



One Hundred Twenty-Third Commencement

Saturday, May 2, 2026
Sawyer Center

SOUTHERN NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

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One Hundred Twenty-Third Commencement



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One Hundred Twenty-Third Commencement

Saturday, May 2, 2026

Ten O'Clock A.M. | Sawyer Center

***PROCESSIONAL**

"Rigaudon" - André Campra - Arr. by Michael Allen

"Pomp and Circumstance" - Edward Elgar - Arr. by Warren Wernick

Organ and Brass

Prof. Tim Marek

Adjunct Professor, School of Music

SNU Brass Quintet

Prof. Will Fairbanks

Associate Professor, School of Music

FLAG BEARERS

UCO Army ROTC Cadet Color Guard

MACE BEARER

Prof. Ken Rosfeld

Associate Professor, Commercial Music Production

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Chuck Fountain

Chair, Board of Trustees

***INVOCATION**

Dr. Don Dunnington

SNU Emeritus Professor and former Vice President of Academic Affairs,

Grandparent of graduate Hannah Dunnington

GREETINGS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Keith Newman

University President

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Dr. LeEtta Felter

Public Servant, SNU Alumni

HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Mark Winslow

Senior Vice President / Chief Academic Officer

HONORARY DOCTORAL DEGREES

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 (PGS)

**ALUMNI INDUCTION AND
GOLDEN GRAD RECOGNITION**

Rev. Larry Morris
Vice President for University Relations

***SNU ALMA MATER**

Dr. Jim Graves
Professor, School of Music

***BENEDICTION**

Mrs. Melinda Rushing
SNU Class of 1994; Parent of graduate Ryleigh Rushing

RECESSIONAL

“Rigaudon” - André Campra - Arr. by 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.*



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.

SOUTHERN NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

One Hundred Twenty-Third Commencement

Saturday, May 2, 2026

Two O'Clock P.M. | Sawyer Center

***PROCESSIONAL**

"Rigaudon" - André Campra - Arr. by Michael Allen

"Pomp and Circumstance" - Edward Elgar - Arr. by Warren Wernick

Organ and Brass

Prof. Tim Marek

Adjunct Professor, School of Music

SNU Brass Quintet

Prof. Will Fairbanks

Associate Professor, School of Music

FLAG BEARERS

UCO Army ROTC Cadet Color Guard

MACE BEARER

Prof. Ken Rosfeld

Associate Professor, Commercial Music Production

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Chuck Fountain

Chair, Board of Trustees

***INVOCATION**

Mrs. Emily Newlin

SNU Class of 2007; Member, SNU Board of Trustees

GREETINGS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Keith Newman

University President

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Dr. LeEtta Felter

Public Servant, SNU Alumni

HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Mark Winslow

Senior Vice President / Chief Academic Officer

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
Professor, School of Music

***BENEDICTION**

Dr. Cathy Hutchings-Wedel
SNU Class of 1977; SNU Professor; PGS Program Director

RECESSIONAL

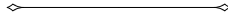
"Rigaudon" - André Campra - Arr. by Paul Hanna

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(to Chorus)

CHORUS

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Hail, all hail to you.
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Of dear old SNU.

