



*One Hundred Twenty-Third Commencement*

*Saturday, December 6, 2025*  
*Sawyer Center*

**SOUTHERN NAZARENE UNIVERSITY**

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Two O’Clock P.M. | Sawyer Center

**\*PROCESSIONAL**

*“Rigaudon” - Andrew Camppra - Arr. Paul Hanna*

*“Pomp and Circumstance” - Edward Elgar - Arr. Warren Wernick*

Organ and Brass

Prof. Tim Marek

*Adjunct Professor, School of Music*

SNU Brass Quintet

Prof. William Fairbanks

*Associate Professor, School of Music*

**FLAG BEARERS**

UCO Army ROTC Cadet Color Guard

**MACE BEARER**

Dr. Nicholas Zoller

*Professor of Mathematics*

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Dr. Chuck Fountain

*Chair, Board of Trustees*

**\*INVOCATION**

Mrs. Sharolyn LeGrande

*SNU Class of 1990, Parent of graduate, Trinity LeGrande*

**HYMN**

“Joy to the World”

Dr. Jim Graves

*Professor, School of Music / Director*

**GREETINGS AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Dr. Keith Newman

*University President*

**COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS**

Mrs. Lisa Johnson-Billy

*Chickasaw Nation Legislator*

**HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS**

Dr. Mark Winslow

*Senior Vice President / Chief Academic Officer*

**HONORARY DOCTORAL DEGREE**

Dr. Keith Newman

**PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES**

Dr. Mark Winslow

**AWARDING OF DEGREES**

Dr. Keith Newman

## INTRODUCTION OF GRADUATES

Dr. Melissa Lewis  
*Vice President of Academic Affairs*  
*Professional and Graduate Studies*

## ALUMNI INDUCTION

Rev. Larry Morris  
*Vice President for University Relations*

## SNU ALMA MATER

Dr. Jim Graves

## \*BENEDICTION

Rev. John Williamson  
*Parent of graduate, Dr. Andrea Guy*

## RECESSIONAL

*"Rigaudon" - Andrew Campra - Arr. Paul Hanna*

*Board of Trustees, faculty, and platform personnel will recess in a line of march.*  
*Graduates and guests will be dismissed at the conclusion of the recessional.*

## GUEST DISMISSAL

Dr. Melissa Lewis

*\*Audience please stand as you are able.*

## JOY TO THE WORLD

*Words: Isaac Watts, 1719,*  
*Music: George Frederick Handel, 1741,*  
*arr. by Lowell Mason, 1848*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King!  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of His righteousness  
and wonders of His love,  
and wonders of His love,  
and wonders, wonders of His love.

## ALMA MATER

*Words: Adopted 1940,*  
*Revised by J. Michael Crabtree 1986,*  
*Music: H.S. Thompson 1857*

### VERSE 1

Of all the schools in this fair land  
There's one whose name we praise,  
She's founded on ideals of right,  
To her our songs we raise.  
*(to Chorus)*

### VERSE 2

We'll work for her, we'll fight for her,  
Be loyal, brave, and true,  
We'll bring her fame and grace her name  
In everything we do.  
*(to Chorus)*

### VERSE 3

Though many ways our paths may lead  
When we from school depart,  
Let faith in God now burning bright  
Remain in every heart.  
*(to Chorus)*

## CHORUS

Alma Mater, Alma Mater,  
Hail, all hail to you.  
Red and white stand for the light  
Of dear old SNU.

