



*One Hundred Twenty-First Commencement*

*Saturday, December 2, 2023*  
*Sawyer Center*

**SOUTHERN NAZARENE UNIVERSITY**

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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*

Dr. Ricky Spears

*Assistant Professor, School of Music*

Southern Brass

*SNU Brass Quintet*

### **FLAG BEARERS**

Putnam City High School Air Force JROTC Color Guard

### **MACE BEARER**

Dr. Sylvia Goodman

*Professor and Chair, School of Rehabilitation and Sport Sciences*

### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Dr. Chuck Fountain

*Chair, SNU Board of Trustees*

### **\*INVOCATION**

Rev. Kristina Armstrong

*SNU Class of 1999*

*Parent of Graduate*

### **\*HYMN**

“Joy to the World”

Dr. Jim Graves

*Associate Professor, School of Music / Director*

### **GREETINGS AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Dr. Keith Newman

*University President*

### **COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS**

Dr. Deborah Shropshire

*Executive Director, Oklahoma Human Services*

### **HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS**

Dr. Mark Winslow

*Chief Academic Officer*

### **PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES**

Dr. Mark Winslow

### **AWARDING OF DEGREES**

Dr. Keith Newman

### **INTRODUCTION OF GRADUATES**

Dr. Dennis Williams

*Vice President, Academic Affairs for Undergraduate Studies*

## ALUMNI INDUCTION

Mr. Todd Brant  
*Executive Director of Alumni Relations*

## \*SNU ALMA MATER

Dr. Jim Graves

## \*BENEDICTION

Mr. Les Goodwin  
*Parent of Graduate*

## RECESSIONAL

*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.*

## 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 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*

Jeanene M. Adkins \*  
Gerald Wayne Kenneybrew Jr.  
Theresa Le

Brian Paul Loderhose \*\*\*  
Leroy Richardson \*  
Allen W. Starks Sr.

## *Bachelor of Arts*

Joah Ryan Flores      Alyssa Koch \*\*\*

## *Bachelor of Music Education*

Brady Scott Armstrong \*      Merriah Krystine Armstrong \*      Lindsey Nicole Mears \*\*

## *Bachelor of Science*

Sara Abbet  
Andrea Adams  
Chelsea R. Adkins \*\*  
Ernest Kofi Adu  
Noor S. Alazzawi \*  
Jeremie W. Allen  
Wyatt D. Armstrong  
Abdullaziz Askarov  
Hope Ross Ballard  
Aundrea Niccole Barnhart \*\*\*  
Mark Adam Baughman  
Tamekia A. Bennett  
Margaret Billicana  
Carole Ellen Blacklee-Teaford  
Catherine M. Boulding \*\*\*  
Ashleigh Brooks  
Kallima D. Broughton  
Brianna Brown  
Gary V. Carlson \*\*\*^  
Rebekah M. Carlton \*^  
Ryan Christensen \*\*  
Quincy L. Colbert \*  
Shelly Craig-Smith  
Elizabeth Dawn Crawford  
Sarah Michelle Creach  
Tina Cohlmlia Creech  
William J. Crouch  
Brittney Lynn Davis \*\*  
Ryan DeGraw  
Sergio Dario Diaz  
Oluwatosin Tolulope Dina  
Andralesia Doss  
Amanda Drake  
Raynisha Drake  
Feliciano J. Escobar  
Telanio Fred Evans  
Curtis Fenner Jr. ^  
Elissa Fitzsimmons  
Andrea Michelle Flores ^  
Hiram J. Flores Jr. \*  
Michelle Renee Foster  
Jessie Lynn Fouts  
Marisol Fraire  
Jamie S. Frejo  
LaTasha J. Gage \*

