECA Competition
NOT PICTURED: McKenzie Agnello, Skilynn Hughes



Isabelle Avila
Texas Association of
Future Educators
National Qualifier



Lillian Peterson (6A All-State Band), Selena
Falbe, Elmo Bailey, Krista Gray
Pride of Cove Drum Majors



Amberlin Samson,
Jasmyn Ayala, Katelyn Song
Pride of Cove Color Guard Captains

A FOUNDATION OF EXCELLENCE



Congratulations

to our seniors who excelled in their high school careers.



Parker A. Reed
National Thespian
Qualifier
6A All-State Choir
Choir Student Director



Isabella Reyes, Nadia Cisneros,
Savanna Walker
All-American Cheerleaders



Copperettes Jordan Hall & Olivia Rodriguez
All-American Dancers



Lady Dawg Golfer
Elle Fox
Top 15 Texas High
School Golfer



Kelsey Jones
Top 3-UIL Unified
State Track Meet



Kacy Carter &
Russel Cochran
Homecoming
Queen & King



Katrina Leone &
Nigel Freeman
Prom Queen & King

- A FUTURE OF SUCCESS.

P: (254) 547-1227 • F: (254) 547-7060 • www.ccisd.com



@CopperasCoveISD

IT'S NEVER
TOO LATE

TO

CHOOSE
YOUR DATE

 **FREE DELIVERY**
up to 50 miles.

**PREPRINT
&
DELIVERY
SERVICE**

DELIVERING
RESULTS
FOR OVER
127 YEARS!



The Daily Herald can conveniently deliver your business' inserts on the day of your choice, as opposed to within a "window of time".



[INSIDE THIS ISSUE]

Killeen High School students reflect on strange year	Page 5
Ellison students talk challenges of virtual year	Page 7
Shoemaker top graduates share future plans	Page 10
Local graduations going on this month and next	Page 12
Top Heights students come from military families	Page 13
Early College students reflect on high expectations	Page 16
Top 2 Cove High grads attending same university	Page 19
Lampasas top students look toward the future	Page 20
Two tie for valedictorian at Gatesville High School	Page 22
Florence ISD's top students to express creative spirits	Page 23
CTC recognizes Spring 2021 graduates	Page 25
A&M-Central Texas hosts on-campus graduation	Page 29
Students receive degrees at UMHB commencement	Page 30

2021 Graduation Guide is a Killeen Daily Herald publication.

Contact Us

General Manager : Terry Gandy

Editor: Dave Miller | dmiller@kdhnews.com

Newsroom: 254-501-7542 | **Advertising:** 254-501-7500

**LOCAL
NEWS.
LOCAL
REPORTING.**

- REAL-TIME UPDATES ON DEVELOPING STORIES
- LOCAL COVID-19 INFORMATION
- COMMUNITY EVENTS

kdhnews.com DAILY HERALD
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD *Better than ever!*



**NICHOLAS
MINTZ**

CLASS OF 2021
Killeen High School

Congratulations Nicholas!

We are so proud of you and can't wait to see all your successes at the Coast Guard Academy! We love you to the moon and back!

Love, Dad, Mom, Ollie,
and Abuela

Designed by **KDB** MEDIA GROUP

KHS graduates reflect on strange school year

BY TODD MARTIN
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

Killeen High School's valedictorian and salutatorian both completed the International Baccalaureate Program and expect to use their multicultural learning on the global stage.

Valedictorian Victoria Wright and salutatorian Mara Kay Gutierrez sat together in a conference room recently reflecting on a very strange year; grateful they have made it this far:

"It's been such a long journey with so many unknowns," Wright said. "It's a sigh of relief and a reassurance of all the determination and work ethic."

The top-ranked Killeen



COURTESY PHOTO

Killeen High School valedictorian Victoria Wright.

High School graduate played on the volleyball team, performed in choir and participated in Student 2 Student, National Honor Society, Black Student Union, International Club and outside of school the Leaders Readers Network and Modern Divergence.



COURTESY PHOTO

Killeen High School salutatorian Mara Kay Gutierrez.

As a middle school student, she said, "no one told me I couldn't do everything, so when I got here, I had to decide."

She and Gutierrez agreed the IB program challenged them to dive into deep conversation and study and emersed them in a global mindset.

The daughter of Laquita Wright is set to go to Washington University in St. Louis to study a range of subjects including philosophy, neurology, psychology, anthropology and global health. She expects to end up in law school or medical school and work in mental health.

Like her high-ranking peer; Gutierrez grew up with an understanding of high expectations for achievement. During a busy high school experience, she focused on IB studies.

"IB allows you to take on very complex subjects," she said. "It's nice for me to be challenged and the IB teachers are amazing."

PLEASE SEE **KILLEEN, 7**



ALEXIA LAM

CLASS OF 2021
Killeen High School

Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:

LTC (R) JOHN STANLEY

Killeen ISD Education Foundation



Designed by **KDH MEDIA GROUP**



ALYSSA MCKINNEY

CLASS OF 2021
Killeen High School

Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:

JAMES ELAM

Killeen ISD Education Foundation



Designed by **KDH MEDIA GROUP**



CHRISTIAN CASTANO

CLASS OF 2021
Killeen High School

Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:

JUSTINE FALCH

Killeen ISD Education Foundation



Designed by **KDH MEDIA GROUP**



K Kangaroo

JEFFREY TRAN

CLASS OF 2021
Killeen High School

Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:

ROSIE BARNES
Killeen ISD Education Foundation

Ashley
HOMESTORE
KILLEEN, TX

Designed by **KDH MEDIA GROUP**



K Kangaroo

KENNETH MCDANIEL IV

CLASS OF 2021
Killeen High School

Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:

KENNETH MCDANIEL III
Killeen ISD Education Foundation

Ashley
HOMESTORE
KILLEEN, TX

Designed by **KDH MEDIA GROUP**



K Kangaroo

MARA-KAY GUTIERREZ

CLASS OF 2021
Killeen High School

Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:

NICHOLE BRIENO-YOUNG
Killeen ISD Education Foundation

Ashley
HOMESTORE
KILLEEN, TX

Designed by **KDH MEDIA GROUP**

Congratulations, Killeen High class of 2021!



K Kangaroo

MIRIYA BURKE

CLASS OF 2021
Killeen High School

Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:

ANDREW DIETZ
Killeen ISD Education Foundation

Ashley
HOMESTORE
KILLEEN, TX

Designed by **KDH MEDIA GROUP**



K Kangaroo

PATRICIA GARIBAYBARTOLO

CLASS OF 2021
Killeen High School

Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:

MARTHA GARIBAYBARTOLO
Killeen ISD Education Foundation

Ashley
HOMESTORE
KILLEEN, TX

Designed by **KDH MEDIA GROUP**



K Kangaroo

SAVANNAH TYBOR

CLASS OF 2021
Killeen High School

Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:

JEREMY FALCH
Killeen ISD Education Foundation

Ashley
HOMESTORE
KILLEEN, TX

Designed by **KDH MEDIA GROUP**

KILLEEN

FROM PAGE 5

The daughter of Hiram and Nadine Thomas-Gutierrez took part in speech and debate, math club, tennis, soccer, International Club, National Honor Society and Upward Bound.

She is set to attend Yale University and study history and chemistry with hopes of working as a college professor and serving the Navajo community, which is part of her own ethnic heritage.

Talking about their graduation speeches, Gutierrez said she would balance humor with a recognition of “what we have been through and how it’s formed us.”

Wright said she planned to encourage and motivate her peers in light of the complex of pandemic and personal and financial loss that so many have endured. “This,” she said, “is an incredible class.”

Killeen High School graduation is scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday, May 27 at the Bell County Expo Center

Top Ellison students talk challenges of virtual year

BY TODD MARTIN
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

At the top of the Ellison High School Class of 2021 are a pair of math and science-minded students who found expression through outlets in the fine arts.

Valedictorian Nicholas Trevino is part of the school’s Chamber Singers show choir, and salutatorian Cameron Woods excels in the visual arts.

Both have been mainly virtual students the past year and have struggled and grown through the unique, at times lonely experience.

“I’m happy about ending up valedictorian,” Trevino said. “It’s a sense of accomplishment. It certainly took a lot of work. I’m happy I ended up here.”



HERALD FILE PHOTO

Ellison High School is seen in Killeen in August 2019.

