

S O U T H E R N

A D V E N T I S T

U N I V E R S I T Y

COMMENCEMENT EVENTS
AUGUST 23, 2024

ILES PHYSICAL EDUCATION CENTER
COLLEGEDALE, TENNESSEE



SOUTHERN
ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Power for Mind & Soul

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO GRADUATES



Dear Graduates,

Congratulations on reaching this significant milestone! Today, as you step into a new chapter of your lives, I want to share a verse that I hope will inspire and guide you: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord and not for people," (Colossians 3:23, GNT).

This verse reminds us that our endeavors, no matter how big or small, should be approached with wholehearted dedication. When we work with all our hearts, we bring passion, commitment, meaning, and excellence to everything we do.

As you embark on your career paths, remember that your work is not just a means to an end. It's an opportunity to make a difference, to serve others, and to grow spiritually, personally, and professionally. Whether you are entering the workforce, continuing your education, or pursuing other dreams, approach each task with enthusiasm and integrity.

Working as though you are working for the Lord elevates your efforts beyond the mundane, not just to meet the expectations of others but also to fulfill a higher calling. This mindset fosters resilience and perseverance, helping you navigate challenges and setbacks with grace and determination.

Moreover, when you work with all your heart, you inspire those around you. Your diligence and positive attitude can create a ripple effect, motivating your peers and contributing to a culture of distinction and collaboration.

Keep this verse close to your heart, and let it remind you to pour your best into everything you do, to seek fulfillment in your work, and to make a lasting impact. The world needs your talents and unwavering devotion to making it a better place.

Congratulations once again, and may your future be filled with success, joy, and purpose in the Lord.

Sincerely,



Ken Shaw, EdD
President

SERVICES ON THE WEB



Commencement services can be viewed live online by visiting southern.edu/streaming.

Please silence all electronic devices during programs.

Please do not use airhorns or other noisemakers as they can be harmful and painful to those of our guests with hearing devices.

COMMENCEMENT

Friday, August 23, 2024, 10 a.m.



Processional.....	<i>Pomp and Circumstance March No 1</i>	Sir Edward Elgar
Invocation.....	.....	Tiffany Hickey, MSED graduate
Welcome .....	.....	Jacob Fierro, BS graduate
Introduction of Speaker.....	.....	Ken Shaw, President
Commencement Address.....	“You’ve Got This!”	Serge Gariepy Principal, Georgia-Cumberland Academy
Conferring of Degrees.....	.....	Ken Shaw, President
Presentation of Degree Candidates .....	.....	Robert Young Senior Vice President for Academic Administration Dionne Felix Associate Vice President for Academic Administration and Dean of Student Success and Retention Corjena Cheung Associate Vice President for Academic Administration and Dean of Graduate and Professional Studies Karon Powell Director of Records and Advisement
Alumni Association Welcome .....	.....	Moses Maier Alumni Council Representative, Class of 2017
Benediction.....	.....	Sarah Boone, MSW graduate
Recessional.....	<i>Rondeau</i>	Jean-Joseph Mouret

Music Coordinator: Ken Parsons, School of Music Associate Professor

Grand Marshal: Andrew Richards, University Senate Chair, School of Nursing Professor

DOCTORATE OF NURSING PRACTICE PROJECTS



Linetta Boshers	<i>Ultrasound-Guided Peripheral Intravenous Catheter Insertion Training: A Quality Improvement Initiative</i>
Janella Killingsworth	<i>The Effects of Controlled Breathing and Physical Postures on Anxiety and Stress in Mental Health Patients</i>
Delores Rugless	<i>Effects of a Residential Lifestyle Intervention Program on Selected Lipid Measures and Nutritional Choices</i>
Josephine Rurangirwa	<i>Educating Community Health Workers to Deliver the “Thinking Healthy Program” for Perinatal Depression in Brownsville Colonias: Developing and Validating a Norm for the “Thp Competencies” Tool in the USA</i>

SOUTHERN SCHOLARS



In addition to maintaining a 3.50 GPA and meeting normal degree requirements, *Southern Scholars* complete a special honors curriculum involving interdisciplinary studies, honors courses, and independent study. This semester, one graduate, Golda Ruckle, earned that distinction. The title of her senior research projects is: *The Dirty Work of Nation Building: Culture Wars and Election Day Riots in the Antebellum Midwest (1850-1855)*.

