



One Hundred Twentieth Commencement

Saturday, May 13, 2023
Sawyer Center

SOUTHERN NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

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Ten O'clock A.M. Sawyer Center

***PROCESSIONAL**

“Pomp and Circumstance” by Sir Edward Elgar – Arr. Warren Wernick

“Rigaudon” by Andrew Campa – Arr. Michael Allen

Organ and Brass

Prof. Tim Marek

Adjunct Professor, School of Music

Prof. Ricky Spears

Assistant Professor, School of Music

“Southern Brass”

SNU Brass Quintet

FLAG BEARERS

Putnam City Junior Air Force ROTC Detachment Color Guard

MACE BEARER

Dr. Heather Clemmer

Professor of History and Chair, Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences,

Director of CUGS General Education

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Terry Rowland

Chair, Board of Trustees

***INVOCATION**

Mrs. Glynna Poff

SNU Class of 1982, Parent of Graduate

GREETINGS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Keith Newman

University President

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Dr. David Graves

General Superintendent, Church of the Nazarene

HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Tim Eades

University Provost

HONORARY DOCTORAL DEGREES

Dr. Keith Newman

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

Dr. Tim Eades

AWARDING OF DEGREES

Dr. Keith Newman

INTRODUCTION OF GRADUATES

Dr. Dennis Williams

Vice President of Strategy and Innovation

TURNING OF THE TASSEL

Dr. Tim Eades

SNU ALMA MATER

Dr. Jim Graves
Associate Professor, School of Music

ALUMNI INDUCTION

Rev. Larry Morris
Vice President of University Relations

***BENEDICTION**

Dr. David McClung
SNU Class of 1965, Grandfather of Graduate

RECESSIONAL

“Rigaudon” by Andrew Campa – Arr. Michael Allen
*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. Dennis Williams

**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 Twentieth Commencement

Saturday, May 13, 2023

Two O'clock P.M. Sawyer Center

***PROCESSIONAL**

"Pomp and Circumstance" by Sir Edward Elgar – Arr. Warren Wernick

"Rigaudon" by Andrew Campa – Arr. Michael Allen

Organ and Brass

Prof. Tim Marek

Adjunct Professor, School of Music

Prof. Ricky Spears

Assistant Professor, School of Music

"Southern Brass"

SNU Brass Quintet

FLAG BEARERS

Putnam City Junior Air Force ROTC Detachment Color Guard

MACE BEARER

Dr. Heather Clemmer

Professor of History and Chair, Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences,

Director of CUGS General Education

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Terry Rowland

Chair, Board of Trustees

***INVOCATION**

Mrs. Sherry Brestle

Parent of Graduate

GREETINGS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Keith Newman

University President

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Dr. David Graves

General Superintendent, Church of the Nazarene

HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Mark Winslow

Vice President, College of Professional and Graduate Studies

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

Dr. Mark Winslow

AWARDING OF DEGREES

Dr. Keith Newman

INTRODUCTION OF GRADUATES

Dr. Dennis Williams

Vice President of Strategy and Innovation

TURNING OF THE TASSEL

Dr. Mark Winslow

SNU ALMA MATER

Dr. Jim Graves
Associate Professor, School of Music

ALUMNI INDUCTION

Rev. Larry Morris
Vice President of University Relations

***BENEDICTION**

Dr. Koshy Muthalaly
Professor, College of Professional and Graduate Studies

RECESSIONAL

“Rigaudon” by Andrew Campa – Arr. Michael Allen
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GUEST DISMISSAL

Dr. Dennis Williams

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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 ~ Morning

Bachelor of Arts

Aaron Bacewicz **	Abbigail Jo Jarantowski
Faith Campbell Blose **	Joshua Lewis
Xavier T. Bryant	Emilia Grace Mekuria *
Brianna Cloar	Maitland Aimée Pickle
Grace Elizabeth Eades **	Michael Paydon Spencer *
Dalton Joe Handwork *	Katelyn Stolz **
Edward Christian Hilliary	Abigail Tardibono ***^
Macey Hoffpauir ***^	Angela Dawn Warwick
Madeline Hoffpauir ***^	