The top-ranked Ellison graduate is headed to the University of Texas to study physics and perhaps choose a career in quantum physics.

He packed his class schedule

PLEASE SEE **ELLISON, 9**



VICTORIA WRIGHT

CLASS OF 2021
Killeen High School

Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:

TATIANA ZEGADA

Killeen ISD Education Foundation



Designed by **KDH MEDIA GROUP**



ASHLEY HOMESTORE

CLASS OF 2021
Killeen High School

Thank you
for sponsoring our top
ten students
and teachers.



Designed by **KDH MEDIA GROUP**



ALANA DYER

CLASS OF 2021
Ellison High School

Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:

JOHN TUCKER

Killeen ISD Education Foundation



Designed by **KDH MEDIA GROUP**



 **BAILEY PARKER**

CLASS OF 2021
Ellison High School
Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:
JENNIFER ZEHR
Killeen ISD Education Foundation



Designed by  KDE MEDIA GROUP




 **BRIANNA CLIPPER**



CLASS OF 2021
Ellison High School
Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:
ZENDRIA ANDERSON
Killeen ISD Education Foundation


Designed by  KDE MEDIA GROUP



 **CAMERON WOODS**

CLASS OF 2021
Ellison High School
Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:
DONALD FIELD
Killeen ISD Education Foundation


Designed by  KDE MEDIA GROUP

Congratulations, Ellison High class of 2021!



 **GABRIEL FERRER**

CLASS OF 2021
Ellison High School
Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:
TIMOTHY YOUNG
Killeen ISD Education Foundation


Designed by  KDE MEDIA GROUP



 **JAY SMITH**

CLASS OF 2021
Ellison High School
Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:
AMY TRIGGS
Killeen ISD Education Foundation


Designed by  KDE MEDIA GROUP



 **JULITSIA COLON-GUZMAN**

CLASS OF 2021
Ellison High School
Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:
DONALD MCNIESH
Killeen ISD Education Foundation


Designed by  KDE MEDIA GROUP

ELLISON

FROM PAGE 7

with Advanced Placement classes, but was always adamant, he said, to work choir into his schedule. It was at Patterson Middle School with choir director Gerald Nicholas where he first found inspiration in choral music.

“I have found good kinship in that class,” he said of the Ellison Chamber Singers. “It’s like a family.”

Woods, the class salutatorian also took Pre-AP, AP and dual credit classes in middle school and high school. He’s found expression through visual art, particularly drawing.

“I feel like I have a lot



COURTESY PHOTO

Ellison High School valedictorian Nicholas Trevino.

of persistence,” he said. “I have the energy to go over the top and exceed expectations on all assignments. I just push forward.”

The second-ranked graduate, son of Letrecia and DeMario Woods is headed to the University of San Antonio to study neuroscience and



COURTESY PHOTO

Ellison High School salutatorian Cameron Woods.

hopes to also dive into philosophy and psychology and continue to graduate school.

The valedictorian, son of Theresa and Johnny Trevino, has also been active in Student Council and theater. He has also participated in the Youth Advisory Commission

through the city of Killeen.

The high-achieving pair both found difficult challenges and growing opportunities while navigating COVID-19.

In thinking through his valedictory address, Trevino said he expected to address the importance of being aware of mental health and taking time for self-care.

“It was hard to keep a balance between home and school,” said Woods. “It did allow more free time and helped with my own development. I want to make the point to never waste a single living moment.”

Ellison High School Class of 2021 graduation is 9 a.m. Friday, May 28 at the Bell County Expo Center.



KARYSMA RIVERS

CLASS OF 2021
Ellison High School

Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:

ASHLEY CARRISALEZ

Killeen ISD Education Foundation



Designed by **KDEH MEDIA GROUP**



KRYSTAL RIVERA-ROMAN

CLASS OF 2021
Ellison High School

Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:

MONIQUE BAKKEN

Killeen ISD Education Foundation



Designed by **KDEH MEDIA GROUP**



NICHOLAS TREVINO

CLASS OF 2021
Ellison High School

Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:

GERALD NICHOLAS

Killeen ISD Education Foundation



Designed by **KDEH MEDIA GROUP**

Shoemaker top students share future plans

BY TODD MARTIN
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

The top graduates of Shoemaker High School include a varsity athlete and a sibling of a past salutatorian.

The Shoemaker High School Class of 2021 valedictorian is Oluwatobi Okeowo and the salutatorian is Yosmilie Sibrian.

The school's top-ranked graduate takes a low-key approach in discussing his achievement. "It feels pretty good," he said. "I worked all year and did what I needed to do."

Determined to enter the biomedical engineering field, the son of Michael and Toyin Okeowo knew he would have to work hard and



COURTESY PHOTO

Shoemaker High School valedictorian Oluwatobi Okeowo.

he did, taking dual credit courses and earning an associate degree from Central Texas College.

Along the way he managed to serve as National Honor Society president, Student Council



COURTESY PHOTO

Shoemaker High School salutatorian Yosmilie Sibrian.

president as a junior and in the Chick-Fil-A Leadership Academy and Student 2 Student and to play varsity basketball as a junior and senior.

"I made sure to surround myself with people

who would help and encourage me," he said.

The high-achieving, multi-talented student is headed to the University of Texas to study biomedical engineering.

The school's salutatorian, the daughter of Jose and Siomara Sibrian, is following in the footsteps of sister Isabella, who was Shoemaker salutatorian two years ago. The sisters are the first and second in their family to move on to college.

"It feels good," she said. "It's a privilege to represent Shoemaker High School."

She took pre-Advanced Placement, Advanced Placement and dual cred-

PLEASE SEE **SHOEMAKER, 12**



THE DORROH FAMILY

CLASS OF 2021
Ellison High School

Thank you for sponsoring our top ten students and teachers.



Designed by **KDH MEDIA GROUP**




BRIUANIA DELOATCH

CLASS OF 2021
Shoemaker High School

Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:

XAVIER SAULTER

Killeen ISD Education Foundation



Designed by **KDH MEDIA GROUP**




FRANCIS ATALIG

CLASS OF 2021
Shoemaker High School

Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:

JAMES SIMPSON

Killeen ISD Education Foundation



Designed by **KDH MEDIA GROUP**



JESSALYN LYKES

CLASS OF 2021
Shoemaker High School
Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:
ANASTASIA WINTERS
Killeen ISD Education Foundation

Thompson & Horton LLP
ATTORNEYS | COUNSELORS

Designed by **KDH MEDIA GROUP**



JEWLIAN CAMPUZANO

CLASS OF 2021
Shoemaker High School
Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:
DEBORAH WILLIAMS
Killeen ISD Education Foundation

Thompson & Horton LLP
ATTORNEYS | COUNSELORS

Designed by **KDH MEDIA GROUP**



JOSHUA HELDT

CLASS OF 2021
Shoemaker High School
Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:
SISSY DAVIS
Killeen ISD Education Foundation

Thompson & Horton LLP
ATTORNEYS | COUNSELORS

Designed by **KDH MEDIA GROUP**

Congratulations, Shoemaker High class of 2021!



KAYLA GARMON

CLASS OF 2021
Shoemaker High School
Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:
JACQUELINE DRAPER
Killeen ISD Education Foundation

Thompson & Horton LLP
ATTORNEYS | COUNSELORS

Designed by **KDH MEDIA GROUP**



MIGUEL RICCI-RAMIREZ

CLASS OF 2021
Shoemaker High School
Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:
SHERRY GIARRUSSO
Killeen ISD Education Foundation

Thompson & Horton LLP
ATTORNEYS | COUNSELORS

Designed by **KDH MEDIA GROUP**



NAYELI FOREMAN

CLASS OF 2021
Shoemaker High School
Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:
JOSE GUZMAN
Killeen ISD Education Foundation

Thompson & Horton LLP
ATTORNEYS | COUNSELORS

Designed by **KDH MEDIA GROUP**

Local high school graduations going on this month and next

KILLEEN ISD

The Killeen Independent School District high school graduations will take place later this month.

The Early College High School graduation will be at 2 p.m. on May 27 at the Bell County Expo Center.

The Killeen High School graduation will be at 6 p.m. on May 27 at the Expo Center.

The graduation for Ellison High School seniors will take place at 9 a.m. on May 28 at the Expo Center.

The Harker Heights High School graduation will be at 2 p.m. on the same day at the Expo Center and finally, the Shoemaker High School graduation will be at 9



At Killeen High School in January, new graduates process into the school auditorium for a mid-year graduation ceremony.

