

Robert Stewart Hyer

Born in Georgia and educated at Emory College, Robert Stewart Hyer began his distinguished career as professor of science at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas. There, his experiments with ether waves and X-ray reportedly preceded those of Marconi, and he designed Texas' first wireless station, transmitting messages at distances of one mile. He became president of Southwestern University in 1898, then moved to Dallas in 1911 to become the founding president of Southern Methodist University.

It has been said that SMU is Robert Stewart Hyer's monument. He planned the campus, orienting its first building, Dallas Hall, with respect to the North Star. He selected the crimson of Harvard and the blue of Yale as the colors of the University and established *Veritas Liberabit Vos* as the motto. Translated "The truth shall make you free," this motto was his symbolic vision of the University. As the University became a reality, President Hyer spoke words applicable to each of us in our pursuits today: "While we rejoice over our success, we must remember that the task to which we have set ourselves has only begun ... and make claims to victory only to encourage ourselves to press on to greater things."

SMU

A NNUAL *L*UNCHEON

ROBERT STEWART HYER SOCIETY

1983 - 2026

APRIL 26, 2026
12:00 P.M.

GRAND BALLROOM
HUGHES TRIGG STUDENT CENTER
SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

44th ANNUAL LUNCHEON

PRESIDING

Rachel Davis Mersey
Executive Vice President and Provost, SMU

WELCOME

Rachel Davis Mersey
Executive Vice President and Provost, SMU

INVOCATION

Lisa Garvin
Chaplain & Minister to the University, SMU

LUNCHEON

2026 AWARD RECIPIENTS

University Achievement Award

Zahra Chowdhury
Samuel Rodick
Shriya Siddhartha

INDUCTION

David D. Doyle
Dean, Honors & Scholars Programs
and Adjunct Assistant Professor of History, SMU

Junior Class

Megan Stephanie Appel
Yaw Osei Boateng
Alex Heng Chen
Tierney G Clark
Jazmin Amari Darjean*
Katarina Joy Eid
Penelope Annabelle Helwig
Brian Le
Mallory Bell Lorant
Camille H Nguyen
Ansh Sanjay Patel
Tessa Marie Peterson
Alexandra Nicole Reyes
Hunter Elise Robinson
Samuel Romney
Cooper Jennings Shapard
Isabella S Thrailkill
Luke Voinov
Tyler Robert Welch

Senior Class

William Keene Addington
Jagger Wayne Bay*
Matthew Ryan Benedict*
Miles Chen*
Zahra Anam Chowdhury
Ursula Joan Chumley
Camryn DahMi Chung*
Kaley SooAe Chung*
Stephanie E Ciarochi**
Michael Allen Cohen
Zander William Crowns*
Eberechukwu Faith Emefiele
Gabrielle Rose Marinari English*
Karim Alejandro Faraj*

Senior Class (cont.)

Julianne Gah-Yeen Flynn*
Noah Huizenga Giesen
Douglas Ross Glennon
Zoey Leslie Hess*
Hannah Anne Hoch
Walker J Homan*
Hayden Scott Horn*
Lauren Jenkins
Anekah Sonia Kelley*
Luke Daniel Latham
Juliana Jinyi Lu*
Zachary Benjamin Lubar*
Davis Paul Lynn
Ria Mukherji
Zareenah Murad*
Kaylie M Nguyen*
Grant Douglas Offner
Tyler Preston Olbright*
Olutamilore Oluseun Olujobi*
Megha Appakondur Reddy
Albert James Rylan Robb IV*

Rachel Hana Rodgers
Samuel Lopes Rodick*
William Schmitt
Amberly Brooke Seaburn*
Saif Ali Shah
Shriya Siddhartha*
Natalya Talih
Jane Ellen Tompkins*
Elise Ann Waterston*
Megan Cassidy Watson
Avery Anne White
Holly Sandra Xue*

**Inducted 2023-2024

*Inducted 2024-2025