Bachelor of Science

Noah Elias Abrego	Ashton Beau Hamilton *
Jaime Nicole Acre ***	Landon Hamm
Georgia Adams **	Jacob Hardie
Alessandro Rafael Alfaro	Stetson Matthew Harkness
Kamron D Andrus	Maya Kerin Hartnett
David Armijo	Eden Dyanna Holetzky **
Maci Attalla **	Blade Horton
Zachary Maxwell Banz	Caitlynne Belle Hudgens *
Isabella Nichole Bassett	Drake Anderson Irby *
Sunny A. Batschelett ***	De'Angelo Joseph Janzen
Darrius Blackshire **^	Andrew Kinnamon *
Madilyn Brant ^	Karissa A. Kostelnick
Zaccheaus Tristan Brown	Trace Joseph Lackey
Emma Buckwalter ***	Benjamin Lee Lapat ^
Callie Campbell ***^	Charity J. Logemann ***
Caroline Olivia Cavanaugh *	Jalen M. Lynn
Raegan Cleveland ^	Rayna Magallanes **
Robert Combs	Emily Medlin
Camden Robert Coughran **	Victoria N. Mendez *
Keaton Emery Crooks **	Bella Mitchell *
James Crutcher *	Emily Monaghan *
Lauren Davidson	Madison Louise Morgan *
Nicholas Thomas Davis	Avery Morris *
Lauryn McKenzie Downs	Bailey Morris **^
Brock D. Eltiste **	Micah Moutinho
William Craig Emerson *	Brett Myrick
Emma Evans *	Macie Joy Nantze ***
Aric Matthew Ferguson	Jonah Paul Newsom
Paulo Flores	Emily N. Nordhues ***
Isabelle Frazier **	Sydney Robert William Oliver *
Christian Garcia	Shelby Orton ***
Ann George	Paola Michelle Pizarro
Bryan Alessandro Gonzalez ***	Romario J. Rampersad
Logan Graham	Aaron Randle
Noe Gutierrez	Alexis Redwine ***
Yaressi E. Gutierrez	Lauryn Reither *
Maylou Elizabeth Guy **	Raven Nicole Richard

Bachelor of Science (Continued)

Vicente Marrufo Rios ^	Sabbatha Rose Taylor
Juan Remigio Rodarte	Brianna Rose Temby
Paris Alizabeth Rodgers	Hannah Torres
Eric Romero *	Yajaira Trevizo **
Ryan Rouse	Daniel Trojman
Holden Sanderson *	Michaela Truitt **
Brixton Joseph Schmitt *^	Hutch Underwood **
Melanie Brianne Siems ***^	Ashley Van Meter
Erin Celeste Sims	Matthew Vaughan ***
Cameron Skaggs **^	Peyton Vinyard ***
Dalen Smith *	Rachel Weir *
Lillie Rebecca Smith *	Rachael Marie Weiss
Brooklyn Sullivan	Juan Carlos Zepeda ^
Dalton Michael Tarrant *	

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Roddelle Anyi *	Lori Luker
Sarrah Bailey Backer	Kole Zacchaeus Marlatt
Carolina Becerra	Andrea Jazmin Martinez **
Jenn Burgard *	Julia Nowell *
Monica Rose Chandlee *	Tucker Poff ^
Devin Lanier Dobbins	Sandra Shaefer
Camryn Scott Gore	Jessica Lauren Slothower **
Joe J Guizar	Kaleigh Stolz
Trenda LeGrande ***	Melody Sword *
Nefer Leon Ruiz	



GOLDEN GRADS

We honor members of the Bethany Nazarene College Class of 1973, 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.

