



One Hundred Twenty-First Commencement

Saturday, May 11, 2024
Sawyer Center

SOUTHERN NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

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One Hundred Twenty-First Commencement



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Saturday, May 11, 2024

Ten O'clock A.M. Sawyer Center

***PROCESSIONAL**

“Rigaudon” by Andrew Campa – Arr. Michael Allen
“Pomp and Circumstance” by Edward Elgar – Arr. Warren Wernick

Organ and Brass

Prof. Tim Marek

Adjunct Professor, SNU School of Music

Dr. Ricky Spears

Assistant Professor, SNU School of Music

“Southern Brass”

SNU Brass Quintet

FLAG BEARERS

Putnam City Junior Air Force ROTC Detachment Color Guard

MACE BEARER

Dr. Anne Ghost Bear

Professor, SNU Professional and Graduate Studies

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Chuck Fountain

Chair, Board of Trustees

***INVOCATION**

Dr. Tabitha Danley

Member, Board of Trustees

Parent of Graduate

GREETINGS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Keith Newman

University President

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Rod and Susan Riley

SNU Class of 1997

HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Mark Winslow

Senior Vice President/Chief Academic Officer

HONORARY DOCTORAL DEGREES

Dr. Keith Newman

HONORARY ALUMNI AWARD

Dr. Keith Newman

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

Dr. Mark Winslow

AWARDING OF DEGREES

Dr. Keith Newman

INTRODUCTION OF GRADUATES

Dr. Dennis Williams

Vice President of Academic Affairs

College of Undergraduate Studies

**ALUMNI INDUCTION
GOLDEN GRAD RECOGNITION**

Rev. Larry Morris
Vice President of University Relations

***SNU ALMA MATER**

Dr. Jim Graves
Associate Professor, SNU School of Music

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Ernest Trevino
*Member, Board of Trustees
Parent 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 Twenty-First Commencement

Saturday, May 11, 2024

Two O'clock P.M. Sawyer Center

***PROCESSIONAL**

“Rigaudon” by Andrew Campa – Arr. Michael Allen
“Pomp and Circumstance” by Edward Elgar – Arr. Warren Wernick

Organ and Brass

Prof. Tim Marek

Adjunct Professor, SNU School of Music

Dr. Ricky Spears

Assistant Professor, SNU School of Music

“Southern Brass”

SNU Brass Quintet

FLAG BEARERS

Putnam City Junior Air Force ROTC Detachment Color Guard

MACE BEARER

Dr. Anne Ghost Bear

Professor, SNU Professional and Graduate Studies

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Chuck Fountain

Chair, Board of Trustees

***INVOCATION**

Dr. Tamara Berg

SNU Class of 1991

Member, SNU Foundation Board

Parent of Graduate

GREETINGS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Keith Newman

University President

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Rod and Susan Riley

SNU Class of 1997

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. Dennis Williams

Vice President of Academic Affairs

College of Undergraduate Studies

ALUMNI INDUCTION

Rev. Larry Morris
Vice President of University Relations

***SNU ALMA MATER**

Dr. Jim Graves
Associate Professor, SNU School of Music

***BENEDICTION**

Jib Felter
SNU Class of 1989
Spouse 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.*

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When we from school depart,
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Remain in every heart.
(to Chorus)

CHORUS

Alma Mater, Alma Mater,
Hail, all hail to you.
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Degree Candidates ~ Morning