Degree Candidates - Morning

Associate of Arts

Chase James Clarke

Virginia James

Juan Cruz Stefanich

Bachelor of Arts

Noelle Michelle Brezillac *

Isabella Krista Labrada

Victor Adrian Miranda *

Bethany Marlene Crouch ****

Jacob Barret Mash *** +

Trey Joseph Orman

Malik Edwards Jr

Raven McIntosh

Ariana Nicole Rosales

Madelynn Hada

Grant Alexander McNew * +

Lydia Leonor Wynn

Bachelor of Business Administration

Demsey Cifuentes *

Christopher Matthew Gaudio ***

Gracelynn Sue Nickell ***

Bachelor of Music Education

Julia Gilbertson **

Ryleigh Denaé Rushing *** +

Bachelor of Science

Cameron Anderson

Christian Garcia

Pranav Pradeep Rao

Konner Baartman **

Edwin Garcia

Aydin Read ** +

Jena Bay ** +

Carley Marie Gasaway *** +

Eli Reutlinger *** +

Kacyn Ryan Beard

Jaxon Andrew Gless **

Zachary Jose Reyes Peterson

Lucas Beja Moutinho Teixeira **

Isaac Goeders

Aden Rinkle

Derrek Bley *** +

Riann Michelle Lea Hahn ***

Roxana Gisselle Rivera Barron

Morgan Boatwright *

Lane Hairgrove

Jacob Robertson

Hairiston Armstrong Malachi Bowen

Zakary Darrin Hall

Kendall W. Robertson *** +

Baron Bracey

Colby Myles Henderson

Isaiah Royal

Katelyn Branson

Carson Hendrix *

Saul Matthew Ruiz

David Grant Bremer **

Miguel J. Hernandez

Kailie Lillianna Sanchez

Sierra Britton

Karly Diane Hietpas ***

Keziah Jai Segovia

Carter Austin Brock *

Kylee Huffman **

Rakae Nicole Sibley

Colby Burpo ***

Indy Hughes *** +

Ricardo Paul Smith

James Anthony Burries Jr

Nathan Hurt

Matthew Spiegel ***

Shannon Leigh Burton

Joshua Jai ** +

Seth Aubrey Spruiell *** +

Jorge Calera

Christian Bam Johnson

Riley Stark

Alivia Campbell

Parker D. Kennedy

Rylee Beth Stidham

Makayla Dawn Campbell

Noah John Kent *

Genevieve Marie Suchan *

Keshon J. Carter

Noah Kern

Will Thetford **

Bori Cintron Forrest

Alexandrea Rose Kunnanz

Graham Thomason ***

Anthony Stuart Cox **

Molly Langford

Sarena Timm **

Gabriel Crowley *

Ashley Jean Larson ***

Karla Michelle Trejo

Lynlee Michelle Cummings ***

Grace Abigail Locke

Clarence Underwood Jr

Steven A. Deleon ***

Reese Kelby McNew *

Lexie Marie Valdez *** +

Mallory Downs **

Olivia Layne Merry **

Quinn Van Maanen *

Hannah Jade Duncan ***

Joseph Mpoyo

Yvonne Vega

Dawson Ernest Dunlap *

Geovanny E. Murillo *

Alondra Mary Vences

Hannah Mae Dunnington

Josh Nelson *** +

Zachary Wade

Caleb Eakle

Kobe Nichols **

Marlee Warden

Asher Earl

Natalie Sandrann Nolen *

Maximus Jabez Washington

Quinnlan Edens ***

Connor B. Padgett

Nathaniel Williams

Alycia Edwards

Mahalia Jewell Perkins

Maggie Wojan * +

Dilan Alexandro Flores

Aaron Marquis Potter

Andres Anthony Young

Rachel Fonseca ** +

Meyghan Alexis Powell *

Alexander Font

Jason P. Quintanilla **

Agustin Yahir Gallegos

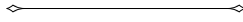
Jairo Quiroz Mendiola

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Penina Natia Barrett *
Kaley Brubaker * +
Alondra DeLeon Guimaraes

Reagan Kay Hall *
Tessa Henry
Jennifer Leos *

Hannah Lindsly *



Degree Candidates - Afternoon

Associate of Arts

Katie Peyton

Janelle Nicole Turner

Associate of Science

Daniel S. Cartwright

Bachelor of Arts

Heather Abbott
Teresa Cash **
Amy Lynn Duncan
Jenifer Anne Gallagher ^
Raquel Azucena Gutierrez

Marla Jan Howeth
Tyreonna Johnson
Randi Lynn Kennedy
Abigail Martin **
Shelby Oian

Shelby Ore
Jennifer Powell
Kristen Michele Simmons

Bachelor of Science

Dawson Daniel Abrego
Tramaine Allen
Chassidy Lucille Gray Boyland
Christopher Brumley
Justin W. Christy
Asiyah Niann Crowe
Amanda Curtis ** ^
Ralph Aaeron DuBreuil
Soroya K. Fipps
Angela R. Freeman **
Yvette Gomez *
Kacie R. Hames
Joshua Herndon * ^
Victoria Hill *
Cierra House ** ^
Jesse Devon Huffman