Ellan Anderson
Marilyn *Peterson* Bergman
Steve Brown
Margo *Albright* Canaday
Debbie *Parrish* Clark
Rev. Larry Cornett
David Crittenden
Rev. Mike Curry
Nancy *Ray* Dougherty
David Eastman
Pam *Welch* Eggleston
Verle Eggleston
Marcia *McReynolds* Fisher
Dr. Michael Gentry
John Graham III
Dr. Ron Hodges
Steve Holz
Cindy *Harris* Ingersol
Sen. Owen Laughlin
Dr. Sue Anne *Cargill* Lively
Stan Martin
Maj. Gilbert McClung
Randy McDaniel
Brenda *Rice* Meyers
Rev. Al Mixon

Dr. Phil Moore
Rev. Dave Mosher
Marquita *Hazlip* Mosher
Deborah *Phillips* Payne
Dr. Sara *Davis* Powell
Mike Price
Vickie *Behrnes* Robinson
Rev. Mack Rogers
Claudia *Macrory* Rousselle
Judy *Nichols* Rowland
Bart Rustin, CFP
Linda *Theel* Shaw
Cheryl *Wiseman* Skinner
Rev. Leon Skinner
Dr. Randall Spindle
Kathy *Childers* Steel
Nina *Taylor* Trusty
Richard Tucker
Rev. Scott Van Bibber
Shelley *Alexander* Van Bibber
Ann (Sammee) *Blacklock* Waller
Millie *Kester* Watkins
Charlie Watkins
Rev. Ken Wells
Joanne *Sauter* Wheeler

Degree Candidates ~ Afternoon

Doctor of Education

Dr. Timothy Brian Argo

Title: Engaging Classrooms: A Case Study of Teachers' Experiences With Student-Centered Learning

Committee Chair: Dr. Debbie Smith

Dr. Brittanie C. Buckley

Title: Exploring Barriers and Challenges to the Leadership Advancement of Female Professionals in the Safety Industry

Committee Chair: Dr. Robin Lacy

Dr. Melissa Ann Cox

Title: The Effects of Wearable Technology on Health-Related Behavior Change Among College-Aged Students

Committee Chair: Dr. Sylvia Goodman

Dr. S. Lance Crawley

Title: Influences on the Passage of Public School Bond Elections in Oklahoma from FY19 Through FY22

Committee Chair: Dr. Kent Shellenberger

Dr. Dawn Sherie Collums

Title: Exploring Transformational Leadership in a School Implementing Universal Design for Learning: A Case Study

Committee Chair: Dr. Becky Slothower

Dr. Christopher Sean Culver

Title: Motivation and The Collective Impact on Teacher Retention

Committee Chair: Dr. Gayle Kearns-Buie

Dr. Drew Eichelberger

Title: Cost-Benefit Analysis of Teacher-Student Relationships: A Case Study

Committee Chair: Dr. Kent Shellenberger

Dr. Misty Farber

Title: A Quasi-Experimental Study Comparing Work-Life Balance and Turnover Intentions Among Rural Oklahoma Classroom Teachers Working Four-Day and Five-Day School Weeks

Committee Chair: Dr. Courtney Munday

Dr. Tina Wallenberg Floyd

Title: Same-Gender Mentoring and Career Advancement for Women in Athletics Administration, Entrepreneurship in Athletics, and Coaching

Committee Chair: Dr. Amy Davenport

Dr. Kelly B. Forbes

Title: The Dual Language Impact: The Role Cultural Proficiency Can Play in Supporting All Students

Committee Chair: Dr. Taylor Tribble

Dr. Barbara Ellen Gillham

Title: The Impact of Trauma-Informed School Practices on Positive Student Outcomes

Committee Chair: Dr. Pam Broyles

Dr. Susan Louise Gray

Title: Influence of Tier II Interventions in Building Literacy Skills in Elementary Classrooms: A Longitudinal Study

Committee Chair: Dr. Gwen Ladd Hackler

Dr. Cathy Harmon

Title: Exploring the Impact of Mindfulness on Student Behavior

Committee Chair: Dr. Stephoni Case

Doctor of Education (Continued)

Dr. Richard Haynes

Title: The Role of Professional Development in Teacher Self-Efficacy and Retention: A Case Study