TODD MARTIN | KISD

a.m. on May 29 at the Expo Center.

All KISD graduations require those who want to attend to buy a ticket or receive a ticket from a graduate in order to attend because of capacity restrictions.

Tickets will be available for distribution from May 25 through May 27.

For questions, residents can contact the campus's Student Activities Office.

COPPERAS COVE ISD

Crossroads High: 6 p.m. May 21 at Lea Ledger Auditorium at Copperas Cove High School

Cove High: 7:30 p.m. May 28 at Bell County

Expo Center

SALADO ISD

May 28 at UMHB Mayborn Auditorium at 7 p.m.

TEMPLE ISD

The Temple High School graduation will be at 10 a.m. on June 12 at the Bell County Expo Center

SHOEMAKER

FROM PAGE 10

it courses, was on the swim team three years, in National Honor Society and completed a Certified Nurse's Assistant certification at the Career Center:

"I will remember late nights studying and the friendships I made," Sibrian said. "I'll remember teachers who believed in me and guided me on the right path and telling me they are proud of me."

She plans to attend the University of Texas and study business administration.

Shoemaker High School graduation is set for 9 a.m. Saturday, May 29 at the Bell County Expo Center:



OLUWATOBI BENJAMIN OKEOWO

CLASS OF 2021
Shoemaker High School

Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:

SANDRA JOHNSON

Killeen ISD Education Foundation

Thompson & Horton LLP
EDUCATION | COUNSELORS

Designed by **KDH MEDIA GROUP**



YOSMIE SIBRIAN

CLASS OF 2021
Shoemaker High School

Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:

STEVE MATTOX

Killeen ISD Education Foundation

Thompson & Horton LLP
EDUCATION | COUNSELORS

Designed by **KDH MEDIA GROUP**

Top Heights students come from military families

BY TODD MARTIN
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

The top Harker Heights High School 2021 graduate has held the top spot in the class since his freshman year. The second-ranked graduate in the class pulled into the No. 2 spot in the final class ranking tabulation.

Both valedictorian Raphael Dela Cruz and salutatorian Sarah Kennison are tremendously talented academically and highly involved, service-minded seniors. Both also grew up in military families.

“I study a lot,” Dela Cruz said. “It doesn’t come easily for me.” In his first two years of



COURTESY PHOTO

Heights High School valedictorian Raphael Dela Cruz.

high school, he managed to play basketball, leading to especially long days and late nights.

The past two years, he has been more focused on his work through the Texas Bioscience



COURTESY PHOTO

Heights High School salutatorian Sarah Kennison.

Institute. He graduates with an associate degree from Temple College two weeks before earning his high school diploma.

“What’s helped me stay at the top is TBI,” he said, noting the col-

lege-level courses are weighted like Advanced Placement classes.

“The environment there is so different than a regular high school,” Dela Cruz said. “Everyone there really wants to be there and work to get their associate’s degree. It’s motivating.”

He also enjoyed the mix of high school students, from crosstown Ellison High School as well as peers from Temple, Belton, Salado and Rogers high schools.

The son of Reonel and Alice Dela Cruz has moved around as his dad serves in the U.S. Army. His mother is a nurse. He lived in Germany

PLEASE SEE **HEIGHTS, 15**

THOMPSON & HORTON

CLASS OF 2021
Shoemaker High School

Thank you for sponsoring our top ten students and teachers.

Thompson & Horton
ATTORNEYS | COUNSELORS

Designed by **KDHE**MEDIA GROUP

ANASTASIA HERBERGER

CLASS OF 2021
Harker Heights High School

Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student and chosen Distinguished Teacher:

SUZANNE THOMPSON
Killeen ISD Education Foundation

MA
MODERN APPLIANCE

Designed by **KDHE**MEDIA GROUP

ELIZABETH H LIM

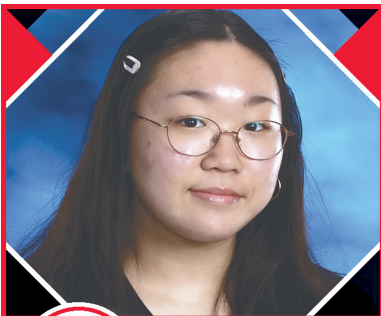
CLASS OF 2021
Harker Heights High School

Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student and chosen Distinguished Teacher:

MAUELA GARDNER
Killeen ISD Education Foundation

MA
MODERN APPLIANCE

Designed by **KDHE**MEDIA GROUP



**GLORIA
KIM**

CLASS OF 2021
Harker Heights High School
Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:
MONICA PEDRAZA
Killeen ISD Education Foundation



Designed by KDH MEDIA GROUP



**JAIME
NAVA**

CLASS OF 2021
Harker Heights High School
Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:
KATHERINE MORK
Killeen ISD Education Foundation



Designed by KDH MEDIA GROUP



**JAKAIYAH
FRANKLIN**

CLASS OF 2021
Harker Heights High School
Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:
AMANDA KENNEDY
Killeen ISD Education Foundation



Designed by KDH MEDIA GROUP

Congratulations, Harker Heights High class of 2021!



**JU HEE JULIA
LEE**

CLASS OF 2021
Harker Heights High School
Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:
JOSHUA KROFT
Killeen ISD Education Foundation



Designed by KDH MEDIA GROUP



**KOSISOCHUKWU
ENELI**

CLASS OF 2021
Harker Heights High School
Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:
MARISSA NOEL
Killeen ISD Education Foundation



Designed by KDH MEDIA GROUP



**RAPHAEL
LANSANGAN
DELA CRUZ**

CLASS OF 2021
Harker Heights High School
Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:
CELNEQUE BOBBITT
Killeen ISD Education Foundation



Designed by KDH MEDIA GROUP

HEIGHTS

FROM PAGE 13

through middle school and has been in Killeen since his freshman year. His sister, Isabelle Dela Cruz, a Texas A&M University freshman, has also been a strong supporter:

The military experience, he said, has made him adaptable and given him a strong sense of personal identity.

His range of activities speaks to an innate curiosity. Dela Cruz is headed to Rice University to study civil engineering, but he has found time to pursue other interests.

He is highly involved in National Honor Society and the Interact Club, including numerous service projects. He is also active in a youth ensemble and other service through his church, St. Paul's Chong Hasang Catholic Church. He works in a local law firm.

"It's pretty surreal to be at the



HERALD FILE PHOTO

Harker Heights High School is seen March 1, 2018.

top," said Kennison. "There are so many talented seniors. I have the support of the staff at Harker Heights High School to thank."

The daughter of Sam and Jennifer Kennison has lived in six states. Her dad is retired from the military and her mother is an elementary school teacher. She attended Union Grove Middle School. Her sister Katie Kennison is finishing her freshman year at Harker Heights High School.

The salutatorian has taken numerous AP and dual credit courses, especially in STEM fields. She has been active in Key Club and Project Linus and a four-year varsity member of the swim team. She is the captain this year.

"I tried out for swim team my freshman year and made varsity and that motivated me," she said. "I've developed strong relationships on the team and that has made a difference."

Kennison has gone well beyond the rigorous physical demands of competitive swim, implementing new levels of communicating and celebrating the team's accomplishments. She has been a lifeguard and has coached middle school swimmers.

She plans to attend the University of Texas as part of the Freshman Research Initiative and study math to enter a research or data analysis field.

Harker Heights High School graduation is set for 2 p.m. Friday, May 28 at the Bell County Expo Center.



**SARAH
KENNISON**

CLASS OF 2021
Harker Heights High School
Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:

DAVID ROSENBAUM

Killeen ISD Education Foundation



Designed by **KDH MEDIA GROUP**



**SEBASTIAN
NAU**

CLASS OF 2021
Harker Heights High School
Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:

BUNKLEY MORRIS

Killeen ISD Education Foundation



Designed by **KDH MEDIA GROUP**



MODERN APPLIANCE

CLASS OF 2021
Harker Heights High School
Thank you
for sponsoring our top
ten students
and teachers.



MODERN APPLIANCE

Designed by **KDH MEDIA GROUP**

Early College students reflect on high expectations

BY TODD MARTIN
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

The top-ranked graduate for Killeen ISD Early College High School's Class of 2021 held the top spot for four years, but said the position is not as important to her as personal growth.

Jenny Stinehour is the valedictorian and Angel Zavala is salutatorian for the third graduation class of Early College High School, a partnership program between KISD and Central Texas College.