# DEGREE CANDIDATES

## *Associate of Arts*

Brooke Bradshaw \*  
Hope Stratton Davis \*\*\*

Charles D. Shelburn \*  
Melvin Turner \*\*

## *Associate of Science*

Azul Star Alvarado \*\*  
TaRen Aska \*  
TyRa Aska \*  
Allison Bailey \*  
Brianna Paige Bolin \*

Kristy A. Finley \*  
Nicholas John Geist ^  
Kourtney Guerrero \*\*  
Allyson Nicole Meek \*\*\*  
Lauryn Marie Montgomery \*\*

Zach Morgan  
Derika B. Roberts  
Tyree T. Sanders  
Dalton Vinson  
Sarah Rachelle Williams \*

## *Bachelor of Arts*

Chloe Alviso \*\*      Riley Garrett Osborne      Olivia Grace Wilson

## *Bachelor of Business Administration*

Abigail Bailon Trejo \*\*\*

## *Bachelor of Music Education*

Alayna Lorece Bryson      Daniel De Lige \*      Keziah Joy Grant\*\*

## *Bachelor of Science*

Sydney N. Alsobrook  
Josh Arias  
Walter Lee Atkins  
Nerli Barojas Flores  
Corey Joseph Beals  
Gisell Becerra  
Bradley Carlo Bethea  
Gianna Alyse Bonnett \*\*\*  
Evan Boyd  
Erika Bruner-Boyce  
Chandler W. Bryant \*  
Rodney Wayne Bryant \*\*\*^  
Thomas Buchanan  
Derrick Bundren  
Braxton Burd \*\*  
Jordan Christina Butcher \*\*\*  
Niza Chabala Bwalya \*  
Luis Richard Camacho  
Kathryn M. Cartwright \*\*\*^  
Robert E. Colvin  
David R. Connelly \*\*\*  
Melissa Jaynelle Crum  
Victoria DeLeon \*\*\*  
Trent Joshua Blake Dodson ^  
Victor Jerome Dotson  
Alicia Ilene Duncan  
Christina Ebahotubbi ^  
Mason Donald Ennen \*  
Jay Michael Ferguson \*  
Corine Florence \*  
Enrique Marcelino Gallegos \*  
Jose Garcia-Sanchez

Amy K. Gibson  
Yvette Gomez \*  
Kristian Michelle Gonzalez \*^  
Levi Graham \*  
Amanda D. Hampton \*^  
James Ray Head ^  
Audrey Kay Hendricks  
Kerra A. Hibner  
Jennifer Hicks Kuykendall  
Karsyn Bren Hisaw  
Bianca Hollins ^  
Nashoba Holuby \*\*  
Brice Delane Jackson ^  
Robert Jager  
Joshua Jai \*\*  
Justin Wayne Jankowski  
Shelley JoBeth Johnson  
Terrell L. Johnson \*\*\*  
Tiffany Nicole Johnson \*\*\*  
Joe L. Kidwell, II  
Deanna Lynn Kievit  
Rebecca Celeste Kopacka  
Mauriana Korbini  
Kendall Elizabeth Larkin  
Trinity LeGrande \*\*\*  
Sheena Lynn Loertcher  
Michelle Shelby Lopez Alvarado \*\*  
Kourtney Kyesha Love  
Terra Rae MacAloney \*^  
James Daxton Maroney  
Simon Don McBride  
Lauren Elizabeth McDowell

Michael Andrew Midkiff  
Drake Anthony Miller  
Felicity Zandra Moore \*\*  
Zachary C. Moore  
John P. Morgan II ^  
Meagan Morgan  
Theodor Naus  
Matthew A. Norris  
Peyton Gabrielle Norvelle \*  
Shana Nicole O'Dell \*^  
Andrea Michelle Olsen ^  
Jamie Lynn Paddlety  
Emily Parent \*  
Adrienne Y. Parker  
Emilee Petties  
Sha'Lynn K. Phillips  
ShaQuita Denise Pittman  
Avery Marie Pyle  
Aydin Read \*\*  
Leroy Richardson  
Boyd Robertson \*\*  
Ebony Rose Rowe  
Lauren A. Sears  
Jimmie Silas Shaw \*  
LaTasha Annette Smith  
Sarah Smith  
Allen W. Starks, Sr.  
Destiny Faye Stone  
Jason Stout  
Joshua Cole Swickey  
Rachael Lynn Tanguay  
Vincent Thomas IV