Bachelor of Arts

Adamaris Gramajo Lopez
William Heise ****
Briana Mathews

Hallie M. Schultz
Jaley Rae Stevens ***
Hali Wenglarz

Bachelor of Music Education

Nikole Makayla Geis

Bachelor of Science

Paige Adams ****
Mikayla Nicole Antichevich
Sara Louise Armstrong ***
Wyatt D. Armstrong
Benedict Baker-McCann
Michael Tanner Bare
Samuel Bass
Nicholas Blanchard **
Anderson Bley ***
Whitney Grace Bowie +
Stacia Mayella Boyd
Allisha Boyd ***
Jett Boyd ***
Ashleigh Brooks
Chance Bufford
Carson Everett Caballero
Honore Calera
Andrew Cardenas
Orlando Castro *
Tyrell Coleman
Molly Pettit-Coughran
Courtney Cowan
Cedric Cudjoe III
Sydney Cummings **
Hannah Danley ***
Kaitlyn Mariana Deaton
Wesley Tredon Dedmon *
Maxwell D'Amari Dias
Abigail Paige Dotur
Esperanza K. Echeverria **
Arturo Elias *
Daniel Robert Emerson
Colby A. Entwistle
Jarrell Farr
Sebastian Anthony Figga
Aaron Finch
Ashley Ellene Finch **
Dustyn Jacob Francis
Gabsia Gang
J. Braden Glover *

Camden Luke Goff ***
Kenley Ryan Gold
Cobey Shane Gorrell
Claudia Lissette Gramajo **
Dennis Demetris Green III +
Jhonathan Joseph Guerrero +
Olivia Renee Harris *
Callie Harvey
Joshua Harvey
Tavian Haughton
Jennalynn Hendricks **
Landon Hendrix **
Alan J. Hernandez
Donavaughn Hill
Holden Hill
Clayton Hooper ***
Evan Houston
Karsten M. Hutcheson *
Garrett Michael Ingram
Josh John ***
Yakini Umi Ngozi Boseda Kasimu
Carson Lee Kinnaird **
Julia Grace Klein ****
Kelsey Knox
Clinton K. Kwakye **
Harold Leep
Alejandro Osvaldo Leon
Luis Mario Lozano Ontiveros **
Harei Maeda
Rebecca Malacara **
Jalen Mays
William McCune
Rachel Grace McCutchen **
Cole Thomas McMahan
Carson Milligan
Cole Garrett Dustin Mills
Tiya Tanelle Mitchell
Elizabeth Aspen Moody **
Elijah B. Moore
Joshua Ismael Mora

Bachelor of Science (Continued)

Zach Morgan	Canyon Rollins
Colton John Morris	Ben Rutherford
Hannah Moseley *	Alvaro Sanchez de Pablos
Jada Nichols **	Hannah Elizabeth Schaffer ***
Jaxson Dean Northcutt	Samuel Schmidt **
Mikayla Raye Oaks *	Ryan Glen Schouweiler **
Halley Nadine Palmer *	Jake Timothy Scott Schow
Abigail Parent	Andrew Peter Shadid *
Consuelo Peña ***	Madison Ella Slinkey
Cedric Petties	Felix Tallabas
Harrison Pettigrew	Brandon M. Tedder
Dawson Phillips	Jacob Tison *
Ethan Pilcher **	Gage Llyold Kenneth Tosh
Esteban Ramirez	Hannah Trevino **
Kenyatta Richardson Jr.	Oliver Wilson *
Joseph Preston Robertson *	Benyamin Zecic

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Kimberly Adkins	Esther Biak Hlei Par
Zayra M. Eguia	Lily Catherine Rhodes **+
Tamar Galbraith	Colleen Annette Robinson
Anna Icenhower	Sydney Sundbye ****
Nefer Leon Ruiz	Elizabeth Toal
Allison Rose Oliver **	Tram Vu

Degree Candidates ~ Afternoon

Doctor of Education

Dr. Thomas John Duncan

Title: Caregiver Involvement in Education in a Rural Oklahoma Community: A Case Study

Committee Chair: Dr. Pam Broyles

Dr. LeEtta McClung Felter

Title: Evaluating School Board Effectiveness: A Case Study

Committee Chair: Dr. Vicki Nighswonger

Dr. Erin Garcia

Title: Exploring the Experiences of Virtual Instructional Coaches Within a Virtual Learning Environment

Committee Chair: Dr. Dawn Pearce

Dr. Elizabeth Anne Ging

Title: Early Childhood Teachers Embedded in Elementary School Settings: Perceptions of Identity, Environment, and Support

Committee Chair: Dr. Robbyn Glinsmann

Dr. Ophelia Jatta

Title: Examination of the Willingness to Seek Mental Health Services Before and After Adverse Childhood Experiences Training in the Black Community: A Quantitative Analysis

Committee Chair: Dr. Jeremy Wentz

Dr. Carl Everick Knight, Jr.