Committee Chair: Dr. Robyn Miller

Dr. Jill Henderson

Title: School Superintendent Leadership Through Educational Crisis: A Case Study

Committee Chair: Dr. Lois Cox

Dr. Stephanie Hyder

Title: Stakeholder Perceptions of the Development and Implementation of a Democratic Strategic Planning Process: A Case Study

Committee Chair: Dr. Sharon Wilbur

Dr. Dakota Jordan Kaus

Title: An Analysis Of Parent Perceptions Of Preschool And Subsequent Student Enrollment

Committee Chair: Dr. Pam Broyles

Dr. Amanda Brigham Lashley

Title: A Study of the Relationship Between Principal Mentoring and Perceptions Of Strategic Thinking in a Charter School

Committee Chair: Dr. Anne Ghost Bear

Dr. Deonna Shintel Maxfield

Title: The Relationship Between Emotional Intelligence, Leadership Style, and Job Satisfaction in Customer Service Organizations

Committee Chair: Dr. Jillian Bailey

Dr. Yvonne Rose Metende Mballa

Title: Cameroonian Female Athletes' Challenges and Barriers Within Sport Leadership

Committee Chair: Dr. Dawn Pearce

Dr. Kasandra Nelson

Title: Elementary Teachers' Experiences in an Online Teaching Environment During COVID-19

Committee Chair: Dr. Scott Marsee

Dr. Lisa C. Palmer

Title: AI Business Value: Exploring For-Profit Business Motivations, Actions, and Outcomes Through A Historical Analysis of Pre-Published Digital Audio Data

Committee Chair: Dr. Beth Adele

Dr. Ijeoma Nwakaego Popoola

Title: Exploring Inclusive Education in Nigerian Public Schools

Committee Chair: Dr. Becky Slothower

Dr. Whitney M. Preston

Title: The Impact Of Diversity And Diverse Programming on Teacher Recruitment and Retention Within Independent Schools

Committee Chair: Dr. Taylor Tribble

Dr. Kyle Brandon Reynolds

Title: Implementation of a Multi-Tiered System of Supports in Public Schools to Improve Student Behavior Indicators and Mental Health

Committee Chair: Dr. Robert Kenley

Dr. Angela Lee Rhoades

Title: Parent-School Engagement: Bridging Cultural Differences and Communication Practices

Committee Chair: Dr. Jillian Bailey

Dr. Toby L. Ringwald

Title: Communication Strategies Implemented by Oklahoma School Superintendents During COVID-19

Committee Chair: Dr. Brent Casey

Dr. Mandy Lee Seward

Title: The Importance Of Restorative Ideologies On The Implementation of Restorative Justice Practices

Committee Chair: Dr. Courtney Munday

Dr. Austin R.W. Sterling

Title: The Relationship Between Positive Behavioral Interventions And Supports And Behavioral Outcomes

Committee Chair: Dr. Teresa Wilkerson

Dr. Kristina Louise Smith

Title: The Journey Towards Resiliency Among Intimate Partner Violence Survivors: A Narrative Inquiry Study

Committee Chair: Dr. Shawna Richardson

Dr. Ronald Charles Titus

Title: Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) and Perceived Self-Efficacy (PSE) of School Staff

Committee Chair: Dr. Tim Taylor

Dr. Woodrow Aim Daw-Kya Thoen-Gya Tho Wilson

Title: The Creators: A Case Study in Tribal Initiatives to Cultivate and Implement Tribally-Informed Curriculum in Oklahoma

Committee Chair: Dr. Robin Zape-tah-hol-ah Minthorn

Dr. Mark Andrew Zadorozny

Title: A Case Study Exploring Teacher/Coach Role Conflict in Rural Schools Through the Lens of Occupational Socialization Theory

Committee Chair: Dr. Chandler Mead

Master of Arts

Kelsey Hunter Barbee

Dylan Bauer

Zebedee Blash Jr.