Blake Gaines  
Marsha Gentry \*\*\*^  
Jaime Gibson  
Payton Gibson \*\*  
Karla Granados de Chico \*  
Tara Gray  
Mary Ann Hacking \*\*^  
Laynie Hankins  
Natasha Hargett  
Aric Scott Harmon \*\*  
Christon LaTrice Harris ^  
Rebecca A. Hernandez \*\*\*  
Christopher Alonso Herrera Rivera \*  
Jason Richard Mesia Ingle  
Rouve M. Jacques \*\*  
Anna Marie Jennings  
Jacob Jiles  
Joshua Malik Jimenez  
Elizabeth Johnson ^  
Nathaniel Robert Jones  
Laura Elizabeth Kaste  
Leslie Ann Kennedy \*  
John Arthur Long V  
Tayden Lucero  
Janine Luevano  
Ian Maddox  
Leandra Martin  
Frankie Marie Mass \*  
Katelyn Elizabeth Matthews  
Crystal McKee \*\*\*  
Austin McCooley \*\*\*^  
Nolan D. Miles \*\*  
Nancy S. Miller  
Trey Patrick Miller  
Joseph Michael Wayne Milton  
Dustin Mitchell  
Naiya Isa Mitchell \*\*  
Breckynn Vic Myers  
Leslie Nicholes  
David W. Oakes ^  
Ty James Patterson  
Brittany Pham ^  
Hayden Michael Ray  
Pamela Rector \*  
Chase Rice

## *Bachelor of Science* CONTINUED

Matthew Connor Rice *	Madeline Tuba
Autumn M. Roberts *	Nikki Lynn Ussey **
Asa Cale Robertson ***	Michelle C. Villa
Stephanie Jo Searcy ***	Jarris J. Wade
Derek Sean Seba *	Braden Kay Walck
Jerry Shatswell *	Scotlyn Grace Waldrip
Natalie G. Shreffler *	Douglas Walls
Kalie Austin Skinner **	Andrew Alan Ward **
David Scott Smith ^	Travis Waskom Jr. *
Brian Sean Snow **	Devyn Rae Welch
Gera Spicuzza	Sarah Ruth White
Kourtney Blehm Swann	Liliokalani Maria Williams
Jonathan C. Thomas	Bronson Wise
Karie Thomas *	LaRessa Lynn Lane Wood **
Johnathon Scott Thronesberry ***	Kaitlyn Woodrell
Eldred Dennis Toombs	Talon A. Woody *
Julie Tran-Henderson	

## *Master of Arts*

Jonathan Allen	Dalton Brice Martin
Jaren Alvarado	Kierra McFadden
Autumn Rae' Anthony	Randall Bryce Morgan
Victoria Aviv	Derek Murray
Shannon Bailey	Julie Norwood
Crystal Dawn Baker	Tenaj Uyvonne O'Dell
Quiara Mechelle Barbee	Jaime Olson
Pierson Bell	Jacob Owen
Madison Cude Broadbent	Carson Petersen
K.C. Clifford Broyles	Hannah Rose Pratz
Stephen Jake Bugg	Brittini Michele Rea
Tanya Diane Caraballo	Dr. Shari Rodgers
Erin Michelle Galegor Clapper	Evan Rolls
Renda Danielle Crabtree	Evan Schultz
Krystal Nicole Crockett	Julie Ann Slate
Stephen R. Dark	Deanna Lee Smith
Alexandre da Silva Jr.	Kendra Stone
Kaci Durham	Kevin Matthew Swedlow
Hannah Durland	Phi Ton Tran
Trae Williams Fairchild	Victoria Ann Vaughn
Heather Griffith	Allysa D. Ware
Corey Michael Holm	Betsy Lynn White
Courtney Hornbeak	Shannon Elizabeth White
Rufus D. Howard	Sierra Dawn White
Courtney Hunter	Jackson Philip Willard
Carol Lee Anne Jenkins	Angel Lapril Williams
Brittany A. Johnson	Ja'Nea Williams
Rhona Kivumbi	Zakk Williams
Brittney Langilotti	Sam Wing
Micaela Lechuga Maxham	Valerie Wright
Belinda Denise Lee	Ashley Yellowhorse
Chelsea D. Maker	

## *Master of Business Administration*

Bethany Allison	Jarvis J. Davis
Dawone Wayne Banks	Jamie L. Di Piazza-Rodriguez
Beth Anne Barlow-Flug	Bruno Eusébio Ferreira
Peggy Barlow-Flug	Carlene E. Osage Hernandez
Breyanna Brice	Adokiye Iyaye
Lyric Storm Cabral	Carol Denise Lackey
Leonardo Caldera	Benjamin Lindsly
Mayra I. Castaneda	Bobbie Jeane Long
Jamie Ann Crawford	Brittain Alexander Manchester

## *Master of Business Administration* CONTINUED

Tamar Mazor  
Dylida Shajoy McCrary  
Sean Avery Neal  
Steven Nelson  
Joshua Lee Norman  
Krithikaa Pushparaj  
Nancy Rivera  
Andrew Taylor Runyan  
Dalton Chase Sanders  
Lindsey Brooke Santiago