"It's stressful," the top graduate said. "There is expectation to maintain that high rank. I don't emphasize it the way I did. Academics are



COURTESY PHOTO

Early College High School valedictorian Jenny Stinehour.

important, but not as important as personal growth."

The Early College valedictorian lived most of her early life in Canada and China, moving to Killeen in time to attend



COURTESY PHOTO

Early College High School salutatorian Angel Zavala.

Patterson Middle School in eighth grade before entering ECHS.

"I knew I wanted to attend Early College," said Stinehour, explaining that earning two years of college credit would

help her explore academically as a computer science student at the University of Texas.

She has participated in the CTC Math and Engineering Club, been a tutor and volunteered for the Red Cross as a youth ambassador.

Stinehour also participated in a cybersecurity competition called "Hack-a-Thon," where she rose to the top 3 among girls in Texas.

"I've learned a lot in high school," she said, "but college is a new start with lots of options to explore."

In preparation for giving her graduation speech, Stinehour

PLEASE SEE **COLLEGE, 18**



ASHLEIGH CHARLES

CLASS OF 2021
Harker Heights High School

Always remember you are BRAVER than you believe, STRONGER than you seem, SMARTER than you think and LOVED more than you know. We are so proud of you and all your accomplishments. Love ~ MOM, DAD & MICHAEL

Designed by KDH MEDIA GROUP

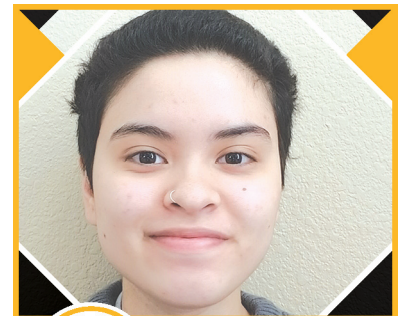


BRIANNA WASHINGTON

CLASS OF 2021
Harker Heights High School

Brianna, You are an amazing young lady. We are so very proud of this new milestone you have accomplished! It is with much joy that I take the honor in calling you my daughter. Congratulations we love you. Mom Taliah and Prince

Designed by KDH MEDIA GROUP



AERITH MARRUFO

CLASS OF 2021
Early College High School

Congratulations! Top Ten Academic Student and chosen Distinguished Teacher:

GEANNA LUNA

Killeen ISD Education Foundation



Designed by KDH MEDIA GROUP



**ANGEL SEBASTIAN
ZAVALA CUSTODIO**

CLASS OF 2021
Early College High School
Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:
TINA QUINN
Killeen ISD Education Foundation


 Designed by  KDH MEDIA GROUP



**AZHIA
SANGALANG**

CLASS OF 2021
Early College High School
Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:
CINDY TREDWAY
Killeen ISD Education Foundation


 Designed by  KDH MEDIA GROUP



**JAJDA
HOLLEY**

CLASS OF 2021
Early College High School
Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:
SHEWANDA BLACKMAN
Killeen ISD Education Foundation


 Designed by  KDH MEDIA GROUP

Congratulations, Early College class of 2021!



**JENNY
STINEHOUR**

CLASS OF 2021
Early College High School
Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:
CYNTHIA JIMENEZ
Killeen ISD Education Foundation


 Designed by  KDH MEDIA GROUP



**JONEA
BALMONTE
MESNGON**


CLASS OF 2021
Early College High School
Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:
JENNIFER ELLISON
Killeen ISD Education Foundation


 Designed by  KDH MEDIA GROUP



**JOSE
CANCEL**

CLASS OF 2021
Early College High School
Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:
MONIQUE BAKKEN
Killeen ISD Education Foundation


 Designed by  KDH MEDIA GROUP

COLLEGE

FROM PAGE 16

conducted a survey among her classmates.

She found that her peers emphasized a range of thoughts from comparing the school to a family, being pushed beyond their limits and making lots of friends.

The second-ranked Class of 2021 Early College High School graduate agreed there is high expectations for students at the top of the rankings. He said he didn't feel different than any other student.

"There are moments I feel afraid and confused, especially when it comes to college," he said. "However, I am very fortunate to have gone to a high school that feels like family every day."

He took part in an American Sign Language Club and volunteered at Variety's Peaceable Kingdom. He was also a peer tutor.

The son of Armando Zavala-Vega and Rita Zavala plans to at-



MARIAH LANDRY

CLASS OF 2021
Early College High School

Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:

CHAD PETTIT

Killeen ISD Education Foundation



Designed by **KDH MEDIA GROUP**



NATHAN HERNANDEZ

CLASS OF 2021
Early College High School

Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:

ASHLEY CARRISALEZ

Killeen ISD Education Foundation



Designed by **KDH MEDIA GROUP**

tend the University of Texas and study neuroscience and is part of the Freshmen Research Initiative. He plans to work in the medical field.

The top graduates earned

associate's degrees from Central Texas College earlier this month. The Early College High School graduation is scheduled for 2 p.m. Thursday, May 27 at the Bell County Expo Center.



RUTH FELICIANO

CLASS OF 2021
Early College High School

Congratulations!
Top Ten Academic Student
and chosen
Distinguished Teacher:

MARGARET THURMAN

Killeen ISD Education Foundation



Designed by **KDH MEDIA GROUP**



SUBHANI FOUNDATION

CLASS OF 2021
Early College High School

Thank you
for sponsoring our top
ten students
and teachers.



SUBHANI FOUNDATION

Designed by **KDH MEDIA GROUP**



ANIA MARTIN

CLASS OF 2021
Early College High School

You did it! We are proud of you Ania. Graduating with a High School Diploma and an Associates Degree is a huge accomplishment. You're destined to do great things!

Designed by **KDH MEDIA GROUP**

Top 2 Cove High grads both attending same university

BY THADDEUS IMERMAN

KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Though their desired academic fields of study and career paths are different from one another, both of Copperas Cove High's top two graduates will attend the same institution of higher learning — Texas A&M University in College Station.

Valedictorian Alexcia Gaines, 18, will study biomedical science with plans to eventually be accepted into veterinary school.

"I have planned this path with my strengths (science and math) in mind, and I enjoy spending time with and helping out animals," Gaines said via email.

She said that aside getting into veterinary school, going to Texas A&M was her next biggest goal.

"It is the bridge between my dream career and where I am now," Gaines said. "It will be an all-new experience for me, and I look forward to it with anticipation."

Salutatorian Kacy Carter, 17, will be attending Texas A&M to study aerospace engineering.

"After college I hope to enter the aerospace field and get a job dealing with humanity's future in space," Carter said via email.

Her passion for the field developed out of a longtime interest in the vast expanse.

"I have always been interested in space, and aerospace engineering allows me to combine my strength in math with my passion for space/science," she said.

Both Gaines and Carter credited various teachers with helping them realize their dreams and passions.

Gaines, who finished with a grade-point average of 5.07, credited Douglas Messer, a pre-



COURTESY PHOTO

Copperas Cove High School valedictorian Alexcia Gaines.

advanced placement biology teacher from her freshman year.

"He really helped me come out of my shell and realize the potential I had," Gaines said.

Carter, whose GPA was 4.95, said that teachers Tad Laver and Tim Smith as helping fuel her interest in math and engineering.

"Mr. Laver and Mr. Smith have been my math and engineering teachers for multiple classes, and they have definitely prepared me for college," Carter said. "Their classes are the most memorable, as they find ways to make a fun environment while still teaching."

Both Gaines and Carter described the feeling of graduating as "unreal" or "bittersweet." They both also said the time has "flown by."

"I still remember my first couple days of freshman year, getting lost in the halls and asking for directions. Four years have flown by fast," Carter said.

"... One second, we were just walking through the front doors, and now we are going to be walking across the stage," Gaines said.



COURTESY PHOTO

Copperas Cove High School salutatorian Kacy Carter.

Both said they will miss their friends, but they are excited to begin their new journeys.

Gaines is the daughter of Dwayne and Lori Gaines.

Carter is the daughter of Kirby and Florenda Carter. She has three siblings: Robert, Brandon and Kevin Carter.



ELIJAH JACOB SMITH

CLASS OF 2021
Copperas Cove High School

Congratulations, Elijah! I'm so proud of you. You've grown into a wonderful and caring Christian young man. Wishing you God's blessings now and forever.

