

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

C O M M E N C E M E N T E V E N T S

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I L E S P H Y S I C A L E D U C A T I O N C E N T E R
C O L L E G E D A L E , T E N N E S S E E



Power for Mind & Soul

P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E T O G R A D U A T E S



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.

Blessings,

Ken Shaw, EdD
President

Please silence all electronic devices during programs.

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

C O M M E N C E M E N T

Thursday, December 19, 2024, 7 p.m.

Processional..... *Pomp and Circumstance Marches Nos. 1 and 4*..... Sir Edward Elgar

Invocation..... Micah Leonor, BA graduate

Welcome Youlander Clarke, MSEd graduate

Introduction of Speaker..... Alexandra Leonor, MS graduate

Commencement Address..... “Walk by Faith”..... Sam Leonor, MDiv
Chief Mission Officer, Adventist Health

Conferring of Degrees Ken Shaw, EdD, President

Presentation of Degree Candidates Robert Young, PhD
Senior Vice President for Academic Administration

Dionne Felix, PhD
Associate Vice President for Academic Administration and Dean of Student Success and Retention

Corjena Cheung, PhD
Associate Vice President for Academic Administration and Dean of Graduate and Professional Studies

Karon Powell, JD
Director of Records and Advisement

Alumni Association Welcome Cheryl Torres, BA
Director of Alumni Relations, Class of 2005

Benediction..... Anella Poljak, BS graduate

Recessional..... *Rondeau* Jean-Joseph Mouret

Brass Ensemble Conductor: Ken Parsons, MMus, *School of Music Associate Professor*

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

S E R V I C E S O N T H E W E B



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

S T U D E N T L E A R N I N G G O A L S



Students of Southern Adventist University will:

- **Spiritual Development**
grow in a vibrant relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ while integrating into their lives Bible-based beliefs and values as understood by the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
- **Intellectual Development**
develop a commitment to lifelong learning and demonstrate a mastery of the cognitive skills of critical reasoning, independent thinking, reflective judgment, communication, and creativity needed to confront the issues, ideas, and values of historical and contemporary civilization.
- **Occupational Development**
exhibit excellence and moral leadership in their chosen fields of study and/or professions.
- **Individual and Social Development**
develop socio-emotional maturity that will enable them to be effective leaders and contributing members of their churches, families, groups, and communities in a global society.
- **Physical Development**
take responsibility for their own well-being through a health-promoting lifestyle.

S O U T H E R N S C H O L A R S



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 earned that distinction. The title of her senior research project is listed below:

Anella Isabel Poljak

“Formation of alkenyl cations from β-carbon alkyl substituted α,β-substituted alkyl ketone isophorone”

BACCALAUREATE DEGREE GRADUATES

Diana Elisa Alarcón.....	BFA Fine Arts; BA International Studies [Italian]
Elan Rachel Anderson.....	BS Biology [Biomedical]
Lilyana Crisitina Batin, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BS Health Science
*Anna Magdalena Bennethum, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	BA History [History/Government]
Sharon Janelle Benton, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BS Communication
Selene Emily Bergmann, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
*Vashti Bethany Summer Brantley, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BA Liberal Arts Education [Non-Licensure]
Lucas Alexander Bueno, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BA Religious Studies
Pamela Krishningner Burchard.....	BS Business Management
Joy Marie Burdick, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	BS Business Administration
Joshua Malcolm Burgess	BBA Finance
Bonin A. Cabrera-Caraballo, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BA Biblical Studies
Ronald Peter Campbell-Stewart.....	BA Pastoral Care
Elizabeth Graceann Chen, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BS Psychology [Clinical]
Anthony Alton Cooper.....	BS Business Administration
Hunter Thomas Cox, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	BBA Accounting
Lily Annalise Crawford.....	BSN Nursing
Kimberly Marie Cuevas	BSN Nursing
Myles Austin Dean	BS Business Administration
Sarah Jeannine Grace Delaware, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
Rachel Jeanne DeRose, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
Alexis Paige Dewey, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BS Mass Communication [Writing/Editing]
Caroline Grace DeWind, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	BBA Accounting
Amy Karolyne Dias Nogueira.....	BS Business Administration
Peta-Gaye Jodian Dixon, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
Frederick Duran, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BS Health Science; AS Allied Health [Pre-Dental Hygiene]
*Madeline Rose Emde, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	BA English
Jeffrey Dohre Filiberto II, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	BS Computer Science
Olivia Lauren Fisher, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BA International Development Studies; Spanish
Colin Joseph Glenn	BS Business Administration
Lisbeth Graciela Gomez Roblero, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
Spencer Douglas Goolsby	BS Kinesiology
Francisco Javier Grijalva.....	BS Psychology [Psychobiology]
Wilson Maged Saloum Hannawi.....	BS Biology [Biomedical]
Juan Harmse.....	BS Information Technology
Elora Germania Horsley	BA Chemistry
Hamilton Joshua Hosteter	BSN Nursing
William Matthew Howland.....	BBA Human Capital Management
*Natalie Faith Jensen, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	BM Music Education [Keyboard]
Rachael Courtney Johnson.....	BSN Nursing
Alexander Christian Klischies.....	BS Business Administration
*Abigail Grace Knowles.....	BA Liberal Arts Education
Goohyuk Kwon, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
Eunice Jiwon Lee	BSN Nursing
Samuel Micah Leonor, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	BA History
Tyler Aaron Lindo	BFA Film Production
Myranda Jean Littell	BSN Nursing
Gracelyn Lloyd.....	BS Communication
Ashley Kassandra Lopez Rivera	BSN Nursing
Sharon Calista Lotulung.....	BSN Nursing