Title: Educator Perceptions Regarding the Implementation of Restorative Practices in One Southern Alternative School: A Case Study

Committee Chair: Dr. Shawn Pendley

Dr. Grant Stephen Ledbetter

Title: The Impact of a Head Coach on Student-Athlete Spiritual Development at Faith-Based Colleges and Universities: A Correlational Study

Committee Chair: Dr. Kent Shellenberger

Dr. Jenean Perryman

Title: Administrators' Perspectives on Adjunct Support in Career and Technical Adult Education Programs: A Case Study

Committee Chair: Dr. Brent Casey

Dr. Marshall Benjamin Wade

Title: The Role of School Rankings in Instructional Staff Motivation Through the Lens of Expectancy-Value Theory: A Case Study

Committee Chair: Dr. Scott Marsee

Dr. Petra E. Woodard

Title: Exploring School Counselors' Perceptions on Identity, Program Practices, and Student Postsecondary Preparation

Committee Chair: Dr. Shari Rodgers

Dr. Susan Wray

Title: Factors Impacting Instructional Shifts In Science Education: A Case Study

Committee Chair: Dr. Elizabeth Allan

Dr. Ashton Elizabeth Young

Title: The Injury Process of Student Athletes at a Faith-Based University: A Case Study

Committee Chair: Dr. Loren McElroy

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

Master of Arts

Brandon Allen	Carol Leigh King
Kiersten Allen	Leila A. Kaseca
Deanna Joleen Armitage	Aimee Janoel King
Aaron Bacewicz	Katie E. King
Jennifer M. Baker	Brian Keith Lockart
Christopher Brian Ballard	Lauren M. Lombard
Kathleen Barahona	James Love Jr.
Alissa Bass	Dustin Michael Loveless
Stephanie Bayne	Robert McBride
TerryAnn Beckford-Williamson	Kierra McFadden
Roxanna Kay Beggs	Julie Moore
Andrea D. Birkes	Sarah Beth Morgan
Jonathan Bluitt	Leroy Mosely Jr.
David Ryan Boren	Mayra Isela Munoz
Jennifer Estelle Brack	Brenda Ortiz
Rachel Michele Brainard	Kaitlin Nicole Owen
Taya Breeding	Abigail Oxford
Christopher R. Brown	Jaime Marie Parker
Tyler Broyles	Melissa Ann Patterson
Diana Shireen Buckley	Ellen Margaret Peery
Tammy Cooper	Kimberly D. Powell
Michele Genevieve Corning-Wornock	Kerri M. Garner
Tammy Lyn Davenport	Angel Ramsey Ramirez
Llewellyn George Evans	Norma Jean Rice
Gregory Gilman	Amy D. Rollin
Juan Carlos Gomez	Natasha N. Sanie
Bailey Michele Grimes	Jaylin Stapleton
Nathan James Halaoui	Heath Tejada
Lauren Whitney Halleran	Lynsey Marie Thomas
Kacy M. Hibdon	Jacqueline Jean Blassingame Thomasson
Patrick Hine	Andrew Elijah Tisdale
Joe Holman	Shandy D. Wade
Rachel Horschler	Matthew Weinrich
Kayla Jantz	Erin E. Williams
Shelly Johnson	Thomas Willoughby
Aaron Jones	Silvia Word
Limmie Jones	William P. Wortmann

Master of Business Administration

Brittany Marie Abbott	Kimberly Ann Gunter
Ashley Paige Baker	Jared Thomas Howell
Dawn M. Barrick	Elijah Langhorne
Caleb M. Bates	David Lee
Kolbe Branch	Christine Markwell
Stephanie Broderick	MacKenzie Jade McQuarters
Stephen Allen Bubb	Marcus Merritt
Jay-vee I. Carino	Emily Monaghan
Austin Zachary Clemons	Perianne Myers
Cole Justin Embrey	Chau Thanh Hoang Nguyen
Michelle R. Englis	Trenton Niedert

