



SOUTHWESTERN CHRISTIAN
UNIVERSITY

Scholarship • Spirit • Service

LXXVI COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION

May 2026

*Celebrating achievement, honoring growth, and
stepping forward in purpose..*



SOUTHWESTERN CHRISTIAN
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Welcome to the *seventy-sixth* Commencement Ceremony

Today we gather with grateful hearts to celebrate not only achievement, but purpose, calling, and new beginnings.

Together with family, friends, faculty, and community, we honor the journey that has led these graduates to this day. As graduates of Southwestern Christian University, they go forward with knowledge, preparation, and a foundation rooted in faith, equipped to lead with integrity, serve with compassion, and bring the light of Christ wherever God calls them.

Today we celebrate this achievement. Tomorrow, new callings begin. May each step ahead be guided by courage, humility, and unwavering faith.

Congratulations, Class of 2026.

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COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

Please silence your cell phones



MARSHALS

Megan Eischen, Rachel Foster, Sophie Jovanovic, Olivia Kite.

PRELUDE

GRAND MARSHAL/MACE BEARER

Dr. Adrienne Cressman. *Faculty Senate President.*

PROCESSIONAL

"Pomp and Circumstance" by Sir Edward Elgar and Emma Gee, *Pianist*

NATIONAL ANTHEM *Audience Stands*

"The Star-Spangled Banner" SCU Choir
Directed by Professor Margaret Ann Adams.

INVOCATION *Audience Stands*

Keisha Gordon. *Chair, Department of Religious Studies.*

DECLARATION *Audience Stands*

Otis Garrison. *President.*

WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dustin Sells. *Vice President of Academic Affairs.*

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Psalm 139 by Allen Pote" SCU Choir
Directed by Professor Margaret Ann Adams.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Dustin Sells. *Vice President of Academic Affairs.*

SERVANT AWARD

Josh Young. *Vice President of Spiritual Life*

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Roxanne Parks. *Author, Speaker, and Certified Life Coach*

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Dustin Sells. *Vice President of Academic Affairs.*
Otis Garrison. *President.*

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Good Plans" by One Voice

PRESIDENTIAL CHARGE

Otis Garrison. *President.*

BENEDICTION *Audience Stands*

Dustin Sells. *Vice President of Academic Affairs.*

RECESSIONAL

Emma Gee, *Pianist*

Guests should remain seated until the conclusion of the Recessional



Dr. Dustin Sells

The Vice President of Academic Affairs

Dr. Dustin Sells serves as Vice President of Academic Affairs and Professor of Language Arts at Southwestern Christian University, where he has been part of the faculty since 2019. His academic work centers on English, with a focus on film studies, literature, and the theology of culture.

He holds a PhD from Oklahoma State University, a Master's degree from the University of Central Oklahoma, and a Master of Arts in Global Leadership from Fuller Theological Seminary.

At SCU, Dr. Sells teaches a range of courses, including English Composition, American and English Literature, Visual Rhetoric, Film and Theology, and The Writer as Theologian. His teaching and research explore the intersection of storytelling, spirituality, and culture, with a particular interest in genre film, Gothic literature, and the arts' role in spiritual formation.

Dr. Sells is passionate about helping students think critically, engage culture thoughtfully, and live out their calling as part of God's mission in the world. Originally from Carnegie, Oklahoma, he brings both academic depth and a heart for student formation to his role at SCU.



Roxanne Parks

Author, Speaker, and Certified Life Coach
The Commencement Speaker

Roxanne Parks is an international Christian speaker, author, and certified life coach dedicated to encouraging spiritual growth and personal development. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Petroleum Engineering from the University of Oklahoma and an Advanced Certificate in Life Coaching, and is certified by the American Association of Christian Counselors.

A pioneer for women in the engineering field early in her career, she later founded Winter Summit Ministries and serves as a corporate chaplain and coach with Corporate Care Inc.

Roxanne is the author of *Breathe: 101 Life-Giving Devotionals and Encouragement for the Overwhelmed and Exhausted Homeschool Mom*, and has created more than 22 YouVersion Bible reading plans with over two million subscribers worldwide.

An international marketing business leader and speaker who has addressed audiences of more than 100,000 people across multiple countries, she is widely recognized for her passion to build, encourage, and speak life-giving truth with authenticity and joy.

She was named Ms. Oklahoma Senior America 2022 and was a Top 12 finalist at the national competition.

Through her speaking, writing, coaching, and ministry events, she continues to inspire individuals and audiences around the world.