Kimberly Hunley
Deysy Vanessa Ibarra Leija **
T'Aira Jackson
Joshua Johnson ***
Tulayha S. Johnson
De'Octavious Ja'Dacus Ra'Quan Jones
William Q. Jordan *
Miriana Balaghi Karrit **
Paige Margaret Kudej ^
Samantha Langley
Michael Allen Laughter Jr. ** ^
Derick T. E. Martinez
Mary Elizabeth Merrill *** ^
Kailey Alexandra Mirrione
Sabrina Marie Moad
Aaron Taylor Monroe

Jenna Michael Mueggenborg
Bo O'Dell
Liz Percell **
Emily J. Reiff
Tiasha Robinson
Jennifer Rodriguez Arredondo
Diamond Victory Schatz ** ^
Mary A. Schmidt
Karaan Morray Shaw
Jamie Dawn Stidham
Lulu Thompson
Donetta Kay Venters
Danzel D. Walker
Jennifer Whitlow
Shannon V. Wills
Aliyah Young

Master of Arts

Alison Loren Beach
Amber Diane Boen
James Boykin
Lesia M. Bradford
LaDetria Nichelle Broom
Rita Brown
Vanessa K. Bryant
Austin S. Bushong
Brooklyn Carothers
Carole Clagg
Jamie Copenhaver
Rebekah Lou Crittenden

Bruno da Silva
Alisha Ann Davis
Ashlie Nicole Deline
Dillon S. Dobbins
ZanDar Jean Dravon-Gemelli
Amy LeaAnn Duncan
Adriana Lizeth Dye
Cindy G. Dyson
Cody D. Evans
Racquel Farquharson-Irwin
Jarrell Farr
Shalonda Fields

Andrea Lyn Freeman
Mark Tayler Gailey
Anton Gibson
Jeremy Golson
Tara Colleen Gordon
Jena Camille Green
Carisa Griffin
Jeremy A. Griffin
Brant Lee Hagen
Lisa Kari Segard Harris
Olivia Renee Harris
Charonda Patrice Harrison

Master of Arts (Continued)

Luke Hart	Emilee Kay Martin	Lisa Renee Pugsley
Cristina Heald	Alisha Matthews	Jennifer Melissa Ramirez
Randy L. Henderson	Dion Mattox	Alysia Robb
Megan Elizabeth Hill	Courtney McCartney	Meagan Rodgers
Casey Jo Hodge	Keith Bradley McConnell	Silvia Rodriguez
Zachary T. Hopkins	Mary Suzanne McCorkel-James	Carter Hoktu'ce Russell
Dana Igleheart	Kristin Swisher McMenemy	Amanda June Rutherford
Meredith Lynne James	Jenie Dawn Melton	Brandon Sellers
Kathryn D. Jenkins	Ashley B. Mills	Kara Sloat
Jessica Danielle Jernegan-Villarreal	Sarah Kay Mitchell	Samantha Smith
Jamauri Duane Johnson	Telia Montgomery	Brandy Swinford
David Woodford Jones	Megan Franneice Moore	Amanda Oliveros Walker
Mason Kenneth Kellett	Rachel Morie	Tricia Kay Waller
Kimberley Elizabeth Kirk	Debbie Newman	Matthew Alexander Weber
Megan N. Knight	Whitney Mariah Orr	Mikka Welker
Nicole Lee Lacey	Tracy Lynn Owens	Lisa Dawn White
Tanika M. Lane	Jordyn K. Oxford	Maia Wright
Melissa Beth Lytle	Kristina Gayle Pilcher	Patricia Ann Wright
Simon D. MacFarlane	Donna M. Price	
Eric Malloy	ShaVon Prince	

Master of Business Administration

Emanuel Juan Arroyo	Landon Scott Hendrix	Joseph Preston Robertson
Jasmine Ashford	Scott Holland	Madison Ella Sandy
Nicholas Blanchard	Katie Rae King	Jax Taylor
Ryan Christensen	Whitney Necole Lane	Otilio S. Vida, Jr.
Dustin Cornell	Isabella Brandao Luker	Aidan Webster
Kerianne Elizabeth Cox	Ordileide Licarla Pedro Manuel	Oliver Dane Wilson
Bryson Evans	Carter Douglas Moore	
Dylan M. Faile	Chandler Kalyn Marie Moore	
Adam Lee Faulkner	Ruby Richardson	

