



Nov. 24, 2003

Contact: Lisa A. Fellers
Director of Communications
Office: (817) 531-4498
Cell: (817) 874-8683
lfellers@txwes.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Texas Wesleyan University to graduate 376
during fall commencement exercises**

FORT WORTH, Nov. 24 – Texas Wesleyan University will honor 376 graduates on Friday, Dec. 12, when the University holds its fall commencement exercises at 7 p.m. in the Will Rogers Auditorium located at 3401 W. Lancaster Ave. Dr. Harold G. Jeffcoat, president of Texas Wesleyan University, will deliver the keynote address.

During commencement exercises, Texas Wesleyan University will award an honorary Doctorate of Humanities to philanthropists Louella Baker Martin and Nicholas Martin, Jr. Honorary degrees are given to persons who have been involved with and have contributed to the University and its surrounding community.

As a part of pre-commencement ceremonies, Wesleyan graduates will participate in a robing ceremony on Friday, Dec. 12 at 11 a.m. in the Polytechnic United Methodist Church at 1310 S. Collard St. Robing is a unique and deep-rooted Texas Wesleyan tradition that began in 1927. For the robing ceremony, graduating candidates are vested with cap and gown by a faculty or staff member of their choice whose support was meaningful to them during their studies at

-more-

Nov. 24 – Commencement Fall 2003, page 2.

Wesleyan. The ceremony demonstrates the strong bonds developed between faculty, staff and students at the University.

Other pre-commencement ceremonies include the Texas Wesleyan University School of Law hooding ceremony, which will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 12 in the Fort Worth Convention Center located at 1111 Houston St. Each academic year, the law school acknowledges its candidates for the Juris Doctorate at hooding ceremonies in December and May. During these ceremonies, the dean of the law school presents each candidate with an academic hood, the colors of which are representative of the University and the academic discipline: purple for law.

Keynote speaker Harold G. Jeffcoat grew up in Tampa, Florida, and was educated at the University of South Florida, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in American History. He later attended the University of Kentucky, earning a Doctor of Education in Policy Studies and Analysis and was part of the law faculty of the University of Leicester, U.K., where he completed the program leading to a Master of Laws in European Community Law.

Prior to his election as the eighteenth president of Texas Wesleyan University, Dr. Jeffcoat served as vice chancellor at the University of Missouri and as associate vice president at Purdue University. During his twenty-five year career in higher education, Dr. Jeffcoat also served on undergraduate, graduate and doctoral faculties. He is published in several academic disciplines, including jurisprudence, ancient philosophy and higher education. At Texas Wesleyan University, Dr. Jeffcoat holds appointment as a professor of humanities.

Dr. Jeffcoat is married to Marie Tofte Jeffcoat, a graduate of the University of South Florida. They have three children: Jennifer, James and Jacqueline. Jennifer Marie Morton holds

-more-

Nov. 24 – Commencement Fall 2003, page 3.

a Master of Science in Special Education from the University of Missouri. She is married to Lt. Chad Morton of the United States Marine Corps. James Michael Jeffcoat, a junior, and Jacqueline Marie Jeffcoat, a freshman, both attend Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas.

###