*Teaching Certificate

Noor Imad Madanat	BBA Marketing
Mia Corina Mandujano	BA Biology
Emmanuel Marte	BS Health Science;
	AS Allied Health [Pre-Speech Language Pathology & Audiology]
Heidi Martin, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	BIS Integrative Studies
Stephen Hancock Martin	BSN Nursing
Audrey Rose McCord, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BS Psychology [Family Systems]
Macy Jewel McIntosh, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	BS Health and Wellness; AS Allied Health [Pre-Nutrition/Dietetics]
Julian Alexis Mercado	BA Religious Studies
*Nicolas Seth Miller.....	BA History [History/Government]
Catalin Andrei Modiga.....	BS Computer Science
Maxwell Jordan Moon, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	BA Biology
Milca Sandra Muñoz.....	BA Liberal Arts Education [Non-Licensure]
Logan Dale Neal	BS Business Administration
Gunnar Troy Neuman.....	BA Liberal Arts Education [Non-Licensure]
Jacob Aaron Nevis.....	BA Journalism
*Stephanie Elizabeth Nieves	BA Liberal Arts Education
Christian Alexander Noreus.....	BS Business Administration
Lillyanne Violet Nunnaley, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BS Business Administration
Jacob Carter Oxentenko.....	BA Psychology
Kristen Rachel Page, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
Angel Julian Perez.....	BBA Finance
Kay Lauren Petrikas, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
Brianna Lauren Pettit, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	BS Psychology [Family Systems]
Anella Isabel Poljak, <i>Summa Cum Laude, Southern Scholar</i>	BS Chemistry [Biochemistry]
Jorge Luis Pontarelli.....	BS Public Relations
Carley Brooke Quintrell, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	BS Psychology [Clinical]
Allyson Nicole Rasco, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BA International Development Studies
Giovanni Esteban Reed	BBA Finance
Zachariah James Franz Reich.....	BSN Nursing
Elizabeth Paulina Ortencia Reid	BA Journalism [Digital Broadcast]
*Ruth Rempart, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	BA English
Kerika Yasmine Rice, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
Hayden Christopher Rigsby.....	BA History
Longino Rodriguez, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BS Communication
Hannah Gabriella Rosenthal.....	BBA Marketing
Kailey Renee Schroer, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	BS Psychology [Clinical]
Tatiana N. Silveira.....	BS General Psychology
Dawson Emanuel Stephens, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	BA Theology [Ministerial]
Melany Yasmin Suarez-Rojas.....	BS Business Administration
Tracy Tamara Tambingon	BSN Nursing
Patrick Dwayne Tambingon, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
Conner Garrett Thall, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
Madelyn C. Trumbull.....	BS Psychology [Family Systems]
David Lawrence Conradovich Vine	BS Business Administration
Philly Gerson Walangitan	BS Psychology [Industrial/Organizational]
Caleb Andre DiMauro Washington, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	BA History
Taylor Renee Waterman, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	BFA Fine Arts
Tyler Nicholas Whitsett	BFA Film Production
Gillian Kimberly Wong	BS Mass Communication [Media Production]