Master of Business Administration - Healthcare

Kara Kaye Anderson	Cobey Shane Gorrell	Benjamin Rutherford
Pamela J. Brooks	Charnele Lynn Lewis	
Anne Nicole Flinn	Austin Martin	

Master of Leadership

Shaye Michal Beagles	Angela N. Murray	Jesse Sutton
Jessi Rhiannon Clancy	Gwendolyn Marie Plante	Shelby Torrence
Ashlee L. Coleman	Shannon Moree Smith	

Master of Science

Satori Dashawn Adams	Kelly M. Hamilton	Isabel Ortiz-Cheek
Hadiqa Shabir Aslam	Kendra Dawn Haynes	Piyush Patel
Juliana Bonizzi Baptistella	Kelsey Henson	Victor Hugo Pimental Gouvea
Sunny A. Batschelett	Brooke Celeste Hill	Jamie Roberts
Victoria N Borsatto	Brandy Lynn Hogue	Stephanie Jo Searcy
Lauren Briscoe	Joshua Johnson	Julie Tran-Henderson
Ashleigh Brooks Ross	Austin Kole Jones	William Turner
Sophia Christine Brown	Jeffrey A. Lease	Kori B. Watters
Maggie Cook	Sarah Njoki Mukiri	Laura Winterscheidt
Alysha Maria Dawson	Blake Nail	

Doctorate of Education

Dr. Shana Delyn Classen

Dissertation Title: Factors Impacting the Implementation of Health Education in Two Elementary Schools

Dr. Keith W. Coombs

Dissertation Title: The Principal's Role in Creating a Collaborative Environment for Professional Learning Communities: A Case Study

Dr. Amy Lee Cornforth

Dissertation Title: Exploring Career and Technical Education Instructor Satisfaction With Administrator Communication: A Case Study

Dr. Tony Cornforth

Dissertation Title: Exploring the Perceptions of Developing STEM Interests in a Central Southwest State's University Engineering Graduates: A Case Study

Dr. Carlton Bernard Hardman

Dissertation Title: Modern Police Recruiting: Examining the Effects of Digital Recruitment on Law Enforcement Hiring Practices

Dr. Abby Hogan

Dissertation Title: Exploring the Influence of Change Management on Rural School District Achievement Goals: A Case Study

Dr. Lara Kathleen Jernigan

Dissertation Title: Exploring the Impact of Academic Advising on Student Outcomes: A Case Study

Dr. Melanie M. Kelley

Dissertation Title: Characteristics of Successful Social and Emotional Curriculum and Implementation From the Perspective of Teachers: A Case Study

Dr. Larry Scott McCall

Dissertation Title: Exploring Pre-Referral Procedures for Students Learning English Who May Benefit From Special Education: A Case Study

Dr. Felecia Moriels

Dissertation Title: Exploring Perceptions of Higher Education Leaders' Interpersonal Skills and Relationships in the Workplace: A Case Study

Dr. Dena Lynn Rogers

Dissertation Title: The Impact of High School Counselor Decision-Making on Students Identified as At Risk of Successful High School Completion: A Case Study

Dr. Edwin McDaniel Tillinger

Dissertation Title: Perceived College Readiness Among Low Socioeconomic Status High School Graduates

Dr. Alexis Walker-Bacon

Dissertation Title: Exploring the Integration of Culturally Responsive Teaching Strategies in an Undergraduate Teacher Education Program

Dr. Jonathan Matthew Wells

Dissertation Title: The Role of Collaboration in Trade and Industry Career Technology Programs: A Case Study

Dr. Charity Williams

Dissertation Title: Exploring the Impact of Grit and Growth Mindset on Educational Leaders Navigating School Improvement: A Case Study

Golden Grads



GOLDEN GRADS

We honor members of the Bethany Nazarene College Class of 1976, who 50 years ago walked across the Commencement stage to receive their diplomas. Each Golden Graduate has been presented with a special commemorative medallion with the BNC & SNU Seals. By honoring these Golden Grads, we signify the life-long connection between our alumni and this institution.