ACADEMIC REGALIA & MACE



The precise origins of the several parts of academic regalia still remain a matter of conjecture. However, the gowns and the hood were common at British universities before the 14th century. Academic regalia began to appear on campuses of the United States in the late 1890s. Since that time, regalia use has become standard for academic university functions.

The Cap. The mortarboard is flat and square and has become the universally accepted style for colleges and universities. The tam is a soft velvet cap and may be worn by those with a doctoral degree. The caps are black with a tassel. The standard tassel worn by the faculty is black, but those with doctoral degrees have the privilege of wearing gold tassels. Candidates for degrees at Southwestern Christian University wear black tassels.

The Gown. The associate gown is gray with full sleeves and is worn closed. The black bachelor gown has a long, pleated front with gathered fabric across the shoulders and back. The flowing sleeves are pointed at the fingertips and are knee length. The master degree gown is worn closed, and the oblong sleeves, reaching well below the knees, are cut so that the forearm comes through a slit just above the elbow. The doctoral gown has broad, velvet panels down the front and three velvet bars on full, round sleeves. This velvet trimming may be black or a color distinctive of the degree.

The Hood. The hood gives color and meaning to the academic costume. The silk lining of the hood reflects the official colors of the institution where the degree has been conferred. Southwestern Christian University's color is light blue. The hood is bordered with velvet of a specific width to designate the degree and a color to indicate the field of learning to which the degree pertains.

The Mace. The tradition of the academic mace originates during medieval times when a battle mace or royal scepter was carried at the head of a royal procession as a symbol of power and often in protection of the king. In modern day, the tradition of the mace is embraced by universities around the world and symbolizes the authority and strength of the institution's academic ideals. Typically, when the academic mace is carried, it leads processions of formal academic and inaugural ceremonies where full regalia is worn.

At SCU, the honor and title of Academic Mace Carrier is bestowed upon the presiding Faculty Senate President.

Marshals. The role of Student Marshal is one of the highest honors the university awards to undergraduate students. Student Marshals are third-year students who, with respect to their academic performance, are appointed by the Commencement committee.



DISTINCTIONS

ACADEMIC HONORS

Students graduating with Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, and Summa Cum Laude have met all bachelor degree requirements with cumulative grade point averages indicated below. Grade point averages for the most recently completed term have not been used in calculating honors indicated in this program. Official honors will be reflected on final transcripts and diplomas.

3.50 through 3.69 GPA, ***Cum Laude*** meaning “**With Honor**”

3.70 through 3.89 GPA, ***Magna Cum Laude*** meaning “**With Great Honor**”

3.90 through 4.00 GPA, ***Summa Cum Laude*** meaning “**With Highest Honor**”

THETA ALPHA KAPPA

Theta Alpha Kappa is the only national honor society dedicated to recognizing academic excellence in students and in scholars in the fields of Religious Studies and Theology. Eligible students must have a minimum of 3.5 GPA in religious studies courses and a minimum 3.0 overall GPA. Students must also meet residency requirements, receive a nomination from a faculty member in the Christian Studies Department, and be in the top 35% of their class. Theta Alpha Kappa members are indicated in the degree candidates' list with “•” symbol. These members also wear a gold medallion with red ribbon, indicating their participation in this society.

ROTARY

The International Rotary members have used their passion, energy, and intelligence to act on sustainable projects. From literacy and peace to water and health, members of the Rotaract Club believe in the shared responsibility to act and develop innovative solutions for our world's most persistent issues. The Rotaract Officers are indicated in the degree candidates' list with the “▪” symbol. The International Rotary Club recognizes the student officers by distinguishing them with blue and gold cords worn at the annual Commencement ceremony.

DEGREE CANDIDATES CLASS OF 2025-2026



MASTERS of ARTS

Global Leadership

DeSouza Faith Noel
Delfino Thamires
Duffey Kyle Rock
Esposito Matteo
Flotron Mogau
Harris Summer Sherrill
Sherrill Zachary Clay

BACHELOR of ARTS

Christian Ministries

Wilkerson Jack Randall

Music Performance

Chikhwaza Lusekelo David **
Miles Isaiah Demetrius

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Browning Braden William
Camps Enzo ***
Carreteiro Mattar da Cruz Vinicius **
Das Tanishq Kumar ***
de Avila Otavio Rosler
Esparza Nino Alondra *
Ferreira Grant Owen
Huerta-Tzompa Daniel
Hyde Bailey Scott
Mason Jayden Marie *
McCollom Kelsie Rianne
Olivas Jasmine Mia
Smith Austin Dee
Thornton Jayden Shae
Wiedel Victoria **
Wilkins Seth Christian