Love and hugs,
Memere

Designed by  KDH MEDIA GROUP

Lampasas top students look toward the future

BY LAUREN DODD
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Two Lampasas High School seniors with the highest honors from the class of 2021 already have their sights set on the next four years of their academic careers.

Valedictorian Addison McDonald, 18, will attend Texas A&M University – College Station, where she will pursue a degree in allied health.

Salutatorian Cole Wheeler, 18, will attend the University of Texas at Austin in pursuit of a degree that will set him up to go to law school after college.

Both students said they felt a sense of relief to be closing their high school chapters on a high note.



COURTESY PHOTO

Lampasas High School valedictorian Addison McDonald.

ADDISON MCDONALD

During her four years at Lampasas High School, McDonald said she would credit her time on the basketball team — most recently as team captain — for instilling in her the drive to win.

“I’ve always had a



COURTESY PHOTO

Lampasas High School salutatorian Cole Wheeler.

determination or will to win, I was the most stubborn two-year-old you ever met,” she said. “Sports helped me a lot in expanding that.”

As graduation day nears, and her high school chapter comes to a close, she said she is left with a sense of calm.

“It’s a relief, because it was a lot of hard work and a lot of stress to get here,” she said.

When asked what advice she would give her younger self or incoming freshmen, she said she would tell them “Grades are a lot more important than you think they are.”

McDonald thanked her parents, April and Scott McDonald, and a few key teachers — Coach Race and Mr. Guszak — for helping her stay focused in the years leading up to graduation.

Now, the Lampasas senior has her eyes set on her next greatest achievement — college.

From the age of 8,

PLEASE SEE **LAMPASAS, 21**



ADDISON BRADFORD

CLASS OF 2021
Mountain View Elementary School

We are so proud
of you!
Love, Mommy, Daddy
& Charley

Designed by KDH MEDIA GROUP



LASHAWN LEWIS

CLASS OF 2021
Cedar Valley Elementary

Congratulations on graduating to Middle School!!! We are so proud of you June bug. May your future be everything you want and wish for!
Love, Mommy, Titi Lesley, Titi Iris, Titi Jera, Anisa, Josani, Xiomara, Uncle Aaron, Mimi, Peepaw, Papa & Yaya

Designed by KDH MEDIA GROUP



MADISON SMITH

CLASS OF 2021
Cedar Valley Elementary

Congratulations on graduating elementary school! We look forward to all the wonderful accomplishments you will have in middle school. We love you and are proud of you!
Love, Mommy, Daddy, and Kennedy

Designed by KDH MEDIA GROUP

LAMPASAS

FROM PAGE 20

when a friend's aunt was diagnosed with cancer, McDonald said she knew she wanted to pursue a career in the field of medicine.

"I've always wanted to help people," she told the Herald.

McDonald, a soon-to-be fifth-generation Aggie, said she aspires to become a physician's assistant after college.

"I'm very excited, I cannot wait," she said.

COLE WHEELER

Salutatorian Cole Wheeler said four years of hard work is finally paying off.

"It's just a good feeling," Wheeler said.

After UT, Wheeler said he is looking forward to graduate school, where he hopes to get into a good law school, become a lawyer, and one day go into politics.

He credits his natural drive for achieving the highly coveted salutatorian title.

"I'm pretty driven," he said. "My biggest thing is I don't like to give up. I like to work hard. I'm very results oriented and always thinking about the future."

Although time consuming pursuits, he said his four years in debate and theater helped prepare him for his future political career.

When asked what advice he'd give incoming freshman, he said "Don't give up, stay focused, and enjoy your time in high school because it goes by super fast."

Wheeler thanked his parents, Haley and Shawn Wheeler, for their unwavering support over the years.

What's next GRADUATES?



FIND OUT WHY CTC IS THE #1 CHOICE OF LOCAL GRADS!

- **Most affordable classroom and online courses in the region**
- **Prepare for transfer OR train for an in-demand job**

**SUMMER TERMS
BEGIN JUNE 7 AND
JULY 12**

**FALL TERM BEGINS
AUGUST 23**



www.ctcd.edu/explore
LOCAL • AFFORDABLE • DIVERSE

Two tie for valedictorian at Gatesville High

BY LAUREN DODD
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Gatesville High School will feature two valedictorians, and one salutatorian, as two students tied this year for the highest high school honor.

Valedictorian Nate Bartlett, 17, will share the title with his classmate and fellow valedictorian Shy Tatum, 18.

Nate Bartlett will attend Texas A&M University — College Station in the fall along with his twin brother and salutatorian Joshua Bartlett, 17, and fellow valedictorian Shy Tatum.

NATE BARTLETT

Four years of hard work and dedication is what Bartlett attributes his success in achieving the highest high school honor.

“Hard work really does pay off,” he said.

To achieve valedictorian status, he said, a student must be “hard working, patient, and able to pay attention.”

Bartlett is an Eagle Scout for Boy Scout Troop 201 and the Gatesville chapter treasurer for his local FFA group. He also played the trombone in his high school band for three years and plays guitar on the weekend in the band at Trinity Baptist Church.

He said he plans to



COURTESY PHOTO

Gatesville High School valedictorian Nate Bartlett.

pursue the field of veterinary medicine at A&M-College Station next year, a lifelong dream for the senior.

“I’ve wanted to be a veterinarian ever since I was a little kid,” he said. “Through FFA and the Boy Scouts, I learned and cultivated a passion for working with animals.”

His agriculture teachers are the high school mentors, he said, he will miss the most.

When asked what advice he’d pass along to



COURTESY PHOTO

Gatesville High School valedictorian Shy Tatum.

incoming freshmen he said, “Study harder than you think you need to study.”

Bartlett is the son of Jody and Karie Bartlett.

SHY TATUM

Gatesville High School senior Shy Tatum said earning the title of valedictorian has been a long-held goal of his for the past four years.

“It means a lot to me,” Tatum said. “Ever since I was a freshman, I’ve been looking forward to being the valedictorian.”



COURTESY PHOTO

Gatesville High School salutatorian Joshua Bartlett.

The senior said he didn’t mind sharing the title.

“I’ve had super intense competition the whole time, and it’s been super fun and exciting,” he said. “Now that I’m finally here, it’s made me very happy.”

Tatum plans to attend A&M-College Station in the fall in pursuit of a degree in engineering.

“I’ve always been into problem solving and creativity — that’s what

PLEASE SEE **GATESVILLE, 23**



Dr. Mellinda Esther Stewart



We are proud and humbled to share the long awaited success of our daughter Dr. Mellinda Esther Stewart. Mellinda has preserved throughout blessings and hardships to complete the final leg of her education from the University of Incarnate Word in May 7, 2021. We would like to collectively thank each and every teacher, professor, mentor, staff member, counselor, friend and family member who contributed to her success in her obtaining her Doctorate in Optometry. **Mellinda has reached the stars. Love Mom and Dad.**

Florence ISD's top students to express creative spirits

BY EMILY HILLEY-SIERZCHULA

HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Both of Florence High School's top achievers are planning to express their creative spirits by majoring in computer science after high school.

Valedictorian Shadow Sincross will be attending the University of Texas after graduation.

Tarleton State University is the destination for Salutatorian Kyle Earp, who will be working toward a double-major



COURTESY PHOTO

Florence High School valedictorian Shadow Sincross.

in mathematics.



COURTESY PHOTO

Florence High School salutatorian Kyle Earp.

After she earns her

computer science degree, Sincross plans to pursue a career full of passion.

"I want a profession that gives me the best opportunity to be able to create with the most freedom," she said.

For Earp, college is about learning more about the subjects he's interested in, like math, computer science and agriculture.

Both Sincross and Earp were thankful

PLEASE SEE **FLORENCE, 24**

GATESVILLE

FROM PAGE 22

I've always been best at — which is why engineering struck my interest," he said.

Both on the court, as a varsity tennis player, and in his high school classes, Tatum credited his strong competitive nature for his success.

"I don't like losing," he said. "When I saw I had the ability to get valedictorian, I definitely wasn't going to let that slip up. My competitive drive really pushed me through these four years to get me to where I am today."

When asked what advice he'd pass along to Gatesville freshmen, he said "Try your hardest. Always put the most effort in as you can, because you never know when you might slip up."

As his high school chapter comes to a close, Tatum said he will miss the time spent with his high school friends the most.

Tatum thanked his parents,

Marla and Justin Tatum, for their support during his high school years.

