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.
A DISTINGUISHED TRADITION

Welcome to SMU’s 108th Opening Convocation. One hundred and seven 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.

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 S. Huntley ’80
Member of the SMU Board of Trustees
Robert J. Frank
President of the SMU Faculty Senate
Sydney P. Castle ’23
Student Body President

SPECIAL MUSIC
SMU Forever by Jimmy Dunne
Macy L. Mullins ’23, Vocalist
Imperial Brass

PRESENTATION OF THE SPEAKER
Elizabeth G. Loboa

CONVOCATION ADDRESS
“World Changers Shaped Here”
R. Gerald Turner
President

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