Koby Lawrence Bowie

Kathy Renee Breeden

Alexis Brianne Brown

Kala Butler

Parker Andrew Childers

Kayla R Click

William Jeff Conner

Keith Coombs

Lance Weston Cotter

Brandie Layne Davenport

Brandon Neal Debo

Tyler Blake Edsel

Amy Ford

Lisa Gail Grissom

Brandi Gross

Steven Lamont Gunns Jr.

Michael Keith Gustafson

Eric Michael Gutierrez

Melody Lynn Harding

Judy Harris

Crystal Ingle

Cheianne Ivy

Rudi Alisa James

Stephanie R. Kennedy

Ebony Lawrence

William Mitchell

Jajuana S. Moore

Samuel Luke Nelson

Catherine Elise Rook

Dawn Reed Sallee

Sarah Jo Shofler

Kristy Stolz

LeAnn Storck

Amanda Irena Thomas

Christina M. Tonay

Mikka Welker

Michael Lee Whitfield

Master of Business Administration

Cassandra Awatt
Abdullah Taher Aljuraysh
Dylisa Beadle
Nathan Stewart Brestle
John F. Brown
Marcus Lorenzo Burns
Denea Rene' Carter
Tonya Denice Carter
Kyle Joshua Casey
Lea Ann Chandler
Bradley Alan Coats
Douglass Conley
Khalilah Conley
Michael J. Conner
Vincent Cortez
Ricky G Dent
Kennedy Gillette
Adam S. Girardot
Exiquio Gonzalez
Holly Corine Granzen
Triston Graves
Andrea Jacqueline Hampton
Angel Hernandez

Kae Lea Hewett
R Joy Holton
Wyatt Hook
William Duane Hutcherson Jr.
Jessica Jeanene Kieffer
Sadie Kilby
Judson J. Krantz
Bijan Lockhart
Kyler Dean Lunsford
Aaron W. McGonigal
Abesolom Ermas Mekuria
Ryan Mullins
Brandon Lee Perez
Robert Trent Rhodes
Marietta Rogers
Julia Schwake
Oliver James Stanway
Lauren Daun Stitt
Catherine Joann Sutton
Darla A Tompkins
William Frederick Treffinger
Tony S. Turner
Lafarria Nicole Tye

Master of Leadership

Julissa Michelle Pearson
Nancy E. Cejka
Thomas Joyce
Kari McLaurin

Wayne E Smith
H. JoVaughn Wheat
Courtney R. Youngblood

Master of Science

Steve Bellew
Elijah J. Calhoun
William David D'Amico Jr.
Erin Maria Dang
Leonard L. Davis
Allyson Carroll Greenhill
Dale Hammond
Madalyn Paige Harper
Yletha Hart
Gwendolyn A Jones
Joel L. Kubitscheck

Christiane LaMonica
Jose Rafael Marrufo
LaRisha Calon Mason
Blaine C. Minks
Rudy V Rodriguez
Jennifer Ann Romero-Ivarson
Trenton Smith
Arin Taylor
Jessica Dawn Tracy
Cameron L. Wells

Associate of Arts

Jeanene M. Adkins *
Melody Kristin Barber ***
Sheila Marie Cavett **
William J Feehan III
Gerald W. Kenneybrew Jr. ***