JOSHUA BARTLETT

Salutatorian Joshua Bartlett said he looks forward to his next chapter at A&M-College Station, where he will pursue a degree in chemical engineering.

"I've always enjoyed understanding the mechanisms behind different contraptions we have around the house," Bartlett said.

Earning his engineering merit badge through the Boy Scouts helped the Eagle Scout decide chemical engineering was his career of choice.

Bartlett was a trombonist in the school band and played guitar in the worship team at Trinity Baptist Church on the weekends.

Earning the high honor of salutatorian was the cherry on the cake of his high school career.

"I'm thrilled," he said of the honor.

With the perspective of four years of high school now behind him, Bartlett said he would ad-

vised incoming freshmen to "study, get involved in activities they enjoy, work the hardest to become the best student you can be, and remember high school doesn't last forever."



GENESIS N. MYERS

CLASS OF 2021

Louisiana State University
Genesis Congratulations on a Great accomplishment.
May God continue to Bless you in all your future endeavors!

Love: Mom, Jimmy, GrandMa, Marcus and Julius
B.S. Business & Marketing

Designed by **KDH MEDIA GROUP**

FLORENCE

FROM PAGE 23

for the support they've gotten through the years.

"I never, ever, would've achieved this honor without the constant help and support of my family, teachers, and peers," Sincross said.

Earp also had the support of family members.

"I think I've been able to achieve this high honor because of my family's support and my God-given talents, Earp said.

SHADOW SINCROSS

Sincross is a creative person, constantly expanding her artistic skill set to include traditional art, robotics and, most recently, knitting and sewing.

"I love art — I love making it, seeing it, experiencing it, and everything in between. I've been drawing and painting ever since a girl at a family reunion handed me a doodle of a chameleon that she drew," Sincross said. "Since then, I've been enamored with the process and hard work it takes."

She's honed her creative instincts while at Florence High School.

"I've been given room to grow, and make mistakes, during the last four years," she said. "The best part of high school has been the ability, opportunity, and time given to me to find out who I am and what I want to do with the rest of my life."

COVID-19, with all the disruption it wrought, has been an opportunity for growth.

"I've had to adapt to many new and strange situations, just as almost everyone else has," Sincross said. "I learned how to be alone...I have my family, but there was this new sense of isolation that was alien to me. I had to learn to be self-sufficient and disciplined."

No teenager is isolated from a tumultuous world, but for Sincross it's been fuel to her fire.

"The many protests and the election opened my eyes to the reality of the world and the change I want to make in it," she said. "If I were to tell my grandkids what I've learned from this experience, it would be not to take anything for granted and to cherish the moments they have with the people they love."

SALUTATORIAN KYLE EARP

High school is full of memories for Earp, who was the FFA chapter's Student Advisor. He also

played saxophone for the Florence High School Concert and Marching Band.

"The best part of my high school career has been the experiences I had with my bandmates and the members in my FFA chapter," he said. "Going to band competitions and FFA conventions have been a blast and I'll cherish all of my memories. I am going to miss all the friends I've made in high school."

For teens like Earp, the pandemic has been a chance to grow.

"I've learned to be more responsible with my time and work," he said. "At the beginning of the lock-in I had to learn from home, and this new experience taught me how to focus on finishing schoolwork."

Just when Earp was getting used to remote learning, it was time to return to the classroom.

"When I was able to come back to school in-person I learned how to handle changes to a regular routine," he said. "Many of our regular school events had been canceled and I had to compensate for that. I would tell my grandkids someday that it's important to know how to manage time effectively and have the ability to be flexible to changes but be firm in your beliefs."

GOOD HELP IS EASY TO FIND!



JOBSCENTRALTEXAS.COM

Powered by the Temple Daily Telegram and the Killeen Daily Herald

Your advertisement will reach a network of more than 2,000 job boards through a leading online recruitment platform. Using a cutting edge job matching service, JobsCentralTexas delivers your job to the right job seeker in your area!

DAILY HERALD
Better than ever!
(254) 501-7500

TEMPLE DAILY TELEGRAM
(254) 778-4444



CTC recognizes Spring 2021 graduates

BY BRUCE VASBINDER
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

Central Texas College (CTC) held spring graduation ceremonies on Friday, May 14 at the Bell County Expo Center. Two commencements, one at 11 a.m. and the second at 4 p.m., were held to allow for proper safe distancing. Of the 1,330 CTC graduates worldwide, nearly 400 of them combined were expected to participate in the ceremonies to receive their associate degrees of science, arts, applied science as well as certificates of completion. Keynote speaker, Senator Dawn Buckingham, provided a virtual commencement address. Graduates also received virtual greetings from Colonel Jason Wesbrock, Fort Hood Garrison commander.

While most graduates were from the central Texas area, some distance learners and students from the CTC Europe campus and continental sites in Georgia, Washington, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Kansas, Arizona, California, Minnesota and Mississippi also indicated plans to attend the commencement. The average age of the CTC graduates was 26 years with the oldest graduate at 60 years of age and the youngest at 17.

The graduating class

included various active-duty military personnel and family members. These were 72 soldiers in the U.S. Army, three members of the U.S. Navy, two members of the U.S. Air Force, one Marine, 104 military family members and 196 civilians. Also, among the marchers were 162 Early College High School (ECHS) students and 14 STEM students.

Twelve students achieved highest honors for maintaining a 4.0 grade point average while completing their degree plans, nine of which are ECHS students. Recognized during the morning commencement were Stefanie Cammuca, Ruth Feliciano (ECHS), Matthew Firth, Nathan Hernandez (ECHS), Danica Komlofske (ECHS) and Cameron Raimond (ECHS). Highest honors graduates cited in the afternoon ceremony were Rodolfo Alvarez (ECHS), Jonea Balmont-Mesngon (ECHS), Cassandra Rowson (ECHS), Kirah Smith (ECHS), Alexis Willett and Angel Zavala-Custudio (ECHS).

Participants in the CTC spring 2021 graduation were:

KILLEEN

Associate of Applied Science:

Elizabeth Akosah, Arianna Benjamin, Jaleksa Branch, John



LAUREN DODD | HERALD

Erik Helms, 41, and his daughter, Krista Helms, 22, graduated Friday with their associate degrees from Central Texas College.

Brown-Skipper, Vanessa Cardona Arroyave, Vanessa Collazo Vélez, Cedric Davis, Godwin Deroseney, Samantha Elmsore, April Ford, Tyeshia Foster, Odette Garraway, Arturo Gonzalez Miranda, Tiffany Gibson, Kirsten Graham, Quincy Green, Tonuette Green, James Griffin, Ashley Grisham, Yendi Herrera, Lindsay Kelly, Tarab Khan, Arielle Koester Kittle, Jazzmin Ledesma, Jeannette Lugo-Smith, Bintu Moriba, Sandra Mortenson, LaCrissa Napoles, Glenmaris Pruneda-Ozuna, Bradley Retz, Myreah Rodriguez, Emerald Solomon, Emily Scotton, Charles

Shores, Derrick Talley, Riley Tidwell, Jessica Villate, Amanda Warren, Regina Wesson, Desiree Wickham, Deirdre Willis and Robin Young.