Master of Business Administration (Continued)

Joshua Robertson	Vincent Thompson Sr.
Brenda Saldivar Rosales	Marque Tuggle
Armannwah Chanell Sao	Sharkista Upshaw
Leonardo Goettert Schulz	Thong H. Vu
Riley Smith	Chandler Howard Wilberding
Nina Kay Springwater	Grayson Winters
Ethan Thomason	Troy Christian Wood

Master of Leadership

Christopher Anthony Atteberry	Monique Denise James
Cole Lee Cizek	Olivia Renee Lindsly
John P. Edgar	Synthia K. Moore
Robbin Evans	Jazmine Nicole Navarro
Morgan Tionna-Kirsten Hill	

Master of Science

Karsten L. Berg	Rodney Solomon Palmer Jr.
Josh Johnson	Sabrina Perez
Laura Leigh Kime	Dalen Smith
Kaci Logan	Sabbatha Rose Taylor
Nathaniel Mederos	Jonathan D. Wrona
Casey Minchey	Juan Carlos Zepeda
Kiera A. Muckey	

Bachelor of Science

Katie Elizabeth Allen *	Kellie M. Gambill **
Adam M. Bailey *	Hillary Victoria Gann
Alyssa M. Banks *	Samorya Gipson
Silvia Yaslin Barrios-Lopez *^	Richard L. Green
Stacy Lee Battige	Rashonda R. Hagar
Carly Jai Bauernschmitt *^	Anthony Charles Harper
Justin Matthew Baxley	Kendra Haynes
Justin Begley	Sherman L. Hill
LaCrystal L. Bettge ^	Brandy Lynn Hogue
Margaret Billicana	Billie Jo Kitch *
Cathryn Christine Brawley	Zachary Robert Kitch
Dianna Carter *	Christopher Michael Lack
Christian Doyle Chapman	Jessica Fite
Jennifer Renee Colbert **	Toni M. Lawson ***
Brittney Michelle Gerfen	Tiffany Nicole Lewis
Lleyami Adelfa Deleon Masariegos	Shaunette Lindsay
Karren Devers	Brandi S. Lopez-Southard ^
Darci Lynn Douglass	Maurice L. Mack
Dane Alexander Dudick *^	Dusty L. Maugh **
Brooklin Anna Ellison	Shawna Michelle McFadden
Shawn Wayne England	Mary Alica M'Laine McPhetridge **
Laura Fisher	Jerry D. Messick
Hailey Marie Fracek ***	Lauren Miller *^
Gary Freeman	Destiny Minnifield

Bachelor of Science (Continued)

William R. Moore, Jr. **	Samuel Joseph Snodgrass ^
Kayla Danielle Norman **	Gera Spicuzza *^
Jacklyn Offor	Carletta Rochelle Stringer
Andreas Thomas Owens	Jonathan C. Thomas
Diana Lynn Parent	Makeda Thompson *
Keona Lashay Petties	Paul Thurston *
Andrea Lynn Porter	Ashleen Towe ***
Robert Charles Porter III	Recia Treat
Suzanne Pringle *	Tara Michelle Van Gorder ***
Nidia Marlen Ramirez	Tarah J. Vershum ^
Jessica Reed	Braden Kay Walck
Jerusalen Rodriguez Meza	Alberta Walker
John Chadley Roney **^	Katy Diana Weber *
Chrystal Ronning **	Michele Williams
Cheri A. Wood	Portlynn Williams
Spencer F. Shaw	April Yandell
Shannon Moree Smith	Tamala Devon Young *

Associate of Arts

Caleb Pennebaker	Keierra L. Wright
Ashley Sellers	

Commencement Speakers

ROD AND SUSAN RILEY

Rod and Susan (Van Hook) Riley met as students at Southern Nazarene University and married after graduating in 1997. As young entrepreneurs, they launched Fervent Records, an independent Christian label and music publisher that is home to such acclaimed artists as For King & Country, Francesca Battistelli, Sidewalk Prophets, Big Daddy Weave and more. The label and its artists have sold more than 8 million albums, 12 million singles and have been nominated for over 100 Dove Awards and 10 Grammy Awards. In 2005, they sold Fervent to Warner Music Group and went on to lead that company's Christian division, Word Entertainment.

