



NINETIETH ANNUAL
OPENING CONVOCATION
SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY EVENING
THE EIGHTEENTH OF AUGUST
TWO THOUSAND AND FOUR
AT FIVE O'CLOCK
MCFARLIN MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

CARILLON CONCERT AND CALL TO CONVOCATION

Lorn L. Howard, Professor Emeritus of Electrical Engineering
Fondren Science Tower, 4 p.m.

CONVOCATION PROGRAM

THE PROCESSIONAL

Toccata (1971)

Gerald Near

Larry Palmer, Professor of Harpsichord and Organ and University Organist

FANFARE

SMU Trumpet Ensemble

Dave Alexander Productions

INVOCATION

William M. Finnin, Jr., Chaplain to the University

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ross C Murfin, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

REMARKS

Christine E. Buchanan, President of the Faculty Senate

Chip Hiemenz, President of the Students' Association

CHORAL HYMN

The True Glory

Peter Aston

There must be a beginning of any great matter, but the continuing
unto the end until it be thoroughly finished yields the true glory.

Sir Francis Drake, 1587

The greatest things are accomplished, and the greatest achievements
won, by toil and by striving uninterrupted, toil as well of the body as of
the spirit.

Richard Hakluyt, the Elder, c. 1570

The Combined Choirs of Meadows School of the Arts

Directed by Alfred Calabrese, Associate Professor and Director of Choral Activities

GREETINGS AND PRESENTATION OF THE SPEAKER

R. Gerald Turner, President of the University

ADDRESS

“Coalition of the Willing”

Rita Kirk, Professor of Corporate Communications and Public Affairs

PRESENTATION OF THE ENTERING STUDENTS OF 2004

Jasper Neel, Dean of Dedman College and Vice Provost of the University

CHARGE TO THE ENTERING STUDENTS OF 2004

President Turner

STUDENT RESPONSE

We accept your charge. We accept our responsibilities as members of the SMU community and promise to contribute to its future betterment.

UNIVERSITY HYMN

Varsity

“Oh, we see the Varsity, Varsity, Varsity
As she towers o’er the hill over there
And our hearts are filled with joy, SMU, SMU
Alma Mater, we’ll be true forever!”

BENEDICTION

Judy Henneberger, Assistant Chaplain to the University

THE RECESSIONAL

The Stars and Stripes Forever

Arranged for Organ by E. Power Biggs

John Philip Sousa

THE CONVOCATION PROCESSION

Bradley Kent Carter, Chief Marshal

Eric Kartchner, Procession Marshal

Maurice G.A. Elton, Assisting Procession Marshal

Joseph F. Kobylka, Marshal Precentor

Richard Bozorth, Jeffery L. Kennington, David B. Johnson, and Barbara W. Kincaid, Guild of Marshals

ENTERING STUDENTS, 2004

Thomas B. Fomby, Marshal

THE FLAG BEARERS

Mary Vernon, Marshal

THE ALUMNI MARSHALS

Nathan S. Balke and Dennis M. Simon, Marshals

FACULTIES OF THE UNIVERSITY

Barbara Hill Moore, Marshal

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

CORPORATE OFFICERS OF THE UNIVERSITY

Nathan Montoya, Marshal

PLATFORM PARTY

John B. Attanasio, Dean of Dedman School of Law

Carole Brandt, Dean of Meadows School of the Arts

Christine E. Buchanan, President of the Faculty Senate

James G. Dunham, Associate Dean of the School of Engineering

William M. Finnin, Jr., Chaplain to the University

Judy Henneberger, Assistant Chaplain to the University

Chip Hiemenz, Students' Association President

Rita Kirk, Professor of Corporate Communications and Public Affairs

William B. Lawrence, Dean of Perkins School of Theology

Gillian M. McCombs, Dean and Director of Central University Libraries

Ross C. Murfin, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Jasper Neel, Dean of Dedman College and Vice Provost

Albert W. Niemi, Jr., Dean of Edwin L. Cox School of Business

Robert A. Patterson, Dean of the Division of Education and Lifelong Learning

Don Snell, President of the Alumni Association

R. Gerald Turner, President of the University

R. Hal Williams, Dean of Research and Graduate Studies

WELCOME TO SMU

This evening you have become a part of our community. The Rotunda Processional symbolizes this transformation. You were assembled by faculty. Your march was heralded by the SMU Trumpet Ensemble and animated by the SMU Alumni Band. You were led by Peruna, living symbol of the University. You marched through Dallas Hall, our oldest building. You were guided by alumni who also are parents of fellow entering students. These alumni represent the lifetime connection to SMU, a connection which you now share.