Associate of Arts:

Adrienne Alacar, Rodolfo Alvarez, Osmond Amoako, Kenneth Anderson Jr., Nevaeh Andrade, Aaliyah Armandariz, Rubbie Avilanoza, Fabian Balarezo, Jonea Balmonte-Mesngon, Cassandra Barazara, Alexzjandria Benjamin — King, Ianna Bernard, Taylor Betz, Brianna Bowman, Michelle Breedlove, Jessica Burghardt, Julie Burney, Sylvia Cabria-

PLEASE SEE **CTC, 26**

les, Jose Cancel, Jaelen Capers, Yisel Valenzuela, Sharmaine Carter, Jala Colbert, Anasia Coles, Kvian Conner, Panya Cross, Matthew Cruz, Maisie Daniel, Alexandria Deem, Niles Denton, Karina Dominguez, Keyonna Dorvil, Layla Dukes, Jocelyn Eclarino, Kevin Elliott, Caden Emilson, Jalissa Evans, Elizabeth Ferguson, Octavius Fields, Tricia Finkbeiner, Diego Fraguada, Jakaiyah Franklin, Mareyaletza Galarza-Reyes, Sydney Galbreth, Kayla Garmon, Celestina Garrido, Keshawn Gibson, Kaniya Girard, Alexis Graham, Martiz Green, Kaylee Guauque, John Joshua Gundran, Isabella Guzman, Samarah Haines, Courtney Haley-Jones, Shyann Hancock, Joshua Heldt, Nathan Hernandez, Jennifer Hester, Savana Hildreth, Jaida Holley, Malik Holt, Kyren Hughley, Jahnese Humes, Carina Irizarry, Jasmine James, Kisaiah Johns, Prince Johnson, Brandy Johnson, Seth Johnson, Tekyah Jordan, Solimar Justiniano Dieppa, Meliokalani Kaholo, Emily King, Victoria Kinkead, Danica Komlofske, Gabriella Krause, Talysa Laboy Soto, Ivana Lagunes, Mariah Landry, Shaniya Lane, Montserrat Larios Marquez, Kealoha Leon Guerrero, Evelyn Lewis,

Keandra Lewis, Taylor Lomax, Audrey Luera, Hunter Mace, Deandré Macri, David Manso, Ashley Marquez, Jadia Martinez, Thalia Maysonet Lopez, Isabella McBride, Alijah McGuire, Austin Moore, Jaylen Moore, Eduardo Negrere, Demorie Nevels, Jacquelyn Olivas, Paul Orellana, Allison Otis, Jacob Paprzycki, Jake Parker, Tameronlyn Patterson, Tira Peaches, Logan Perkins, Mackenzie Pryce, Havalyn Purifoy, Cameron Raimond, Alexis Ray, Daniel Reina, Keyonda Rhoden, Kéyla Robbins, Arianna Rodriguez, Richard Rogers Jr., Desiree Rose, Jasmyne Rush, J'nae Sancho, Azhia Sangalang, Serena Sarabia, Phillip Saucedo, Genesis Seibel, Nylia Shaw, Cassandra Simms, Corey Simpson, Jada Smith, Kirah Smith, Tacoya Smith, Paige Spikes, Daisy Suarez, Lilian Sustaita, Janecia Taylor, Mark Thomas Jr., Natalie Thompson, Taimane Timarky, Christian Ubiles-Ortiz, Mariah Vachon, Pamela Valdez, Miguel Viera, Justin Walker, Chantel Wall, Sydney Washburn, James Weeden, George White, Cole Wilkin, Charlene Williams, Robyn Wilson, Jordan Wolf, Jerri Yeager, Nylah Yuille, Angel Zavala Custodio and Leana Zimmerman.

Associate of Science:

Niles Denton, Alan Flores, Debra Fourzan, Sharon Gamble, Acacia

Kemper, Autumn Morris, Ravashen Ramsey and Melonn Siner:

Certificate of Completion:

Daniel Almendarez, Steven Bailey Jr., Frank Bynum, Rosa Carr, Delane Coleman, Cortney Cooper, Bobby Cummings, Otis Drakeford Jr., Julia Erb, James Griffin, Rebecca Hokanson and Regina Wesson.

HARKER HEIGHTS

Associate of Applied Science:

Brooke Barkdull, Tyler Dadey, Jennifer Frierson, Alias Fuentes, Robin Goodwin, Josh Llano and Amber Riley.

Associate of Arts:

Christina Adams, Natalie Beliveau, Brendon Blancaflor, Venicia Brooks, Nasia Burrell, Katharine Charles, Jamal Close, Denver Denton, Tya Goolsby, Apryl Harris, Krista Helms, Jasmine Henderson, Syann Iosefo, Katherine Jimenez, TyRon Jones, Kaydence Kayser, Madisyn Kirven, Hayden Kropp, Sean Lopez, Angeliqwe McConway, Mykenzie Meredith, Alyssa Morris, Jessica Mull, Anicia Peredo, Steven Queiro, Eternity Reyes, Cassandra Rowson, Anjessica Sammons-McRae, Audriana Smothers, Johanna Talamantez, Carolyn Tilley, Derick Tran, Annalissa Vuiyanuca, Kayla Ashanti Ward and Jude Wood.

Associate of Science:

Erik Helms, Antwion

Lewis and Daniela Varela.

Certificate of Completion:

Tyler Dadey, Keuntae McKenzie and Mikayla Mason.

FORT HOOD

Associate of Applied Science:

Kelsi Constable, Maryn Hoisington, Destanee Horn, Jennifer King and Tamika Richardson.

Associate of Arts:

Arthur Burgoyne III., Jenna Chiarini, Jasmine Floyd, Tyler Fox, Kimberly James, Alrenetta Lelauti, Inaayah Makonnen, Ania Martin, Jeneria Matthews, Madisyn Montgomery, Dahlia Perales, Danielle Pettit, Andre Richardson Jr. and Algenis Romero.

Associate of Science:

Courtney Black and Samantha Reinke

COPPERAS COVE

Associate of Applied Science:

Nan Campbell, Amber Logsdon, Stephanie Lopez, Leilani Naigan, Katherine Nelson, Madeline Nuñez, Worrawat Waterhouse and Shana Young.

Associate of Arts:

Jalayah Atemnkeng, Jessica Drye, Astelia Luteli, Jason Martin, Araceli Martinez, Erica Morla, Sarah Nuñez, Trennon Pa'au, Tammy Posey, Maria Rice, Alexxis Smith and Chante'l Villegas.

Associate of Science:

PLEASE SEE **CTC, 27**

CTC

FROM PAGE 26

Noah Samarripa and
Chenyang Yuan

Certificate of Completion:

Maegan Barcus, Nan
Campbell and Brittany
Simpkins.

KEMPNER

**Associate of Applied
Science:**

Amber Grant

Associate of Arts:

Wesli Fogle

Associate of Science:

Riggen Hughes

GATESVILLE

Associate of Arts:

Katherine Hunt

LAMPASAS

**Associate of Applied
Science:**

Hailee Walker

Associate of Arts:

Carmen Ferrer and
Elia Parra

MARBLE FALLS

**Associate of Applied
Science:**

Angelica Knapp

Associate of Arts:

Brianna Rodriguez

BURNET

Associate of Arts:

Moriah Sordelet

BUCHANAN DAM

**Associate of Applied
Science:**

Hailey Mize

NOLANVILLE

**Associate of Applied
Science:**

Genevieve Richburg
and Shania Thomas



LAUREN DODD | HERALD

Chancellor Jim Yeonopolus speaks at the first of two CTC graduations May 14.

Associate of Arts:

Imanol Murguia
Vazquez, Joely Puckett,
Yalena Wallace and
Alyssa White

Certificate of Completion:

Jasmine Colona, Madison
Goins and Jorja
Washington

BELTON

**Associate of Applied
Science:**

Gabriela Bunch and
Dae Quann Mitchell

Associate of Arts:

Gwyneth Chargualaf,
Tanner Elmore and
Shone Morrow

Associate of Science:

Matthew Firth

Certificate of Completion:

Ann Whalen

TEMPLE

**Associate of Applied
Science:**

Charisma Abernathy
and Tiffany Larkin

Associate of Arts:

Juan Canales, Jokeisha
Hemphill and Alex-

andra Thomson

CAMERON

Associate of Science:

Ana Bowman

WACO

Associate of Arts:

Jahmilya Jones-Bledsoe

GEORGETOWN

Associate of Arts:

Hannah Howell

ROUND ROCK

Associate of Arts:

Oluwatobi Okeowo
and Louis Salas

AUSTIN

Associate of Arts:

Julia Rodriguez De la
Rosa

SAN MARCOS

Associate of Arts:

Duane Charping

SPICEWOOD

Associate of Science:

Katie Green

ARLINGTON

Associate of Arts:

Rickie Richards II.

BERTRAM

**Associate of Applied
Science:**

Graciela Suarez

BROWNWOOD

Associate of Arts:

Kalisha Schafer

GARLAND

**Associate of Applied
Science:**

Marshet Tasew

LIVERPOOL

Certificate of Completion:

Stephanie Nance

NIEDERWALD

Certificate of Completion:

Nikkola Borja

SAN ANTONIO

**Associate of Applied
Science:**

Guadalupe Galvan
Acosta

Associate of Arts:

Alexia Ware

A&M-Central Texas hosts on-campus graduation

BY KRISTEN MERIWETHER
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Texas A&M University-Central Texas held its commencement on May 15. Normally held in front of hundreds at the Bell County Expo Center, the university had to get creative to ensure their graduates and family could experience the annual rite of passage safely with COVID.

