

# Around the State: Wayland recognizes international students

November 20, 2023

On International Students Day, Nov. 17, Wayland Baptist University recognized the 77 international students enrolled at Wayland Baptist University—and noted the challenges many had to overcome to pursue their education. “It takes tremendous courage and faith to be an international student,” said **Debbie Stennett**, coordinator of international student affairs at Wayland. “I’m still amazed that 17- to 19-year-old kids fly across the globe alone or drive down from Canada or up from Central America without knowing anybody here except maybe a coach and the person on the other end of their emails. Wayland currently serves 54 undergraduate and 23 graduate students from 39 countries. Sixty-three international students attend classes on the Plainview campus, while 14 are served at one of Wayland’s external centers.



Howard Payne University students Ryan Robertson (left) and Layton Pratt (right) were invited to present

a paper at the International Conference on Electrical, Computer, Communications and Mechatronics Engineering in Tenerife, Spain.

Howard Payne University students **Layton Pratt** and **Ryan Robertson** spent two years designing and developing what would become AuroraGuard, a wearable device for antiviral and antibacterial disinfection, as part of a project-based design course in engineering design. Pratt and Robertson presented their paper on the design project at the International Conference on Electrical, Computer, Communications and Mechatronics Engineering in Tenerife, Spain. The conference was sponsored by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. Pratt is a junior from Spicewood majoring in engineering science and the Guy D. Newman Honors Academy, and Robertson is a senior from Euless majoring in engineering science.



East Texas Baptist University honored 91 graduating seniors with the presentation of their official ETBU class ring during at a Ring Blessing ceremony Nov. 15. (ETBU

Photo)

East Texas Baptist University honored 91 graduating seniors with the presentation of their official ETBU class ring during a Ring Blessing ceremony Nov. 15. Each ETBU class ring features the university seal, surrounded by the cornerstones of ETBU—*Veritas, Mores* and *Scientia*, Latin for truth, character and knowledge. Images inscribed on the ring—historic Marshall Hall, the Light on the Hill, Max Greiner's *Divine Servant* statue and the Bible—are meant to remind alumni of God's work in their lives and their transformational experience at ETBU.