Armannwah Chanell Sao  
Megan Simer  
LaVetra Lynn Taylor  
Kaleah Underwood  
Ashleigh Nicole White  
Kristina Marie White  
Jeffrey Scott Williams  
Mo Wilson II  
Adam C. Wright  
Stephen Paul Wyatt

## *Master of Leadership*

Rosa Lee Barringer  
Natalie Rose Brasket  
Victoria Sky Dennis  
Jeffrey K. L. Driver

James Idell Granville  
Laura Katherine Peliti  
Ryan Reid  
Hailee Aspyn Thompson

## *Master of Science*

Danette Layne Boswell  
Acasha FaNae Bowie  
Benjamin Storm Corliss  
Nicole Diane Davis  
Shante Fenner  
Margaret Jean Fox  
Michael Huffman

Shalisha Nicole Hyman  
Jarmeika Darquail Jones  
Shaun Peters  
Travis J. Schanaman  
John Edward Stewart  
Krystal Sumrell

## *Doctor of Education*

Dr. Ian R. Beaty

*Title: The Influence of Leadership on Retention In the Army National Guard: A Case Study*

Committee Chair: Dr. Jerry McMahan

Dr. Kaelyn K. Cole

*Title: Supporting Students Through Community Building in Secondary Virtual Public Schools: A Comparative Case Study*

Committee Chair: Dr. Richard Cobb

Dr. Jennifer Rose Cruz

*Title: The Impact of a Mentoring Program on Alternately Certified First-Year Teachers' Pedagogical Practice and Retention: A Case Study*

Committee Chair: Dr. Shawna Richardson

Dr. Sharon Natalie Dennis

*Title: How Post-Adoption Trauma Focused Therapy Helps With Emotional Attachment, Communication, And Trust With Children Adopted From State Custody*

Committee Chair: Dr. Shawn Pendley

Dr. Nathaniel Ray Goodwin

*Title: Exploring the Role of Christian University Leaders' Identity and Core Values When Facilitating a Large-Scale Campus Improvement Project*

Committee Chair: Dr. Kent Shellenberger

Dr. Tara Leigh Coffia Hagood

*Title: Knowledge, Skills, and Artistic Attitudes: An Arts Integrated Curriculum Case Study*

Committee Chair: Dr. Dawn Pearce

Dr. Sandra Celeste Craven Harrell

*Title: Servant Leader Teachers: A Correlational Study of Peer Support and Teacher Retention in Rural Oklahoma Public Schools*

Committee Chair: Dr. Kirk Webster

Dr. Tiffany Harris-Corbbrey

*Title: The Role of Instructional Leadership Directors in Supporting Beginning Principals: A Case Study*

Committee Chair: Dr. Kim Dyce

Dr. Johnna C. James

*Title: An Exploration of Culturally Responsive Teaching Beliefs and Connections to Historical Trauma: A Quantitative Study*

Committee Chair: Dr. Anne Ghost Bear

Dr. Cara Jernigan

*Title: The Role of Elementary School Principals' Personality Traits and Servant Leadership in Building Trusting Relationships with Faculty*

Committee Chair: Dr. Shawna Richardson

Dr. Brett Lynn Knight

*Title: 1:1 Technology Availability in Oklahoma Public Schools*

Committee Chair: Dr. Michael Houston

Dr. Cheryl McGee

*Title: Implementing School-Based Mental Health Multi-Tiered System of Supports: A Case Study*

Committee Chair: Dr. Shelly Ellis

## Doctor of Education CONTINUED

Dr. Julia Kendi Muriithi

*Title: Factors Influencing the Effective Implementation of Leadership Development Programs: A Case Study*

Committee Chair: Dr. Shawna Richardson

Dr. Wendell Dewayne Oliver

*Title: Exploring Mental Health Providers' Self Efficacy In Managing Stress When Treating Veterans*

Committee Chair: Dr. Shari Rodgers

Dr. Ashley Gayle Proctor

*Title: Post-Secondary Transition Experiences of Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities in a Community-Based Program: A Case Study*

Committee Chair: Dr. Christiana Horn

Dr. Lesa L. Rohrer

*Title: Examining the Effect of District-Level Equity-Focused Accountability on Practitioner Agency and Rate of Chronic Absenteeism in One Urban District: A Comparative Study Through the Lens of Cultural-Historical Activity Theory*