## *Bachelor of Science* (Continued)

Katelynn Tizzio  
Johnny Lee Tonihka, Jr.  
Sabrie Traxler  
Adrian Ventura \*  
Jessica Wahnee  
Danielle Regina Ward

Dylan Joseph Warden \*\*\*  
Lyndsay Rene Watson \*\*\*  
Heather L. West  
Megan N. Wiley  
Alisa Williams \*\*\*  
Brittany S. Williams

Jessa Woodard  
Zachary Woods  
Clarence Ray Zachery II  
Gabrielle Andrea Zweifel

## *Master of Arts*

Jeremie Wayne Allen  
Maci Attalla  
Deblin Badillo  
Anna Barros  
Randie Michelle Bass  
Stephanie Beck  
Brady Brazier  
Amy Lynn Brezina  
Bailey Cheyenne Briscoe  
Emily M. Buckingham  
Summer L. Cope  
Christa Crawford  
Nathan D. Crawford Jr.  
Ainslee Louise Davis  
Elysia Beth Dolph  
Andralesia Doss  
Kacie Earl  
Brittani Esquivel  
Greg Ferguson  
Megan Ferguson  
Erin Kay Fluman  
Dayton Anthony Garrett  
Jeremy Golson  
Bridget Dawn Goodknight  
Jason Keith Goodknight, Sr.

Abriana Goree  
Jessica Marie Guillen  
Jordan Rahne Harrell  
Dirick Edward Hatfield  
Brian L. Haynie  
Ceclia Hill  
Adrian W. James  
Gregory Johnson  
Kambrian Lain Johnson  
Sarah Beth Judah  
Jami Lynn Karber  
Jammie Daniela Kimmel  
Larry Kuykendall  
Bette Kathleen Lindley  
Gunnar Long  
Sylvia Louella Lott  
Lorry Gail Cieri Malcom  
Ashley Marsh  
Jacob Isley Martinez  
Patrick L. McKenzie  
Shawna Kay McLellan  
Princeton Ignatius Mitchell-Johnson  
Martha Modisette  
Abigayle Caroline Moser  
Roxie Luella Muller

Hayley Danielle Nixon  
Casey B. Nunemaker  
Cheyenne Dawn Ogletree  
Steffi Rae Patton  
Elizabeth M. Post  
Trahern Price  
Whitley Pyle  
Madison Rose Reaves  
Billy Richardson  
Brandy Rinas  
Roman A. Rodriguez  
Savannah Hayden Ruiz  
Hannah Sawyers  
Aaron Sechrist  
Wayne E. Smith  
Kathleen Sparks  
Nia Stepeny  
Roxanne Swenhaugen  
Chad W. Varney  
Barbara Catherine Walker  
Megan Williams  
Rebecca Willis  
Braden Zimmerman

## *Master of Business Administration*

Rico L. Baker  
Jared Lynn Boen  
Andrew E. Cardenas  
Kacie Lynn Cram  
Scott Wilson Dunn  
Curtis Fenner Jr.

Sebastian Anthony Figga  
Rickson Richard Hill  
Carson Kinnaird  
Lorna Lawrence  
Richard Eugene Lewis Sr.  
Sloan Christine Scoggin

Amanda G. Sillin  
Glory Rose P. Stahl  
Jarris J. Wade  
Emilee Rebecca White  
Glenda M. Williams-Adewunmi

## *Master of Business Administration - Healthcare*

Topher Wayne Balderas-Young  
Daniqua Hill

Nefer León Ruiz  
Aleiha White

Jackie Tanner Williams

## *Master of Organizational Leadership*

Levi Hight

Jaclynn Lindsay Pyle

Carla Denise Seymour

## *Master of Science*

Christopher S. Corliss

Danielle Oxley

# *Doctorate of Education*

Dr. RoseAnna Lee Ashworth

*Dissertation Title: Administrator-Led Teacher Support and Its Impact on Teacher Job Satisfaction*

Dr. Misty Marie Berg

*Dissertation Title: The Role of Psychological Safety in Developing a Sense of Community for Substitute Teachers in Nontraditional Work Arrangements*

