The Twenty-Third of August
Two Thousand and Twenty
Half Past Five O’Clock
McFarlin Memorial Auditorium

For more than 100 years, SMU has shaped minds, explored the frontiers of knowledge and fostered an entrepreneurial spirit in its eight degree-granting schools. Taking advantage of unbridled experiences on the University’s beautiful campuses and SMU’s relationship with Dallas – the dynamic center of one of the nation’s fastest-growing regions – alumni, faculty and nearly 12,000 graduate and undergraduate students become ethical leaders in their professions and communities who change the world.
A DISTINGUISHED TRADITION

Welcome to SMU’s 106th Opening Convocation. One hundred and five entering classes before you participated in this ceremony, which marks the beginning of the academic year.

This afternoon, you officially become a part of the SMU community, symbolized by the Rotunda Passage. You passed through Dallas Hall, the University’s first and grandest building, supported by alumni who are also parents of fellow entering students. These alumni represent a lifetime connection to SMU, a connection you now share. Upon graduation you will engage in the Rotunda Recessional, symbolizing the completion of your studies at SMU.

Opening Convocation signifies the start of the academic adventures ahead of you. Today you and your classmates are presented to, and charged by, the University’s president to rise to these academic challenges and avail yourself of the many opportunities here at SMU.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Elizabeth G. Loboa
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

REMARKS

Robert H. Dedman, Jr. ’80, ’84
Chair of the SMU Board of Trustees

Aurie Thiele
President of the SMU Faculty Senate

Molly E. Patrick ’21
Student Body President

PRESENTATION OF THE SPEAKER

R. Gerald Turner
President

CONVOCATION ADDRESS

Elizabeth G. Loboa

PRESENTATION OF THE ENTERING STUDENTS

Elena D. Hicks
Dean of Undergraduate Admission and Executive Director of Enrollment Services

CHARGE TO THE STUDENTS AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONVOCATION REGISTRY

R. Gerald Turner

ALMA MATER

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!

“Varsity”
The SMU Belle Tones

BENEDICTION

Craig C. Hill
Dean and Professor of New Testament of Perkins School of Theology

ROTUNDA PASSAGE

CARILLON CONCERT

Quarter until Five in the Afternoon Fondren Science Tower Cchea Nugent, Carillonneur

ORDER OF EXERCISE

PRELUDIAL MUSIC

Meadows Symphony Orchestra and SMU String Faculty

INVOCATION

Steve W. Rankin
Chaplain and Minister to the University