The university held the on-campus walk-through commencement at Warrior Hall with the graduates divided into three ceremonies by college. A total of 238 undergraduate degrees and 61 graduate degrees were given out on Saturday.



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CENTRAL TEXAS

A crowd outside the Texas A&M University-Central Texas graduation May 15.

urday.

Up to five friends or family members were allowed to watch their

graduate pick up their degree. Standing behind blue velvet rope situated a safe distance from the

stage, they snapped photos, clapped and cheered before being ushered out for the next graduate. While not quite the boisterous applause normally offered at the Expo Center ceremonies, it was an opportunity to be closer than most would be able to get in a traditional ceremony.

University President Mark Nigliazzo said they offered a similar ceremony in the fall and because it was so well-received by graduates and their families, they brought it back for the spring.

This was the 11th commencement ceremony at A&M-Central Texas for Nigliazzo, but he said it never gets old.

“When you cross that stage, there is a magic



KRISTEN MERIWETHER | HERALD

Families snap photos at the Texas A&M University-Central Texas commencement ceremony on May 15 in Killeen.

PLEASE SEE **A&M, 29**

A&M

FROM PAGE 28

that occurs there. You are a graduate now. That's meaningful," Nigliazzo said in an interview with the Herald. "Every hand I grasp, that's a story. That's a dream."

One student living his dream was Benny Hernandez III. He picked up his Bachelor of Science in liberal studies on Saturday after starting his degree in Houston nearly 20 years ago.

Hernandez, 41, said he started his degree but his pursuit was interrupted when he was sent to prison for 10 years. While serving his sentence he re-enrolled in college and worked towards finishing his undergraduate degree behind bars.

While in prison he saw one of his close friends sexually assaulted, but when the friend tried to report it, Hernandez said the friend was told to keep quiet.

"It was devastating to him, his family, and to me to see someone reach out for help and not get the help they needed," Hernandez said Saturday.

The incident led him to pursue a path in criminal justice reform and prisoners rights. He will pursue his masters degree this fall at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas.

Wearing T-shirts that said proud sister or dad of the 2021 graduate, Hernandez had a loud cheering section as he crossed the stage.

"To have that accomplishment feels like he made the best of a really bad situation," his sister, Frances Hunt, 39, said. "He didn't let prison stop him. That's the most motivational part for us."

Hernandez said he hopes to share his experience with legislators in hopes of bringing oversight to the Texas prison system.



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CENTRAL TEXAS

Benny Hernandez III gets a hug from a family member after his graduation at Texas A&M University-Central Texas on May 15 in Killeen.

"I'm excited about the future and the LBJ School and all the

possibilities that are out there," Hernandez said.

KDH
MEDIA
GROUP

**PRINT MORE.
SAVE MORE.**

Business Cards, Flyers,
Mailers, Booklets,
NCR Forms, Letterhead,
Logo Design Services,
Graphic Design Services,
Brochures, Labels/Stickers,
Banners, Folders, Magazines,
Booklets/Programs,
Newspapers & more!

CARBONLESS FORMS

**CONTACT US TODAY FOR A
FREE QUOTE OR CONSULTATION!**
254.501.7590 | sdonna@kdhnews.com

Over 400 students receive degrees at UMHB commencement

BY LARRY CAUSEY
FME NEWS SERVICE

BELTON — The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor held a commencement ceremony for its 165th graduating class May 8 in Crusader Stadium, as 490 students received degrees, including 415 baccalaureate degrees, 57 master's degrees and 18 doctoral degrees.

UMHB President Randy O'Rear praised students for their dedication and determination to complete their degrees in unprecedented times.

"During your junior year, the COVID-19 pandemic altered almost every aspect of college life," he said. "It was the longest spring break of all our lives. As seniors, you also survived the once-in-a-lifetime winter storm. These things helped you learn to be intentional and to not take anything, even the little things, for granted. I hope that is one lesson that stays with you as you leave UMHB."

The ceremony was partially virtual, lacking a printed program, and skipping such formalities as the opening procession. The home side of the stadium was fairly well filled, and a smaller number on the visitor's side braved the glare of the lowering sun.

Due to safety protocols, O'Rear said, most faculty



COURTESY PHOTO

David Castles of Bullard, left, receives the President's Award for meritorious service May 8 from University of Mary Hardin-Baylor President Randy O'Rear during a commencement ceremony at Crusader Stadium in Belton.

and staff did not attend. Nevertheless, he said, they "stand alongside and care deeply for the graduates."

"I am also grateful to our board of trustees," he said. "Thank you for your leadership."

He then asked all graduates and members of the audience who were past or present members of the U.S. armed forces to stand and be honored.

"Thank you for defending our freedom," he said.

O'Rear ran through a few graduation one-liners, such as "Every accomplishment always starts with the decision to try" and "Don't tell me the sky is the limit when there are footprints on the moon."

David Holcomb, director of the honors

program, introduced five students who met the requirements for the honors program. He pointed out that they not only had to do the coursework but also undertake a senior research project. He named Lezley Garcia of Pharr as magna cum laude. He named Scarlett Gardner of Harker Heights, Regan Murr of San Marcos, Rebecca Pantalione of Tomball and Megan Skains of Huntsville, all as summa cum laude.

Miriam Osterlund of Midland and Stephen Rowe of Texas City were awarded the Loyalty Cup, given to the student most representative of the ideals, traditions and spirit of the university.

David Castles of Bullard received the President's Award for

meritorious service.

Three officers were commissioned during the ceremony: Alexandra Dalle of Austin, Stone Klingaman of Boerne and Michael McAuliffe of Katy.

The ceremony was livestreamed and the preview featured informal photographs of graduates. The program, which could be downloaded, had a brief history of the university.

UMHB was chartered in 1845 by the Republic of Texas as the Female Division of Baylor University. The school moved from Independence to Belton in 1886, went through a few name changes and became fully coeducational in 1971. It has a current student population of almost 4,000.

A few tips to help students ace college entry exams

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

While it can oftentimes be hard to deal with the anxiety that comes with a rigorous test meant to show your mastery of certain subjects and concepts, such as reading and mathematics, consider these test prep tips to help boost your score while simultaneously lowering stress.

REGISTER EARLY

To allow yourself as much flexibility as possible, taking college entrance exams during your junior year of high school is encouraged. If you don't get an ideal score, you can refine your approach and retake the exam with a better idea of what to expect.

TAKE A PRACTICE TEST

Any test prep plan should start with a practice SAT or ACT exam. Taking practice tests under realistic conditions can help you gain a better understanding of the content of the test, improve your time management and help combat test anxiety. You can use your practice test as a baseline to set goals and focus the rest of your prep on areas you would like to improve before the real thing.

TAKE A PREP COURSE

If you find studying on your own difficult or not as successful as you'd

hoped, a prep course can put you through the paces and hold you accountable. Complete with homework and in-class practice, prep classes can range from small groups to larger classes taught by test experts. Some school districts even offer after-school programs dedicated to ACT or SAT prep.

GATHER SUPPLIES

To help reduce test day stress, gather everything you'll need the night before. Check the list of banned items — cell-phones aren't permitted — to make sure you don't accidentally bring



Prepping for the test itself can be a critical component of that process.

COURTESY PHOTO

something you're not allowed to have. Ensure your bag is packed with your admission ticket, valid photo identification, several sharpened pencils with erasers, an approved calculator (with fresh batteries) and a watch, if allowed.

GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP

AND EAT BREAKFAST

While it can be tempt-

ing to stay up late the night before the test to cram, you're likely to perform better with a full night's sleep. Sleep is important for retention, and eating a balanced breakfast before heading out the door can aid in your ability to focus. To make your morning easier, prep breakfast before bed to keep an early morning from starting even earlier.

Congratulations!
to the Graduating
CLASS of **2021**

Especially to:

<p>Britton Stapler Harker Heights High School</p>	<p>Austin Wheeler Stony Point High School</p>	<p>Parker Reed Copperas Cove High School</p>
--	--	---

CORBIN CSC
STAPLER & CLAPPER
ATTORNEYS

603 N. 8th Street
Killeen, TX 76541
254-526-4523

YOU DID IT!

CONGRATS graduates

— KEEP MOVING FORWARD —

DAILY HERALD
Better than ever!

View this entire publication online at kdhnews.com/special.