Dr. Kacey Elizabeth Daniels

*Dissertation Title: The Perceived Efficacy of the Upward Bound Program for First Generation Low-Income Students in Higher Education*

Dr. Debreon P. Davis

*Dissertation Title: The Role of Leadership Programs on Principal Motivation and Self-Determination*

Dr. Summer Vann Foster

*Dissertation Title: Exploring Educator's Experiences Implementing an Elementary Social-Emotional Curriculum: A Case Study*

Dr. Twytinna S. Gardner

*Dissertation Title: Exploring the Experience of a Caregiver's Learning Series: A Case Study*

Dr. Keely Giplin

*Dissertation Title: Navigating the Future: Exploring the Role of Career Pathways in Administration and Leadership*

Dr. Andrea Guy

*Dissertation Title: Pre-Service Teachers' Self-Efficacy Towards Reading Instruction: A Comparative Case Study*

Dr. Danita R. Hollins

*Dissertation Title: Teachers' Attitudes Toward Implementing Inclusive Practices in the Elementary Classrooms*

Dr. Latasha Sherice Howell

*Dissertation Title: The Impact of Caseworker Involvement on Single Mothers: Exploring Relational Bonds and Supportive Dynamics*

Dr. Melissa Dawn Kimble Jarvis

*Dissertation Title: Caregiver Perceptions of Involvement in Education: A Case Study*

Dr. Annie Marrie Keehn

*Dissertation Title: The Perspectives of Elementary Teachers Regarding Implementation of Trauma-Informed Care*

Dr. Jonathan D. Medlin

*Dissertation Title: Impact of Servant Leadership: A Case Study*

Dr. Julia Stovall Monroe

*Dissertation Title: Exploring the Implementation of Brain-Based Learning in a Laboratory School Setting: A Case Study*

Dr. Anika Brandt Rohla

*Dissertation Title: A Demanding Topic: Secondary Teachers' Transformed Understanding of Holocaust Education in English and Social Studies Classrooms in Rural Oklahoma*

Dr. Deogratias Rubera

*Dissertation Title: Faculty Members' Perceptions of How Leadership Styles of Immediate Supervisors Influence Their Job Satisfaction at the University*

## *Doctorate of Education* (Continued)

Dr. Kaitlyn Scrapper

*Dissertation Title: Implementation of Holistic Admission Review  
in Graduate Speech Language Pathology Programs*

Dr. Yolanda Sevier

*Dissertation Title: The Importance of Family Engagement  
in Early Childhood Years*

Dr. Karie M. Talkington

*Dissertation Title: Examining The Role of Shame-Resilience Theory in the  
Experiences of Caregivers of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*

Dr. Robert Blake Whitfield

*Dissertation Title: Successful Strategics and Barriers that Social Welfare  
Organizations Face While Pursuing Cultural Intelligence*

Dr. Kelli S. Wilson

*Dissertation Title: A Scale-Development Study of Planned Behavior as a Construct  
in Finlayson's (2009) Career and Technical Education Opinion Survey*

Dr. Colton Coy Wood

*Dissertation Title: Exploring Indigenous Students' Perceptions of Success and  
Cultural Belonging at Non-Tribal Colleges and Universities*

Dr. Olivia Ann Yandel

*Dissertation Title: The Impact of Student Engagement in  
First-Year Students: A Case Study*

*Degrees are conferred upon completion of all dissertation and program requirements.*

## *Speaker*

### **MRS. LISA JOHNSON-BILLY**

Lisa Johnson Billy is serving her 14th year in the Chickasaw Nation tribal legislature. She holds a bachelor's degree in business merchandising from Northeastern State University and a master's degree in education from the University of Oklahoma. She is currently pursuing her doctoral degree at Oral Roberts University.