Maggie M. McCleery *
Lashell Phillips
Leroy Richardson
Katy Lynn Riva

Bachelor of Science

Ernest Kofi Adu	Charnele Lynn Lewis
Franklin Terrill Alexander Altebaumer *	Richard E. Lewis
Angellica Bains	Andrew David Long
Thomas Baird	Latisha Renee Loveless
Rico Baker	Alyssa Nicole Martinez
Harvey Bethany ^	Joshua Jerome Matanane
Amy Marie Bettis	Tabatha McGee
Marketa A. Blackshire	John Erik McKee
Domanique Bramlett	Callie Miller
Brandi Bullard Brown	Kerry Lorraine Minyard
Candace Mishael Brown *	OBrien Montoya
Stephanie Anne Brown ***	Jeffrey Lee Moody
Angelia Danielle Burkhardt	Donald Eugene Mullican, III
Anthony J Caroselli Jr. ^	Roger Bernard Nealy
Kimberly Ann Carter	Andrew Joshua Nelums
Christian Doyle Chapman	Rainna Okapal ^
Chrishila B. Chapman	Carisha Chante O'Rear
Patrick Robert Clark	Gabriela Orozco
Russell Clark	Caleb Philliber
Kristen Clarke	Colton Phoenix
Karen Le'Ellen Coker ***	Wanda Kay Price
Matthew Cormier *	Ashley Ragsdale *
Steve Cowan * ^	Amanda L Ramirez
Vanessa C Crouch	Brian K Rasco ***
Brandy Cunningham	Steven K Reeves
Justin Troy Daniels	Olivia Valle-Ruiz
Meghan Leigh Dixon	Solara Sain *
Arturo A. Duque	Emily Schug
KaTrina S. Evans	Daniel N. Sigstad **
Christina Sue Floyd	Stephanie R. Smith
Lauren Gillian	Tyler Smith
Garth Glass **	Ashleigh Nicole Sneed *
Rashonda R. Hagar	Teri Lyn Stucks
Emily Helen Hambrick	Kendra L. Sumrall ^
Kelly Hamilton *	Tiffany Nicole Taylor
Natasha Hargett	Kimberly Dawn Thomason
Christopher J Henderson	Betty Jo Thompson ^
Clarissa Gayle Henry **^	Leslie Erin Voss
My Trang Thi Quach - Hoang	Cherell C Walker
Angela Racheal Huckaby	Ciara Faith Weatherford
Chris Kham Inthasone	Christopher Alan Weiszbrod
Heath Andrew David Julick	Jessica Whisenhunt
Lisa Dawn Kelly	Gino Santino Whitley
Kathryn Ketchum	Brandon M. Williams
Cherokee A. King *	Nick Williams
Carlee Marie Knighten	Tammy Woods **^
Christopher Michael Lack	Debby J. Wright
Michelle D. Lara	John Robert Wright
Jeffrey Michael Lawson **	Joseph Grant Yost
Theresa V. Le	

Speaker

DR. DAVID GRAVES

Dr. David W. Graves is a general superintendent in the Church of the Nazarene. Dr. Graves was chosen for the highest elected office in the denomination at the 27th General Assembly held in Orlando, Florida, USA, in 2009. At the time of his election, Dr. Graves was the senior pastor of College Church of the Nazarene in Olathe, Kansas, where he had served since 2006.

Prior to College Church, he served as director of Sunday School Ministries for the Church of the Nazarene International Headquarters from 2001 to 2006. He has had pastoral assignments in Kansas, Ohio, Tennessee, Oklahoma, and North Carolina. Graves is a graduate of Olivet Nazarene University and received his Master of Divinity degree from Nazarene Theological Seminary. He received an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Olivet. The author of three books, he has also written for numerous publications.

Dr. Graves and his wife, Sharon, have four married children, Michael, John, Stephen, and Rachel, and 12 beautiful grandchildren.

Honorary Doctorate

BETTY LOU THOMPSON

Betty Lou Bingaman Thompson was raised on a family ranch on the plains of South Dakota. She came to Bethany Nazarene College in 1971 as an elementary education major. Her teaching career took her to Pennsylvania and South Dakota. After serving as a children's pastor in Kansas, she returned to Oklahoma to teach in the Oklahoma Public School system for 5 years.

In 1986, she joined the School of Education faculty of Southern Nazarene University, and has served for 37 years in that capacity. While at Southern Nazarene University, Betty Lou has been recognized with the Excellence in Faculty Performance award. Her greatest joys in teaching have come from personal relationships with students, while advising as many as 70 students per semester. Many of Betty Lou's students have gone on to receive recognition as "Teachers of the Year" in school districts across the country.

