Welcome

This afternoon you officially become part of the SMU community, symbolized by the Rotunda Processional. You were assembled by faculty, and your march was heralded by trumpets and led by Peruna, a living symbol of the University. You passed through Dallas Hall, the University’s first and grandest building, and then alumni who also are parents of fellow entering students guided you to McFarlin Auditorium. These alumni represent a lifetime connection to SMU, a connection you now share.

You and your classmates have been presented to and charged by the University’s president to rise to the challenges ahead and avail yourself of the many opportunities you will find at SMU. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the historic Ovilla Curtain lowers, which signifies the start of the academic adventures ahead.

Platform Party

John B. Attanasio, Dean of Dedman School of Law
José Antonio Bowen, Dean of Meadows School of the Arts
Gary Keith Brubaker, Director of The Guildhall at SMU
David J. Chard, Dean of Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development
Brad E. Cheves, Vice President for Development and External Affairs
Marc P. Christianen, Interim Dean of Bobby B. Lyle School of Engineering
Steven Edwards, President of the Faculty Senate
Pamela Etrod, Associate Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities
Rick Hart, Director of Athletics
Barbara Hill-Moore, Platform Party Marshal
Paul W. Ludden, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Alexander E. Mace ’13, President of the Student Body
Gillian M. McCombs, Dean and Director of Central University Libraries
Richard D. Nelson, Associate Dean of Perkins School of Theology
Albert W. Nemi, Jr., Dean of Edinburg L. Cox School of Business
Caren H. Prothro, President of the University’s Board of Trustees
James E. Quick, Associate Vice President for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies
Stephen W. Rankin, Chaplain and Minister to the University
Christine Regis, Vice President for Business and Finance
Abigail Smith, President of the SMU Staff Association
William M. Tauts, Dean of Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences
R. Gerald Turner, President of the University
Wes K. Waggoner, Dean of Undergraduate Admission and Executive Director of Enrollment Services
Paul J. Ward, Vice President for Legal Affairs and Government Relations, General Counsel and Secretary
Lisa Webb, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Student Life
Lori S. White, Vice President for Student Affairs

Guild of Marshals

Thomas B. Fomby, Chief Marshal
Bradley Kent Carter, Chief Marshal Emeritus
Wayne A. Woodward, Procession Marshal
Thomas W. Tunks, Assistant Procession Marshal
Joseph F. Kobyka, Ceremony Marshal

Assisting Marshals

Nathan Balke, Marshal for Entering Students
Christine E. Buchanan, Marshal for Transfer Students
Craig Flomus, Marshal for Entering Students
Barbara Hill-Moore, Platform Party Marshal
Maribeth Kuenzi, Marshal for Entering Students
Monnie McGee, Faculty Marshal
Brian W. Stump, Phi Beta Kappa Marshal
Mary Vernon, Marshal for the Alumni Marshals
Sherry Wang, Faculty Marshal
Jianfang Yu, Marshal for Entering Students

Opening Convocation

Ninety-Eighth Annual Opening Convocation
Sunday Afternoon
The Nineteenth of August
Two Thousand and Twelve
At Half Past Five o’clock
McFarlin Memorial Auditorium

Southern Methodist University
CARILLON CONCERT AND CALL TO CONVOCATION
Lorn L. Howard, Chief Marshal Emeritus, Carilloner
Fondren Science Tower, 5 p.m.

CONVOCATION

THE PROCESSIONAL
Imperial Brass

INVOCATION
Stephen W. Rankin
Chaplain and Minister to the University

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
Paul W. Ludden
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

REMARKS
Caren H. Prothro
Chair, Board of Trustees

Steven Edwards
President, Faculty Senate

Alexander E. Mace ’13
President, Student Body

SPECIAL MUSIC
Meadows Convocation Chorus
Andy Packard, Accompanist
Led by Pamela Elrod, Associate Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities
Ballade to the Moon written by Daniel Elder

PRESENTATION OF THE SPEAKER
Paul W. Ludden

ADDRESS
R. Gerald Turner
President

PRESENTATION OF THE ENTERING STUDENTS OF 2012
Wes K. Waggoner
Dean of Undergraduate Admission and Executive Director of Enrollment Services

CHARGE TO THE ENTERING STUDENTS OF 2012
R. Gerald Turner

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
Stephen W. Rankin

THE RECESSIONAL
Imperial Brass

ROTUNDA PASSAGE
Both Rotunda Passage, which students walk when they first enter SMU, and Rotunda Recessional, the final walk taken the evening before May Commencement, recognize the significance of Dallas Hall to SMU’s academic and campus life. With its cornerstone set in 1912, Dallas Hall is the oldest building on campus. In 1915, when classes began, Dallas Hall housed all of the academic and administrative functions of the University. Its image is emblazoned on SMU’s official seal. And just as Dallas Hall is central to SMU, the rotunda is at the very center of Dallas Hall. Our rotunda is the centerpiece of a magnificent building that stands on the highest spot, or “hilltop,” of the land given by the citizens of Dallas. It is fitting that Dallas Hall is named in honor of the generosity and vision of those citizens. It is appropriate that one becomes part of the SMU community by marching through Dallas Hall to Opening Convocation.