Lisa was elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives (HD-42) in 2004, becoming the first woman and Native American to hold the position. She was termed out after serving 12 years. While in office, she created the Oklahoma Native American Caucus and served as the floor leader. She also held the position of Chair of the Public Safety Appropriations Committee. Lisa received numerous awards, including Legislator of the Year by the Oklahoma State Troopers Association, the Oklahoma Public Employees Association, and the Kate Barnard Award for her work on prison reform.

In 2017, Lisa was appointed by President Trump and confirmed by the Senate to the Udall Foundation, where she is the first Native person to be elected as Chair of the trustees. In 2019, the Oklahoma Senate unanimously voted for Lisa as the first Secretary of Native American affairs to the Oklahoma state governor's cabinet.

The Oklahoma Speaker of the House recently appointed Lisa as a commissioner to the Oklahoma Department of Transportation. She is only the second woman in Oklahoma's history to serve in this role. As a Chickasaw legislator, Lisa continues to champion initiatives that honor and uplift Chickasaw identity, faith, and culture. She reintroduced the Chickasaw language as part of the official legislative process. The Journal Record recently recognized her as one of 50 women of influence.

Lisa and her husband recently celebrated their 34th anniversary. They have three children who each serve in the military, one grandson, and one granddaughter on the way.



# *Honorary Doctor of Divinity*

## REV. BRIAN WIESINGER

Rev. Brian Wiesinger was appointed in January 2024 as the 7th District Superintendent of the Southwest Oklahoma District Church of the Nazarene. Brian has served 40 years in full-time pastoral ministry—12 years as a youth pastor in Oklahoma and Arizona, and 28 years as a lead pastor. His ministry leadership included Lake Overholser Church of the Nazarene (Bethany, OK), Columbia Grace Church of the Nazarene (Columbia, TN), and Crossing Church of the Nazarene (Westminster, CO).

A two-time graduate of Southern Nazarene University, Brian earned a bachelor's degree in Christian Education (1986) and a master's degree in Ministry (1993). He also served as an adjunct professor for Trevecca Nazarene University and was ordained as an elder on the Northwest Oklahoma District in 1995.

Brian met his wife, Kimberly while they were both in high school in Phoenix, Arizona and followed one another to SNU. Brian and Kim have been married 40 years and are blessed with three daughters; Madison, Mylee, and Maci, and one son, Brady; two sons-in-law, Blaine and Braden; and a granddaughter, Beckett Mae. They are expecting another granddaughter in May 2026. Rev. Wiesinger has faithfully served the Church of the Nazarene with a deep passion for helping others experience a transforming relationship with Jesus Christ. He is devoted to investing in and empowering church leaders to fulfill God's purpose for their lives and ministries. Brian and Kim have exemplified a lifetime of faithful service to the church and the Kingdom of God.

## *Commencement Information*

### ACADEMIC MACE

The honor of Academic Mace Bearer is awarded by a faculty vote to a senior member of the SNU faculty in recognition of dedicated service and outstanding qualities that exemplify the SNU motto "Character / Culture / Christ." Today the mace is carried by Dr. Nicholas Zoller, Professor and Chair, Computing, Mathematics, and Physics, School of Undergraduate Studies. Dr. Zoller has served full-time as an SNU faculty member since 2009.

The academic mace traces its origins to the medieval battle mace and royal scepter and was adopted in the 14th century as a symbol of the university's ideals and commitment to learning. On ceremonial occasions at SNU, the mace is carried by a senior faculty member at the head of the procession. For commencement exercises, the mace is placed in its stand to signal the beginning of the ceremony and removed to mark the ceremony's end.

The SNU academic mace made its inaugural journey in the May 2008 Commencement. It is crafted in walnut from a tree that once grew on SNU's campus, and the stand is made from wood salvaged from another historic SNU building called The Tabernacle where early Nazarenes once worshiped. Both of these pieces of wood, though cracked and flawed, were saved by the late Dr. Lyle Tullis, SNU Professor Emeritus of Sociology, whose life and service impacted countless SNU colleagues and students. His son, Dr. K. J. Tullis used this wood to craft the mace.