Committee Chair: Dr. Jackie Mania

Dr. Brayden J. Savage

*Title: The Role of Communities of Practice in a Professional Learning Community: Case Study*

Committee Chair: Dr. Kim Dyce

Dr. Jaycie Smith

*Title: The Impact of Leadership Development Programs in Building Principal Self-Efficacy: A Case Study*

Committee Chair: Dr. Amy Fichtner

Dr. Betty Stanton

*Title: Engaging Secondary Students Through Virtual Theatre Education: A Case Study in Collaborative Community Interaction*

Committee Chair: Dr. Christiana Horn

Dr. Alana Malynn Tibbs

*Title: A Comparative Analysis of the Relationships Between Support Systems in a Community College and Graduation Rates for Non-Trio Participating First-Generation College Students*

Committee Chair: Dr. Melissa Lewis

Dr. Tonya Jean Ward

*Title: Teacher Perception of the Influence of Technology Policies and Teacher Protocols on Student Connectedness in Secondary Level Classrooms*

Committee Chair: Dr. Scott Marsee

Dr. Kayleen Wichert

*Title: A Quantitative Study of Secondary Teachers' Level of Trust Impacted by Principals' Actions to Influence Teachers' Self-Efficacy*

Committee Chair: Dr. S. Lance Crawley

Dr. Anthony D. Woody I

*Title: Exploring Educational Stakeholders' Perceptions and Understandings of Equity Through the Lens of Critical Race Theory*

Committee Chair: Dr. Shawn Pendley

Dr. Danielle Olivia Zoungrana

*Title: Cultural Implications of Female Leadership in Côte d'Ivoire: A Qualitative Exploration Through Narratives*

Committee Chair: Dr. Vicki Nighswonger

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

## Speaker

### DR. DEBORAH SHROPSHIRE

Deborah Shropshire, M.D., M.H.A., serves as the Director of Oklahoma Human Services and in summer 2023 was also named as the Cabinet Secretary for Human Services. She previously served as the Director of Child Welfare Services and the Deputy Director of Child Welfare Community Partnerships. She is a pediatrician who initially worked alongside Child Welfare through assisting with the medical needs of children in a foster shelter and developed the Fostering Hope clinic for long-term follow up of children in foster care and adoption, as well as advising Child Welfare on policy and training.

Dr. Shropshire obtained her medical degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, a Master's in Healthcare Administration degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Public Health, and a Bachelor's in Science degree from Southern Nazarene University. She is board-certified in pediatrics and serves on the executive committee for the American Academy of Pediatrics' Council on Foster Care, Adoption, and Kinship Care. She has won several local and national awards related to advocacy, including the Ray Helfer Award for Child Abuse Prevention presented by the National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds and the Commissioner's Award for Outstanding Service in the Field of Child Abuse and Neglect from the U.S. Administration on Children, Youth, and Families.

Shropshire is perhaps best known for her passion, communication skills, and leadership in child welfare system improvement and transformation, both from roles outside and inside Oklahoma Human Services. She believes that child maltreatment could be eliminated under the right conditions, and that strengthening families prior to child welfare involvement is a significant step toward that solution.



# 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 Sylvia Goodman, Professor and Chair, School of Rehabilitation Sciences. Dr. Goodman has served full-time as an SNU faculty member for 22 years.

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

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 38th 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 and BSBA, School of Professional Studies; Dr. Melany Kyzer, Professor and Chair, Division of Cultural and Communication Studies; Dr. Loren McElroy, Associate Professor and Director, PTA Program; Dr. Tim Taylor, Professor, School of Education; Dr. Keith Toles, Assistant Professor and Program Director, Graduate Programs in Business; 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 upcoming academic year. These students are selected each year based on cumulative credit hours and grade point averages. The following University Marshals are assisting Faculty Marshals during the December 2023 commencement:

**Julia Benn**  
**Hannah Bourbonnais**  
**Wendy Diaz**  
**Dylan Gann**

**Jacob Mash**  
**Samantha Pecinosky**  
**Brock Singleton**  
**Emma Swearingen**

**Cristian Tadlock**  
**Allie Ward**  
**Fallon Weatherford**  
**Lani Westmoreland**

## 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.