

#### OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PLATFORM PARTY

Brad E. Cheves, Vice President for Development and External Affairs  
Heather R. DeShon, Platform Marshal and Professor of Geophysics  
Thomas DiPiero, Elisabeth Martin Armstrong Dean of Dedman  
College of Humanities and Sciences  
Samuel S. Holland, Algur H. Meadows Dean of Meadows School of  
the Arts  
Nader Jalili, Mary and Richard Templeton Dean of Lyle School of  
Engineering  
Holly E. Jeffcoat, Dean of SMU Libraries  
Stephanie L. Knight, Leon Simmons Dean of Annette Caldwell  
Simmons School of Education and Human Development  
Kenechukwu (K.C.) Mmeje, Vice President for Student Affairs Jason  
P. Nance, Judge James Noel Dean of Dedman School of Law  
Robin S. Poston, Moody Dean of the Moody School  
Harold W. Stanley, Vice President for Executive Affairs  
Melinda Sutton '97, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and  
Dean of Students

#### GUILD OF MARSHALS

Thomas Osang, Chief Marshal  
Thomas B. Fomby, Assisting Chief Marshal  
Bradley Kent Carter, Chief Marshal Emeritus  
Monnie McGee, Procession Marshal  
Stephen D. Robertson, Assisting Procession Marshal  
  
Brandi Coleman, Student Marshal  
Roy Heller, Faculty Marshal  
Kevin Paul Hofeditz, Ceremony Marshal  
Maribeth Kuenzi, Marshal for the Alumni Marshals  
Sidharth Muralidharan, Student Marshal  
Daniel R. Reynolds, Student Marshal  
Bivin Sadler, Student Marshal

# OPENING CONVOCAATION



# SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

# SMU®

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.

*The Twentieth of August  
Two Thousand and Twenty-Three  
Quarter Until Two O'Clock  
McFarlin Memorial Auditorium*

## A DISTINGUISHED TRADITION

Welcome to SMU's 109th Opening Convocation. One hundred and eight 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                      Half Past Twelve in the Afternoon  
David Y. Son, Carillonneur  
Fondren Science Tower

ROTUNDA PASSAGE

ORDER OF EXERCISE

PROCESSIONAL    Imperial Brass

PRESENTATION OF RESIDENTIAL COMMONS BY FACULTY IN RESIDENCE                      Willie Baronet, Armstrong  
Debra Branch,  
Morrison-McGinnis  
Carol Dickson-Carr, Virginia-Snider  
Daniele Forlino, Kathy Crow  
Leanne Ketterlin Geller, Crum  
Justin Germain, Loyd  
Andrew R. Graybill, Ware  
John R. Levison, Boaz  
Alberto Pastor, Mary Hay-Peyton-Shuttles  
Maria del Pilar Melgarejo, Cockrell-McIntosh  
Ashley Stone, McElvaney

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  
Chair of the SMU Board of Trustees

Michael S. Harris  
President of the SMU Faculty Senate

Alex Alarcón '24  
Student Body President

SPECIAL MUSIC

*SMU Forever* by Jimmy Dunne  
Meadows Convocation Chorus  
Led by Chris Mason, interim Choir Director  
Joshua Boyd, piano  
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  
Assistant Vice Provost and  
Dean of Admission

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

Bishop Michael McKee '78  
Leighton K. Farrell Dean of  
Perkins School of Theology, ad interim

RECESSIONAL

Imperial Brass