### HONORS AND REGALIA

Undergraduate students graduating with high cumulative grade point averages are indicated in the candidate lists as follows. Grade point averages for the most recent semester may or may not be included.

\*Cum laude - cumulative GPA of 3.50 through 3.74

\*\*Magna cum laude - cumulative GPA of 3.75 through 3.89

\*\*\* Summa cum laude - cumulative GPA of 3.90 through 4.00

**Hoods** are unique to educational institutions and are vestments that identify the degree conferred and the granting institution. Students receiving master's degrees today are vested with a hood with the SNU colors identified in the silk lining. The edging of the hoods shows the colors of degrees conferred today: drab for Master of Business Administration and Master of Leadership, white for Master of Arts, golden-yellow for Master of Science, and light blue for Doctor of Education.

**Cords and medallions** worn by degree candidates signify membership in honor societies, participation in the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement program, participation in Student Support Services, participation in the Presidential Leadership Scholar program, participation in the LiveLast service program or completion of the SNU Honors Program. Military students and faculty are wearing red, white, and blue cords signifying their service.

### DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The Distinguished Achievement Award is an honor granted to students from each cohort in the School of Professional Studies. Selection is based on outstanding scholarship and exceptional leadership within the program and on recommendations by program directors, faculty and classmates. Recipients are identified with the ^ symbol in the degree candidates list. This marks the 40th year for the presentation of these awards.

# *Commencement Information* (Continued)

## COMMENCEMENT PERSONNEL

Faculty Marshals and the Office of Academic Affairs, in conjunction with other Commencement Planning Committee members, are primarily responsible for the planning and coordination of Commencement ceremonies. The Faculty Marshals serving today are Dr. Scott Drabenstor, Professor and Chair, Department of Psychology; Dr. Caio França, Professor of Biology and Director, Quetzal Education Research Center; Dr. Sylvia Goodman, Professor and Director, School of Rehabilitation and Sport Sciences, Graduate Programs; Dr. Loren Hughes, Professor and Director, Physical Therapist Assistant program; Dr. Cathy Hutchings-Wedel, Professor and Director, Organizational Leadership and Business Administration, School of Professional Studies; Dr. Melany Kyzer, Professor and Chair, Division of Cultural and Communications Studies; Dr. Tim Taylor, Emeritus Professor/Chair, School of Education; and Dr. Keith Toles Jr., Associate Professor and Director, Graduate Programs in Business.

**University Junior Marshals** are among the highest academic ranking students in the Junior class. Junior Marshal is the highest collegiate honor attainable by a student from each academic area in the traditional undergraduate program. These students are selected by the faculty in the academic areas they represent. The following Junior Marshals assist Faculty Marshals in all official academic proceedings:

**Bethany Crouch**

*Division of Cultural & Communication Studies*

**Cale Roberts**

*School of Nursing*

**Maggie Wojan**

*TRIO McNair Scholars*

**Josh Nelson**

*Department of Psychology*

**Noelle Brezillac**

*Department of History, Politics, & Law*

**Jacqueline Molgaard**

*School of Kinesiology*

**Indy Hughes**

*School of Business*

**Riann Hahn**

*School of Education*

**Ryleigh Rushing**

*School of Music*

**Evan Rader**

*Department of Computing, Mathematics, & Physics*

**Greg Morse**

*School of Theology & Ministry*

**Eli Reutlinger**

*Departments of Biology & Chemistry*

## IN EVENT OF EMERGENCY

- Announcements and/or instructions will be given by SNU platform personnel.
- Law enforcement officers and SNU security personnel are on site to assist.
  - Be aware and give assistance to elderly, disabled and children.
  - Elevators should not be used during emergency evacuation.
- Exits are located at the outer four corners of the Sawyer Center.

*Special appreciation to SNU Safety and Security, the SNU Alumni Association, SNU Facilities Management, and to the SNU Academy of Senior Professionals for their assistance with today's ceremonies.*



Our mission is to make Christlike disciples  
through higher education.