Children's Literature is her passion and while attempting to keep up with current authors, her reading lists are long and varied. Betty Lou was also the initiator and founder of the SNU School of Education Reading Clinic, where Early Childhood, Elementary and Middle School future educators have access to teaching/tutoring materials and resources. No other private institution Teacher Education program in Oklahoma has this type of facility that helps equip future teachers with diagnostic and remedial reading tools and resources. Multiple student teaching observations took up a large portion of her teaching load each semester. During the course of her service at SNU, Betty Lou has supervised and advised over 400 education majors. Watching her students mature into exceptional instructors brought great satisfaction and fulfillment to her career at SNU.

Her greatest commitment is to God and family. Her five children and six grandchildren will continue to make her life meaningful. Betty Lou's life verse is: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, and soul....and your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37. This verse has helped her to maintain the focus that represents the life she has lived at Southern Nazarene University

Honorary Doctorate

ELEANOR WHITSETT

Eleanor Beck Watkins Whitsett was born in Kansas City, Missouri. At age four, Eleanor demonstrated a God-given gift for music and began playing piano for her church at age twelve. Upon graduation from Asbury University with a degree in piano performance, Eleanor and Lowell Don Whitsett were married on March 3, 1956. Eleanor used her gifts for the worldwide radio ministry of the Church of the Nazarene and served as organist for eight Church of the Nazarene General Assemblies and Conventions. She has also completed a variety of arranging and publishing projects for vocal, choral and keyboard for the Lillenas Publishing Company and served on the Advisory Committee for the Nazarene hymnal, "Sing to the Lord."

In 1972, Eleanor earned a Master of Music degree in Organ Performance from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Eleanor, Don and their two boys, John and Jeffrey, moved to Oklahoma City where she played organ at her

local church and served as Adjunct Professor of Organ and Hymnology in the School of Music at BNC/SNU for 27 years. During that time, she was the force behind the installation of the Schlicker organ in Cantrell Music Hall.

Eleanor studied organ at Oklahoma City University, the Summer Academy for Organ in the Netherlands, and the Westfälische Landeskirche Musikschule in Germany, and during this time, Eleanor became acquainted with the German composer, Zolt Gardonyi. She championed his music and subsequently brought him to BNC/SNU where students were privileged to perform his and his father's music.

Eleanor is an active member of the American Guild of Organists, having served as Dean of the Oklahoma City chapter. She is a member of Mu Phi Epsilon, the Hymn Society of America, and the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP). Eleanor is a member of the Oklahoma City Orchestra League, and has served on the Board of Directors. She was presented a Lifetime Achievement Award by Oklahoma City's First Presbyterian Church.

Eleanor has continued to compose and arrange works for various publishers and has served as interim organist for various churches, often setting aside compensation to support the BNC/SNU School of Music with tuition assistance and scholarships.

Surpassing all these accomplishments, Eleanor's greatest joy of her life is being married to Don, and being mother of two boys, the grandmother of six, and the great-grandmother of two.

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. Heather Clemmer, Professor of History and Chair, Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Director of CUGS General Education. Dr. Clemmer has served full-time as a SNU faculty member since 2006.

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 worshipped. 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, 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 84th 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 37th year for the presentation of these awards.

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. Sylvia Goodman, Professor and Director, Kinesiology Graduate Programs; Dr. Cathy Hutchings-Wedel, Professor and Director, Organizational Leadership, School of Professional Studies; Dr. Melany Kyzer, Professor and Chair, Division of Cultural and Communications Studies; Dr. Loren McElroy, Associate Professor and Director, PTA Program; Dr. Tim Taylor, Professor, School of Education; and Dr. Ron Wright, Professor, Department of Psychology and Counseling.

University Marshals are students recognized for their outstanding academic performance among those anticipating graduation in the coming academic year. These students are selected each year based on cumulative credit hours and grade point averages. The following University Marshals are assisting the Faculty Marshals during the May 2023 Commencement:

Sara Armstrong
Julia Benn
Catherine Boulding
Kaley Brubaker

Elizabeth Everett
Rouve Jacques
Asa Robertson
Lily Rhodes

Esther Sanderson
Emma Swearingen
Alison Ward
Fallon Weatherford

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.



Our mission is to make Christlike disciples
through higher education.