In 2019, Susan partnered with Chick-fil-A to become the Owner/Operator of the first-ever Drive-thru-focused location in Tennessee. She and Rod enjoy serving the community, her team, and the over 750,000 guests who visit her downtown Nashville location each year.

Rod left his role as CEO at Word Entertainment in 2018, and he is currently a Special Advisor to Domain Capital Group, focusing on their media and entertainment portfolio. Rod also serves on the boards of the Museum of the Bible, Gospel Music Association, and Sea Gayle Music.

The Riley's have two children, Anna and Jack, and are active in their local church and schools in Brentwood, Tennessee.



GOLDEN GRADS

We honor members of the Bethany Nazarene College Class of 1974, 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.

Linda <i>Hensley</i> Anderson	Dr. Jan <i>Hansell</i> Matthews
Vangie <i>Mueller</i> Baxter	Jane <i>Andrews</i> McClung
Jerry Bley	Roy McElrath
Rev. Bob Brown	Dr. Harlan Moore
Dr. Deb Brown	Dr. Becky Morsch
Greg Daniels	Vickie <i>Wessels</i> Morsch
Jan Dipboye-Collum	Linda <i>Caplinger</i> Ommart
Dr. Carol <i>Flinner</i> Dorough	Mike Ommart
Dr. Terrell Earnest	Rev. Mark Patredis
Lorna Fike	Jackie <i>Twyeffort</i> Peters
Linda <i>Weisinger</i> Gibson	Dr. Cindy <i>Bowman</i> Peterson
Lynn Green	Steve Peterson
Dr. Stephen Green	Susan <i>Vestal</i> Potter
Dr. Mark Hamilton	Steve Ray
Marlita <i>McCully</i> Haviland	Dr. Stephane <i>Green</i> Shellenberger
Carolyn <i>Repp</i> Jaggars	David Showalter
Gerri <i>Rogers</i> Jantz	Karen <i>Marks</i> Showalter
Jeff Jantz	Lt. Col. Donald Sides
Cyndi <i>Burrows</i> Lamb	Dr. Robert Smith
Charlette <i>Bronson</i> Laughlin	Rhonda <i>Gilbert</i> Spear
Gary Lehman	Shirley <i>Ommart</i> Speshock
Linda <i>Dorough</i> Lehman	Georgetta <i>Emberton</i> Stanford
Marcia Coody Leys	Vickie <i>Keeton</i> Stearman
Rep. Kenny Marchant	Rev. Edward Trusty
Bobby Martin	Kay <i>Curry</i> Wilson
Dan Matthews	

Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters

JUDY HANCOCK MILLS

Judy is an alumnus of Bethany Nazarene College, now Southern Nazarene University, completing both her Bachelors and Masters degrees in education. She taught in Oklahoma City and Western Heights Schools. Following her teaching career, Judy also experienced many years of success in the insurance industry.

In 1993, Judy sensed a calling to join Chuck Colson's Prison Fellowship organization, specifically its "Angel Tree Ministry," a program of support for families with one or more incarcerated parents. For the next 25 years, Judy led Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree program in Central Oklahoma through support from Bethany First Church of the Nazarene and SNU.

In each of those 25 years, through Judy's leadership, approximately 70 families including 250 children have been blessed with love, respect, and resources through the annual Angel Tree Christmas parties.

In partnership with the National Office of Prison Fellowship, Judy was able to initiate a program called "Angel Care," which annually supports 12 Angel Tree families including 65 children in three specific areas: education, work, and spiritual development. Judy's ongoing legacy continues today in the lives of over 7,000 children and 1,600 family units served for nearly 3 decades. Judy truly embodies Matthew 25:40.