Richard Auter
Paula (Perkins) Auter
Dr. Ted Bader
Stephen Bay
Debra (Bailey) Bolton
Rhonda Brown
John W. Bumpus, Jr.
Rev. Donald Carlson
Deborah (Demetre) Eastman
Debbie (Delbridge) Edwards

Elaine (Hunter) Geerdes
Linda (Bryan) George
Kent Gering
Lonnie Gibson
Rev. Lonnie Green
Rev. Dr. Caleb Herrera
Mikal Klumpp
Tony Knittle
Ronald Marchant
Georgetta (Wilson) McCloud

Vicki (Hodges) McCully
Jeff Moseley
Miriam (Stone) Owen
Van Owen
Gary Pitcock
Terry Potter
Pamela (Steele) Sesock
Mohammad Reza Shariati
Mark Wessels
Dr. Luther Woodcock

Commencement Speaker

DR. LEETTA J. FELTER

Dr. LeEtta J. Felter is a servant leader grounded in a calling to serve others and build stronger communities. A proud graduate of Southern Nazarene University, she earned both her bachelor's degree and Doctor of Education in Administration and Leadership. Her career reflects purpose-driven leadership shaped by Christ's example of humility, courage, and service.

Dr. Felter serves on the Olathe City Council and as Chair of the Kansas Children's Cabinet & Trust Fund Board, where she has been appointed by three Kansas governors. In her local and statewide roles, she helps steward public resources totaling well over a billion dollars annually, leading with accountability, transparency, and a deep responsibility to the people those resources serve.

During her 12 years on the Olathe Public Schools Board of Education in the second-largest school district in Kansas, she helped guide the community through the COVID-19 pandemic. She played a key role in crafting the plan that safely returned students to in-person learning.

An entrepreneur and co-founder of AAG Investments, Dr. Felter is known for innovative thinking and creative problem-solving. Her work in economic development includes helping cast the vision that brought the Kansas City Chiefs headquarters to Olathe, along with a transformative entertainment district.

Her leadership reflects a deep respect for those who serve. She designed the first-ever veterans property tax voucher program for a local municipality without an income threshold, grounded in her belief that those who served should not have to qualify for support based on income. In recognition of her work honoring fallen service members and their families, she received the U.S. Army's Patriotic Civilian Service Award.

She founded Masks of Mercy during the pandemic and continues to champion children and families through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Kansas. Dr. Felter and her husband, Jib, met at the 1985 Nazarene General Assembly, married in 1989, and are proud parents of four adult children and new grandparents, embracing life with joy, adventure, and faith.

Honorary Doctoral Degree

HONORARY DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS - LINDA GRESHAM

Linda Brown Gresham was raised in Southern California in the home of a Nazarene pastor who later became President of Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU). She graduated with honors from Pasadena College (now PLNU) with a major in Education and a minor in Music. Linda's career pursuits in the field of education and teaching have included experiences in Alhambra (California) and Putnam City (Oklahoma) school districts. After moving to Oklahoma, she served as an adjunct instructor here at Southern Nazarene University. Beyond the classroom, she used her talents establishing a freelance career in the radio and television business, providing talent for numerous commercials for local and national businesses.

In 1984, Linda began working for SNU in the Office of Student Development as Director of Housing for Women and quickly established designated freshman housing. This change impacted the culture and created a new tone for the campus. Later she became the Director of Student Activities, creating a "spirit of place" for students that still exists today.

In 1986, the General Education Committee of the faculty commissioned the start of a program to help welcome new freshmen. As a result, SNU New Student Institute (NSI) was created. For 17 years, Linda led NSI and referred to it as "a real joy and the thing of which she is most proud." Thousands of students have been positively impacted by Linda's vision and leadership of this program that continues today.

In 1990, another new program was brought to campus, the Excellence in Christian Education and Leadership auction (better known as EXCEL). Its purpose was to underwrite university educational, recreational, and spiritual summer camps and programs for grades 1-12. She faithfully served as Chair through the final auction in 2016. Her leadership and passion helped raise more than \$1.2M over the years to scholarship many campers who otherwise would not have been able to afford to attend.