At the conclusion of Convocation we will lower the historic Ovilla Curtain to signify the completion of your initiation. Here is the story of that curtain. During the 1830s, the parents of Robert McFarlin, for whom this auditorium was named, lived in Ovilla, Texas. There was no Methodist Church in the area; instead, the Methodists were served by a circuit rider. The McFarlins gave the circuit rider the land and money to build the Ovilla Methodist Church, pictured on the curtain, which Robert McFarlin attended.

Upon your graduation you will leave McFarlin Auditorium in the Rotunda Recessional, marching back through Dallas Hall, again led by alumni, alumni whose ranks you will join the next day.

The Office of Academic Ceremonies is pleased to welcome the appearance of the SMU Alumni Band for what we hope will be the first of many appearances at Opening Convocation.

THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION AND REGALIA

The academic procession and the regalia worn by the faculty and officers of the University symbolically represent the continuing link between the modern American university and the founding of the great medieval universities in Europe – chief among them Bologna, Paris, and Oxford. As those institutions were derived from the Catholic Church, the universities adopted many of the ceremonial trappings of the church in their official public functions.

The mace of the University, a symbol of the authority vested in the president by the Board of Trustees and representing the covenant between the president and the faculty, is borne by the president of the Faculty Senate. Though the order of the procession varies from university to university, at Southern Methodist University it proceeds from the chief marshal through the ranks of the faculty and the officers of the University to the president, who is preceded by the mace-bearer.

The caps and gowns worn in the procession also vary from place to place. There are variations in design to indicate the degrees held by the wearers, and many universities in America have introduced colorful gowns and other distinguishing details (in place of the customary clerical black from which all originated). The Bachelor's gown is a simple robe falling in straight lines from an elaborate yoke. Its distinguishing characteristic is the long pointed sleeves. Master's gowns are arranged so that the arm emerges from a long sleeve through a slit at the wrist (replacing a former slit at the elbow). In most cases, the Doctor's gown is marked by velvet panels down the front and around the neck, and by three bars of the same material on the bell-shaped sleeves. It is cut much fuller than the other gowns and may be ornamented in color. Faculty colors are occasionally seen in the sleeve bars and paneling.

The caps, too, vary according to the customs of the university from which the wearer received a degree. While most American universities adopted the "mortarboard" style of Oxford, others have chosen styles based on other European institutions. The color of the tassel worn with the cap may be black for any degree, or the color may be that of the faculty of the major field of learning (e.g., Arts, Engineering, Law, etc.). Persons holding doctoral degrees and governing officials of institutions are entitled to wear tassels of gold metallic thread. Such tassels are usually sewn in place. It is common practice, although not universal, that a ceremony is made of moving the tassel from the right to the left side of the cap at the moment the degree is awarded.

Within the great varieties of styles and colors in gowns and caps, there has been one universally accepted code for the hood worn trailing down the wearer's back. Originally, it was like the hood on the habit worn by monks. Nowadays, the hood through length and color shows the degree and the specialization of the wearer, and the university that granted the degree. The Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctor's hoods are 3 feet, 3½ feet, and 4 feet long, respectively. The velvet trimming in the same order is 2, 3, and 5 inches wide. The color of the trim identifies the faculty. A partial list of faculty colors follows: Arts, Letters, Humanities – White; Music – Pink; Business – Drab; Philosophy – Dark Blue; Engineering – Orange; Science – Golden Yellow; Fine Arts – Brown; Theology – Scarlet; Law – Purple. The lining of the hood – that portion most visible from the rear – indicates the institution awarding the degree. SMU's hood lining, for example, is blue with red chevron.

Through these colorful ceremonies, SMU symbolically displays the continuity of its educational purposes with the origins of organized learning in the Western world.

Thomas R. Arp, Associate Professor of English
Lorn L. Howard, Professor Emeritus of Electrical Engineering,
Chief Marshal Emeritus