Judy is married to Dr. Larry Mills, SNU Emeritus Professor of Business, is the mother of Cindy and David, and is the grandmother of Whitney and Dakota.

Honorary Doctor of Divinity

REV. MARK LANCASTER

Rev. Mark Lancaster has served with distinction as a minister in the Church of the Nazarene for over 40 years. He graduated from Trevecca Nazarene University in 1980 with a Bachelor of Arts in Pastor Ministries. He attended Wesley Biblical Seminary where he received his Master of Arts in Religion in 1983.

Rev. Lancaster has served in youth, worship, and lead pastor roles in churches across Mississippi, Texas, Florida, and Tennessee.

In September 2021, Rev. Lancaster was appointed as District Superintendent of the South Arkansas District Church of the Nazarene. In his role as District Superintendent, he serves as a "pastor to pastors." Rev. Lancaster has also served the Church of the Nazarene as General Assembly Delegate, on various District Advisory Boards, and on Boards of Trustees for both Trevecca Nazarene University and Southern Nazarene University.

In 1984, Rev. Lancaster married his wonderful bride, Vanessa, who provides encouragement and support in his ministry. They have two children, Vicki DeCuyper (Mike) and Josh Lancaster (Kristen). They are also proud grandparents of two grandsons, Chase and Cannon.

Honorary Alumni Award

MIKE AND SHEILA INGRAM

Mike and Sheila Ingram are long-time champions of Southern Nazarene University and our mission to develop Christ-like disciples through higher education. Their strong, ongoing support of SNU and Nazarene ministries has been exemplary.

Mike Ingram is an entrepreneur and philanthropist whose list of accomplishments are deep and wide. As the founder of El Dorado Holding, Inc. Mike has led the development of multiple multi-million dollar communities in the Greater Phoenix, Arizona area. El Dorado Holding, Inc. is the most successful private land development company in the state. While building this dynamic business, Mike has enthusiastically supported not-for-profit organizations that defend America and the freedoms we all hold dear, giving and helping raise millions of dollars.

Mike attended Point Loma Nazarene University (then Pasadena College) before transferring to Texas Tech to complete his degree. It was at Pasadena that he met SNU President Emeritus Dr. Loren Gresham and Loren's future wife, Linda. They have remained friends ever since. Mike's business career started in Oklahoma, and he fell in love with SNU (then Bethany Nazarene College) and began sending family members to BNC/SNU. Mike and Sheila have six children, twenty-one grandchildren, and eleven great grandchildren. One of their grandchildren is graduating from Southern Nazarene University in today's commencement ceremony.

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. Anne Ghost Bear, Professor of Professional/Graduate Studies and Director of SNU-Tulsa Campus. Dr. Ghost Bear has served full-time as an SNU faculty member since 2002.

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, 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 85th 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 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. Caio França, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Biology; Dr. Sylvia Goodman, Professor and Director, School of Rehabilitation and Sport Sciences Graduate Programs; 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. Loren McElroy, Professor and Director, Physical Therapist Assistant Program; Dr. Tim Taylor, Emeritus Professor and Chair, School of Education; Dr. Keith Toles, Associate Professor and Director, Business Graduate Programs; and Dr. Ron Wright, Professor, Department of Psychology and Counseling.

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:

Hannah Bourbonnais

School of Kinesiology

Kaley Brubaker

School of Nursing

Chloe Brumage

School of Theology & Ministry

Wendy Diaz

TRIO McNair Scholars

John Dilbeck

Departments of Math, Physics, & Computer Science

Sarah Dodd

Department of History, Politics, & Law

Lauren Force

Division of Cultural & Communication Studies

Haley Good

School of Education

Keziah Grant

School of Music

Eli Reutlinger

*Departments of Chemistry, Biology,
& Environmental Science*

Esther Sanderson

School of Business

Gemma Weir

Department of Psychology & Counseling

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.

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.