ACADEMIC REGALIA



The color of velvet trim on each hood represents the area of study. The color of the silk lining represents the university that conferred the degree. The color of the tassel represents the degree of the undergraduate.

Arts, Humanities, Interdisciplinary, Letters..... White	Nursing..... Apricot
Business.....Drab	Outdoor Leadership..... Russet
Communication.....Crimson	Physical Education..... Sage Green
Education.....Light Blue	Physical Therapy..... Teal
Engineering.....Orange	Public Administration, Foreign Service.....Peacock
Fine Arts..... Brown	Science.....Golden Yellow
Law..... Purple	Social Work..... Citron
Music..... Pink	Theology..... Scarlet

BACCALAUREATE DEGREE GRADUATES

Damon Louis Bartos.....	BA Biology
Krishna Colleen Bemis, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
Cira Nicole Buffington, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
Jennifer Ellen Cooper	BSN Nursing
Rachel Kristina Cooper, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
Jacob Fierro	BS Health Science
Nathan S. Griswold, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
Joselyn Dayan Izquierdo Andino, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
Haechang Kim	BA Psychology
Giovanni Alberto Leonor II, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BS Business Administration
Camille Alexandra Martinez Ortiz.....	BFA Graphic Design
Ilianie Maurelus	BIS Integrative Studies
Michael Spencer Rackley	BFA Film Production
Glynnell Ruth Robinson	BS Health Science
*Golda Leigh-Ann Ruckle, <i>Summa Cum Laude, Southern Scholar</i>	BA History [History/Government]
Wella Danelle Slough.....	BSN Nursing
Ethan Bradley Stauffer.....	BS Kinesiology
Sunika Mpoenhle Tarusenga-Jojo, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BS Health
Cameron Tyler Kiyoshi Tsuchiya.....	BS Biology [Biomedical]
Alejandra Dare Vye	BS Outdoor Leadership
Sara Rene Wiebe	BSN Nursing

ASSOCIATE DEGREE GRADUATES

Ricardo Vernon Bain II.....	AS Allied Health [Pre-Physical Therapy]
Alyssa Kierra Brown, <i>Cum Laude</i>	AS Allied Health [Pre-Physical Therapy]
Nyara Bethlem Dovald, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	AS Allied Health [Pre-Physical Therapy]
Lauren Ann Gerath	AS Allied Health [Pre-Physical Therapy]
Caleb Joseph Jackson, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	AS Allied Health [Pre-Physical Therapy]
Samuel McBrandino Naibaho	AS General Studies

MASTER'S DEGREE GRADUATES

Tomorrow Danielle Arnold	MSW Social Work [Mental Health in Social Work]
Noah Christopher Banks	MMin Evangelism and Ministry
Sarah Elizabeth Cole Boone	MSW Social Work [Mental Health in Social Work]
Connie Cho Bradshaw.....	MSW Social Work [Mental Health in Social Work]
Marc A. Butler	MS Computer Science
Betsy Mercedes Calloway	MSN Primary Care-Family Nurse Practitioner
Melissa Carnes	MSW Social Work [Crisis/Emergency Management]
Todd Andrew Casey.....	MA Theology [Theological Studies]
Melantha Cash.....	MSN Primary Care-Family Nurse Practitioner
Jared Paul Hyuntaek Chung	MMin Church Leadership and Management
Dakota Charles Cookenmaster.....	MS Computer Science
Kaitlyn Deaux	MSW Social Work [Mental Health in Social Work]
Sue Ann Cupitt	MSW Social Work [Mental Health in Social Work]
Christina Raquel Donesky.....	MBA Marketing Management
Isabella Marie Eklund	MSW Social Work [Crisis/Emergency Management]
Rafael Antony Encarnacion III	MSW Social Work [School Social Work]

Sabrina Elise GalindoMSN Primary Care-Family Nurse Practitioner
Morgan GarciaMSW Social Work [Crisis/Emergency Management]
Rosa LeAnn GariepyMA Theology [Theological Studies]
John F. GiamboneMMin Biblical Counseling
Laura Catherine Gibbs MSW Social Work [Mental Health in Social Work]
Madison Nicole Griswold MSW Social Work [School Social Work]
Misty Dawn Haggard MSW Social Work [Mental Health in Social Work]
Elise Linne' HarboldtMA Theology [Theological Studies]
Tiffany Ann Hickey MS School Counseling
Kayla Marie HolderMSN Primary Care-Family Nurse Practitioner
Kelly Ann Lindberg MSN Acute Care-Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner
Abby K. McCoyMSN Primary Care-Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
Amy Jo MejiasMSW Social Work [Crisis/Emergency Management]
Kiana Grace Oliver MS Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Viridiana Ortiz Avila MSW Social Work [School Social Work]
Alexis Rogers MSW Social Work [School Social Work]
Benjamin Michael SatterfieldMSN Primary Care-Family Nurse Practitioner
Abigail Segovia Santos MSW Social Work [School Social Work]
Angela Rae SparksMSW Social Work [Crisis/Emergency Management]
Richard Michael Thomas MSW Social Work [School Social Work]
Benjamin Juel Thompson MS Applied Computer Science
Sara WardMSN Primary Care-Family Nurse Practitioner
Alyssa WolfMSW Social Work [Crisis/Emergency Management]