Linda is married to Dr. Loren Gresham, President Emeritus. They have one daughter, Suzanne Strawn (Brad) of San Diego, CA, and two grandsons, Evan and Keaton Strawn. Linda and her husband were inducted into the SNU Hall of Witnesses and were also honored as Honorary SNU Alumni at a previous SNU Commencement. Her individual commitment, service, and love of the university might never be equaled.

Honorary Doctoral Degree

HONORARY DOCTOR OF DIVINITY - REV. TIM KELLERMAN

Rev. Tim Kellerman is the son of missionary parents, Rev. Phillip and Darlene Kellerman, who served in Taiwan and China for over 20 years. His formative years in Asia, participating with and observing his parents' ministry, played a tremendous role in his 42 years in pastoral and district leadership.

Tim is married to Jamie, and together they have two married children and four grandchildren. Tim graduated from Olivet Nazarene University with a BA in Theology and an MA in Pastoral Leadership. He began his ministry as a youth pastor at Christ Community Church of the Nazarene in New Albany, Indiana. He went on to serve as lead pastor in three other congregations on the Southwest Indiana District for a total of ten and a half years. While on that district, Tim served the District Nazarene Youth International as Vice President, President, Camp Director, Nazarene Youth Conference Coordinator, and Teen Mission Coordinator. In 1996, Tim and Jamie accepted the lead pastor position at Conway First Church of the Nazarene in Arkansas (now Center Church of the Nazarene). In his 18 years as pastor, Tim served the North Arkansas District as Missions USA director, advisory board member, and Nazarene Discipleship International Director. In 2013, Tim and Jamie moved to the Indianapolis District, serving the Grace Pointe Church of the Nazarene until 2020, when he was elected District Superintendent of the Northeastern Indiana District Church of the Nazarene. In April of 2025, Tim was elected District Superintendent of the West Texas District, where he currently serves.

Throughout his ministry, Tim has envisioned a revitalized church with a strong emphasis on guiding the current church to prepare the next generation to not only experience a move of God but, from that place and space, impact their generation for the sake of the Gospel. Tim's guiding verse, as well as his ongoing prayer, comes from Psalm 90:16, "Let us, your servants, see you work again; let our children see your glory."

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, which is “Character / Culture / Christ.”

Today the mace is carried by Professor Ken Rosfeld, Associate Professor of Commercial Music Production for the College of Undergraduate Studies. Prof. Ken Rosfeld has served full-time as an SNU faculty member since 2005.

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

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.

PRESIDENT’S AWARDS

The President’s Award is the highest award given to one male and one female traditional, undergraduate SNU student selected by the faculty, staff, and administration of the University. The winners should demonstrate a commitment to Refining Character, Creating Culture, and Serving Christ through loyalty, cooperation, service, appreciation of learning, sportsmanship, and leadership, all through a Christlike example. The finalists are noted in the morning degree candidates list with the + symbol. The sculpture presented to recipients is entitled, “A Cup...in His Name” and was crafted by SNU alumnus Scott Stearman. Their names will be added to a plaque displaying names of recipients since 1940. This marks the 87th year for presenting this award.

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. Heather Clemmer, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, Professor and Chair, Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences; Dr. Scott Drabenstot, Professor of Psychology; Dr. Caio França, Professor of Biology and Director, Quetzal Education Research Center; Dr. Joel Frees, Associate Professor, School of Kinesiology; 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; 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:

Emma Burton

Division of Cultural & Communication Studies

Isabelle Smith

School of Nursing

Colter Bufford

TRIO McNair Scholars

Chloe Hackler

Department of Psychology & Counseling

Hailey Najera

Department of History, Politics, & Law

Conley McAuliff

School of Kinesiology

Kaden Manuel

School of Business

Eliana Brown

School of Education

Nathaniel Lee

School of Music

Logan Bell

Departments of Computing, Mathematics & Physics

Judah Davis

School of Theology & Ministry

Joanna Zachariah

Departments of Biology, Chemistry, & Environmental Science

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.