



NINETY-SECOND ANNUAL
COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY EVENING
THE EIGHTEENTH OF MAY
TWO THOUSAND AND SEVEN
AT EIGHT O'CLOCK
MCFARLIN MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

CARILLON CONCERT AND CALL TO BACCALAUREATE

Lorn L. Howard, Professor *Emeritus* of Electrical Engineering

Fondren Science Tower, 7:30 p.m.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE PRELUDE

Olympic Fanfare

Fisher Tull

Three Pieces

Ludwig Maurer

THE PROCESSIONAL

Grand March from Aida

Giuseppe Verdi

The congregation rises when the procession reaches the doors of the auditorium.

WORDS OF WELCOME

President R. Gerald Turner

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

University Chaplain William M. Finnin, Jr.

Proverbs 9

God of our ancestors, Lord of mercy,

who by your word has made the universe,

and in your wisdom fitted human beings

to care for the creatures you have made,

To govern the world in holiness and saving justice

and in honesty of soul to dispense fair judgments.

Grant us Wisdom, O God,...

for we are your servants,

and we have small understanding of justice and the laws.

GRANT US WISDOM, O GOD.

INVOCATION

Chaplain Finnin

HYMN

Praise the Source of Faith and Learning

HYMN TO JOY

Praise the Source of faith and learning Who has sparked and stoked the mind
with a passion for discerning how the world has been designed.
Let the sense of wonder flowing from the wonders we survey
keep our faith forever growing and renew our need to pray.

God of wisdom, we acknowledge that our science and our art
and the breadth of human knowledge only partial truth impart.
Far beyond our calculation lies a depth we cannot sound
where your purpose for creation and the pulse of life are found.

May our faith redeem the blunder of believing that our thought
has displaced the grounds for wonder which the ancient prophets taught.
May our learning curb the error which unthinking faith can breed
lest we justify some terror with an antiquated creed.

As two currents in a river fight each other's undertow
till converging they deliver one coherent steady flow.
Blend, O God, our faith and learning till they carve a single course,
till they join as one returning, praise and thanks to you, their Source.

PRAYERS FOR THE ILLUMINATION OF SCRIPTURE

Patricia Davis

LESSON FROM SACRED TEXTS

Isaiah 43:1,2,4a

INTRODUCTION OF THE PREACHER

President Turner

THE BACCALAUREATE SERMON

The Reverend Paul Rasmussen

"Who Tells You Who You Are"

(Moments of Silence)

RESPONSIVE PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

Chaplain Finnin

Holy God, You have called us to be diligent teachers and eager learners in all that we do, both in this community and in Your larger world. Now send us forth into that world as Your willing servants.

**Give us the strength lightly to bear our joys and sorrows.
Give us the strength to make our love fruitful in service.
Give us the strength never to disown the poor or bend our knees before insolent might.
Give us the strength to raise our minds high above earthly trifles.
And give us the strength to surrender our strength to Your will with love. Amen.**

- Hindu Prayer

HYMN

God of the Ages

National Hymn

God of the ages, whose almighty hand
leads forth in beauty all the starry band
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past;
in this free land with thee our lot is cast;
be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay,
thy Word our law, thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,
be thy strong arm our ever sure defense;
thy true religion in our hearts increase;
thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh thy people on their toilsome way;
lead us from night to never-ending day;
fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

THE BLESSING AND RESPONSE

Chaplain Finnin

The time has come to go forth.

Senior Class: We go in thanksgiving for all we have learned.

This is a bittersweet moment.

Senior Class: We rejoice in our growth and in bonds of friendship, even as we bid farewell.

This is a moment of anticipation.

Senior Class: We look forward with excitement, eager to embrace all that awaits us.

Live in confidence and hope, and blessing shall accompany you always. Amen.

Please stay in place for the Rotunda Recessional, which will follow immediately.

THE ROTUNDA RECESSIONAL

One of the University's most symbolic traditions is Rotunda Passage, which includes both a processional and recessional. Many of tonight's candidates for graduation began their lives at SMU by processing through the Rotunda of Dallas Hall to Opening Convocation in this auditorium, symbolizing their entrance to SMU. Tonight, all candidates will recess through the Rotunda as a symbolic departure from campus and out into their future as the newest members of the SMU alumni family. Alumni who are parents of graduating seniors are serving as marshals for tonight's recessional. They will help line the path between McFarlin Auditorium and Dallas Hall for the recessional participants.

REMARKS

Adam Rizzieri
President of the Class of 2007

*Following his remarks, the President of the Senior Class will pass the lantern
that signifies continuity to a representative of the Class of 2008.*

Connie O'Neill
Alumni Relations Chair

CALL TO THE RECESSIONAL

Bradley Kent Carter
Chief Marshal

VARSIITY

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!

Following "Varsity," all candidates will remain standing.

*As soon as the stage party is organized in a central aisle, ushers will help guests
assemble on both sides of the diagonal walk to Dallas Hall.*

As this is being accomplished, the stage party will lead the Rotunda Recessional.

Marshals will organize the candidates' march.

THE RECESSIONAL

Selections from The Dansereye

Tielman Susato

PAUL RASMUSSEN

The Reverend Paul L. Rasmussen has been an associate pastor of Highland Park United Methodist Church since 2000. As pastor and preacher for Cornerstone, the Church's contemporary worship community, he has built the alternative Sunday morning service from an average attendance of 100 to 1,100 weekly. The Rev. Rasmussen also serves as one of 12 volunteer chaplains for the Dallas Police Department, assisting with public events and serving the private spiritual and ceremonial needs of the police force.

A fourth-generation Methodist minister, the Rev. Rasmussen grew up in Shreveport. He earned a B.A. degree *cum laude* in history from Centenary College of Louisiana in 1990, followed by a Master's degree in sports management from the University of Richmond in 1992. Returning to his undergraduate *alma mater*, he served Centenary as assistant basketball coach and recruiting coordinator from 1992-97. He also created and produced the *Inside Centenary Basketball* television program. In addition to his responsibilities with the basketball program, he served for one year as Centenary's assistant athletic director for development and marketing and another year as director of annual giving. In the latter role, he led the most successful annual fund campaign in Centenary's 171-year history.

After moving to Dallas in 1997, he worked for Baylor SportsCare and a sports marketing company before joining the staff of Highland Park United Methodist Church in 2000. While serving on the Church's staff, he earned a Master of Divinity degree from SMU's Perkins School of Theology in 2005.

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Presiding:	Dr. R. Gerald Turner, <i>President of the University</i>
Preaching:	The Reverend Paul Rasmussen, <i>Associate Pastor</i> , <i>Highland Park United Methodist Church, In the Cornerstone Community</i>
Liturgist:	The Reverend Dr. William M. Finnin, Jr., <i>Chaplain and Minister to the University</i>
Lector:	Dr. Patricia Davis, <i>Deputy Director of SMU Guildhall</i>
Musicians:	Up-Town Brass Quintet Matthew Ernst, <i>Leader</i> Jason DeWater Christopher Moore Christopher J. Pineda Shauna Satrom
Precentor:	Ted Hamby Clarkson, Jr. <i>Candidate for degree of Bachelor of Music, Voice Performance</i>
Trumpets:	Meadows Trumpets