O P E N I N G
C O N V O C A T I O N

S O U T H E R N
M E T H O D I S T
U N I V E R S I T Y

The Twenty-Second of August
Two Thousand and Twenty-One
Half Past Five O’Clock
McFarlin Memorial Auditorium
A DISTINGUISHED TRADITION

Welcome to SMU’s 107th Opening Convocation. One hundred and six 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, guided 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.

CARILLON CONCERT
Quarter until Five in the Afternoon
David Y. Son, Carillonneur
Fondren Science Tower

ROTUNDA PASSAGE

ORDER OF EXERCISE

PROCessional

PRESENTATION OF RESIDENTIAL COMMONS BY FACULTY IN RESIDENCE

Willie Baronet, Armstrong
Debra Branch, Morrison-McGinnis
Carol Dickson-Carr, Virginia-Snider
Sandra Duhé, Cockrell-McIntosh
Daniele Forlino, Kathy Crow
Leanne Ketterlin Geller, Crum
Andrew R. Graybill, Ware
Jim Hart, McElvaney
Alice Kendrick, Loyd
John R. Levison, Boaz
Alberto Pastor, Mary Hay-Peyton-Shuttles
INVOCATION
Elisabeth A. Garvin
Chaplain and
Minister to the University

WELCOME AND
INTRODUCTIONS
Elizabeth G. Loboa
Provost and Vice President for
Academic Affairs

REMARKS
David B. Miller ’72, ’73
Vice Chair of the SMU Board of Trustees

Pia Vogel
President of the SMU Faculty Senate

Austin T. Hickle ’22
Student Body President

SPECIAL MUSIC
SMU Forever by Jimmy Dunne
Meadows Convocation Chorus
Led by Pamela Elrod Huffman
Associate Professor of Music and
Director of Choral Activities
Joshua Boyd, Accompanist

PRESENTATION OF THE SPEAKER
R. Gerald Turner
President

CONVOCATION ADDRESS
Kenechukwu (K.C.) Mmeje
Vice President for
Student Affairs

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

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

RECESSIONAL
Imperial Brass
OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PLATFORM PARTY

Brad E. Cheves, Vice President for Development and External Affairs
Marc P. Christensen, Dean and Bobby B. Lyle Professor of Engineering Innovation of Lyle School of Engineering
Thomas DiPiero, Dean of Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences
Samuel S. Holland, Algur H. Meadows Dean of Meadows School of the Arts
Holly E. Jeffcoat, Dean of SMU Libraries
Stephanie L. Knight, Leon Simmons Dean of Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development
Thomas W. Mayo, Senior Associate Dean and Professor of Law of Dedman School of Law
Matthew B. Myers, Dean and Tolleson Chair in Business Leadership of Cox School of Business
James E. Quick, Associate Provost for Research and Dean of the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies
Stephen Sekula, Platform Party Marshal and Professor of Physics
Harold W. Stanley, Vice President for Executive Affairs
Melinda Sutton ’97, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students

GUILD OF MARSHALS

Jodi Cooley, Chief Marshal
Bradley Kent Carter, Chief Marshal Emeritus
Thomas B. Fomby, Chief Marshal Emeritus
Nathan S. Balke, Procession Marshal
Hon. Keung (Tony) Ng, Assisting Procession Marshal
Karisa T. Cloward, Student Marshal
Anindita Das, Student Marshal
Jill DeTemple, Faculty Marshal
Kevin Paul Hofeditz, Ceremony Marshal
Anne E. Lincoln, Marshal for the Alumni Marshals
Sidharth Muralidharan, Student Marshal
Gregory A. Sommers, Student Marshal
Todd Chiscano, Director of Academic Ceremonies

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 more than 12,000 graduate and undergraduate students become ethical leaders in their professions and communities who change the world.