DOCTORAL DEGREE GRADUATES

Linnetta Robertson Boshers DNP Acute Care; Adult/Gerontology Nurse Practitioner
Janella Kristen Killingsworth DNP Lifestyle Medicine; Primary Care-Family Nurse Practitioner
Delores Michele RuglessDNP Lifestyle Medicine
Josephine RurangirwaDNP Lifestyle Medicine

The Commencement program does not constitute an official list of graduates.

GUEST GRADUATES

COLUMBIA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Robert E. Mills PhD Organizational Leadership

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Jolinda RufPhD English Literature

PIERPONT COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL STUDIES

Angela Marie LippardAAS Applied Science

S U M M A R Y



UNDERGRADUATE GRADUATES—27

(2 HAVE TWO MAJORS OR DEGREES)

MASTER'S GRADUATES—39

DOCTORAL GRADUATES—4 (2 have a dual emphasis)

DEPARTMENTS/SCHOOLS WITH BACCALAUREATE DEGREE GRADUATES

Biology and Allied Health.....2	Health and Kinesiology .....6
Business .....1	History and Political Science .....1
Education, Psychology, and Counseling	Nursing.....6
Psychology.....1	Visual Art and Design.....2

DEPARTMENTS/SCHOOLS WITH ASSOCIATE DEGREE GRADUATES

Applied Technology.....1	Biology and Allied Health.....5
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SCHOOLS WITH MASTER'S DEGREE GRADUATES

Business1	Nursing.....9
Computing2	Religion.....6
Education, Psychology, and Counseling	Social Work .....12
Counseling .....2	

DOCTORAL DEGREE GRADUATES

Nursing.....4

H O N O R C O R D S



Gold Cord—*Summa Cum Laude*—3.90+ GPA

Silver Cord—*Magna Cum Laude*—3.75-3.89 GPA

Green Cord—*Cum Laude*—3.50-3.74 GPA

All other colors represent honors societies in the various academic areas.

THE MACE



The mace is a traditional symbol used to communicate and designate authority. The Southern Adventist University mace was crafted in 1986 by John Durichek, a Southern alum. Southern's mace represents its heritage and *raison d'être* (reason for existence). The base is of pine from Jones Hall, built in 1917 and razed in 1985. The main staff is of walnut. The seven rings represent completeness. The four-sided ebony segment is seen as Southern's underlying educational philosophy—balanced mental, spiritual, physical, and social development for each student. The brass flames represent the Holy Spirit.

Bearing the mace is the grand marshal, Andrew Richards, chair of the University Senate and professor in the School of Nursing. His regalia is evergreen, the university's traditional color.

SPECIAL THANKS



Academic Administration
Advancement
Alumni Relations
Audio Visual
Blluum Floral and Event Design
(stage flowers)
Campus Safety
Collegedale Police Department
College Press
Energy Management

Financial Administration
First Lady Ann Shaw (stage decor)
Food Services
Graduate and Professional Studies
Marketing and University Relations
President's Office
Quick Print
Records and Advisement
School of Music
Service Department

We extend our gratitude especially to parents, fellow students, and guests.

ALUMNI HOMECOMING WEEKEND



October 24-27, 2024

We are excited to welcome you back to Southern's campus to remember your fondest experiences, relive your best memories, and reconnect with fellow alumni from near and far. This fall, we look forward to hosting our featured speaker, Pavel Goia, '99, and welcoming all of our alumni back to campus to enjoy some of your favorite Homecoming activities, as well as several new events!

Mark your calendars for Homecoming Weekend 2024.

Learn more and register at southern.edu/homecoming.

On behalf of the Alumni Association, congratulations to our newest alumni, the Class of 2024!