BACHELORS OF SCIENCE

Business Leadership

Anderson James

Christian Leadership

Bambrough Christopher Alan
Banks Johanna Elizabeth ***
Bonaparte Kyah Rae
Edwards Christopher Ray ***
Sutter Gloria Lillian

Early Childhood Development Education

Johnson Abbigail Alexandra **

Elementary Education

Underwood Alexis Mary ***

Human Services

Hunt Kolton John Alan

Kinesiology

Almánzar Mozart Mantovanni Duarte
Buie Hailey Lynn
Collins Khy
Czikra Jessica La'Nell **
DeVries Brianna Elizabeth ***
Dollins Devin Deville
Donnell Payton Jo
Gallegos Leonardo
Glenn Kameron Amberlee
Harland Chrissen Norisse ***
Hurens Alexis *
Keele Hannah Grace *
Kimani Keith M
Lopes Andre Luiz Rodrigues
McCarthy Lindsey Nicole
Montero Darío Yunior Paredes **
Patton Maliyah **
Reed Camryn Ja'mion
Robertson Brooke Lynn *
Santos Gabriel Yukio Tukiayama **
Schroeder Abby May **
Smith Lexie Rae
Stanfill Riley Marie *
Stelly Tyler Christopher
Stricker Ali Reann
Trejo Mayce Felina
Whelen Reese Michael *

Liberal Studies

Roberson Alexis Kianah **

Physical Education, Health, & Safety

Hussey Landri Kay ***

Psychology

Connell Jesse Emerson *

Driver Storie Marie *

Graham Megan Margean *

Milewska Alicja

Moralez Jessie Annette **

Rich Cianna Rose ***

ASSOCIATES OF ARTS

Carman Moriah June

McCarrell Ryleigh Christine

Powell Kaitlyn

Sampson Sierra Alexis

● (Circle Symbol) = Theta Alpha Kappa

■ (Square Symbol) = Rotary

* = Cum Laude

** = Magna Cum Laude

*** = Summa Cum Laude

DISCLAIMER: *This list of degree candidates is not intended to be the official verification of graduation or academic honors. Only official transcripts, signed and sealed by the registrar, validate a conferred degree and/or honors earned. Students completing graduation requirements or submitting a graduation application after the announced deadline might not be included in this program. Names of degree candidates are listed by degree in alphabetical order and not in the order they are called during the Commencement ceremony.*

NOTE: *An official photographer from Candid Color Photography will be on site to photograph degree candidates as they are offered congratulations by the president on stage. Guests are welcome to take their own photographs; however, we ask that courtesy be shown so the view of the platform remains clear for the official photographer and other guests. Contact information regarding the photographer can be found at swcu.edu.*



Southwestern Christian University *A History*

The story of Southwestern Christian University begins in 1946 with the vision and faith of Dr. R. O. Corvin and Rev. Oral Roberts, who believed deeply in the power of Christian higher education to shape lives, strengthen the Church, and prepare men and women for meaningful service in the world. Founded as Southwestern Bible College, the institution began humbly, meeting at the corner of 10th Street and Oklahoma Avenue in Oklahoma City in a converted nightclub.

As that vision grew, so did the institution. The school eventually moved to its present campus on Northwest 39th Expressway, a transition that marked a new season in its life and mission. At that time the name was changed to Southwestern College of Christian Ministries, which reflected the expanding breadth of its educational purpose and its commitment to preparing students for a wide range of callings.

In 2001, the institution adopted the name Southwestern Christian University, a title that more fully captured its identity as a Christian liberal arts university devoted to academic excellence and spiritual formation. Though the University's name and location have changed over the years, its heart has remained the same.

For generations, Southwestern Christian University has remained committed to the work of Christian higher education, equipping students to live with wisdom, conviction, and compassion. That mission continues today as the University prepares students for excellence in Scholarship, Spirit, and Service.

On this day of celebration, we give thanks for the faithful visionaries, leaders, faculty, students, and supporters who have shaped this institution's history, and we look forward with hope to the lives of service and leadership our graduates will now carry into the world.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Bishop Scott Hampton - *Chairman*
Bishop Stuart Sherrill - *Vice Chairman*
Bishop Randell Drake - *Secretary*
Bishop Tommy McGhee - *IPHC Liaison*
Otis Garrison - *SCU President*
Bishop Mario Ayala
Donna Goad
Rev. Demetrius Miles
Dr. Doug Beacham Jr. - *Ex Officio*
Mrs. Kristen Sanders

COMMENCEMENT COMMITTEE

Erin Brown, Chair
Teresa Bittle
Stephen Davis
Kareen Guzmán
Summer Harris
Michael Seth Cudd
Josiah Olsson
José Pérez
Zachary Sherrill