*Teaching Certificate

A S S O C I A T E D E G R E E G R A D U A T E S

Somee An, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	AS Nursing
Nataly Arredondo Batista.....	AS Nursing
Isabelle Grace Berecz, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	AS Nursing
Jared I. Brewer, <i>Cum Laude</i>	AS Physical Therapist Assistant
Joel Paul Brown, <i>Cum Laude</i>	AS Nursing
Weston Cole Brown.....	AS Nursing
Katherine Alejandra Chavez.....	AS Nursing
Anyang Chen, <i>Cum Laude</i>	AS Nursing
Jaegwang David Chi	AS Nursing
Roy Inhyeok Cho.....	AS Nursing
Maria Celeste Cortez	AS Nursing
Hannah N. Crittenden	AS Nursing
Pricilla Lynn Eckright, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	AS Vegetarian Culinary Arts
Emelia Claire Fiess.....	AS Nursing
Ashton Chapman Figueiredo	AT Construction
Delma Ruby Garcia.....	AS Nursing
Eian Josh Rielle Gonzaga Dumanon.....	AS Nursing
Muang Thangsian Gualnam	AS Nursing
Abraham Hernandez.....	AS Nursing
Anneliese Elizabeth Howard	AS Physical Therapist Assistant
Rachel Ashley Hutubessy, <i>Cum Laude</i>	AS Nursing
Yolanda Theresa Inniss	AS Nursing
Ethan Reece Johnson.....	AS Nursing
Ashton Reily Kilmer.....	AS General Studies
Yuna Kim, <i>Cum Laude</i>	AS Nursing
Shaulene Diana Kimbley, <i>Cum Laude</i>	AS Nursing
Dwight Joseph Marbun	AS Nursing
Andrea Serena Meza.....	AS Nursing
Mia Stormie Mitchell	AS Allied Health [Pre-Physical Therapy]
Sarah Caroline Moody, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	AS Allied Health [Pre-Speech Language Pathology & Audiology]
Isabella Beckedorff Nardi, <i>Cum Laude</i>	AS Nursing
Isabella Barbara Nelson	AS General Studies
Ismael Enrique Nunez Kasdanouche, Jr.	AS Physical Therapist Assistant
Dain Andre Ochoa	AS Physical Therapist Assistant
Zackery William Ottati, <i>Cum Laude</i>	AS Nursing
Rebeca Tamayo Perez.....	AS Vegetarian Culinary Arts
Manuel Louis Ramos.....	AS Physical Therapist Assistant
Isabella Renteria Manzanilla	AS Nursing
Tyler Chase Ritterskamp.....	AS Nursing
Brianna Marie Self, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	AA General Studies
Kristen Joy Sobrepena, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	AS Nursing
Hartuelle Kleive Sullano	AT Construction Management
Josefa Vences Nunez	AS Nursing
Morgan Mattea Wilcox, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	AS Physical Therapist Assistant
Ingrid Gisell Yanes.....	AS Physical Therapist Assistant
Julia Ehab Seddk Youssef	AS Nursing

MASTER'S DEGREE GRADUATES

Logan Thomas Bateman.....	MS Computer Science
Summer Nicole Biggs.....	MSEd Literacy Education
Hannah Michelle Borstad.....	MSW Social Work [Crisis/Emergency Management]
Rachael Andrea Clark	MSEd Literacy Education
Rachel Lauren Clark.....	MAT Teaching [Secondary]
Youlander Wiggins Clarke	MSEd Instructional Leadership
Hannah Coon	MSEd Literacy Education
Janice Diaz Reyes	MSEd Instructional Leadership
Stephanie J. Evans	MS Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Chariss Marie Fields.....	MSW Social Work [Mental Health in Social Work]
Catherine J. Gaddis	MSW Social Work [Mental Health in Social Work]
Sarah Elizabeth Gorby	MSN Primary Care-Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
Alysia N. Harden	MSN Primary Care-Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
Ronald Gabriel Herman III	MSN Primary Care-Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
Jesse Carl Hoffman	MSEd Instructional Leadership
Susan Mary Holt.....	MSEd Instructional Leadership
Jacob Alan Johnson	MBA Management
Alexandra Skye Leonor	MSW Social Work [School Social Work]
Angie Jhoselyn Luna.....	MS Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Graham Charles Massot	MS Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Heidi Jenee Matthews.....	MAT Teaching [Elementary]
Annette Metz.....	MSW Social Work [Mental Health in Social Work]
Catalin Andrei Modiga.....	MS Computer Science
Lauren Elizabeth Rasar	MS Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Andrew Thomas Reed	MSEd Instructional Leadership
Ryan Francis Paul Robertson.....	MS Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Anjan Sapkota.....	MS Computer Science
Sydney Megan Marie Shaw	MSW Social Work [Mental Health in Social Work]
Katherine Charity Thiele	MAT Teaching [Elementary]
Kristopher Martin Thompson.....	MSN Primary Care-Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
Sadie Paige Triplett.....	MS Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Olivia Kaziah Wilson.....	MSN Primary Care-Family Nurse Practitioner

DOCTORAL DEGREE GRADUATES

Cynthia Ann Queen Shuler	DNP Acute Care; Adult/Gerontology Nurse Practitioner
Lara Rebeca Esteves Soares	DNP Acute Care; Adult/Gerontology Nurse Practitioner

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

A C A D E M I C R E G A L I A



The color of velvet trim on the hoods 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
Business	Drab
Communication	Crimson
Education	Light Blue
Fine Arts.....	Brown
Law	Purple
Music.....	Pink
Nursing.....	Apricot
Outdoor Leadership	Russet
Physical Education.....	Sage Green
Physical Therapy.....	Teal
Public Administration, Foreign Service.....	Peacock
Science	Golden Yellow
Social Work.....	Citron
Software Engineering.....	Orange
Theology	Scarlet

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.

P H I L A N T H R O P Y M E D A L L I O N



Graduates are wearing a gold zipper-pull medallion in honor of the alumni, family, and friends who have donated to the class gift this year.

S U M M A R Y



UNDERGRADUATE GRADUATES—144
(6 HAVE TWO MAJORS OR DEGREES)

MASTER'S GRADUATES—32

DOCTORAL GRADUATES—2

DEPARTMENTS/SCHOOLS WITH BACCALAUREATE DEGREE GRADUATES

Adult Degree Completion	6	Health and Kinesiology	5
Biology and Allied Health.....	4	History and Political Studies	7
Business	19	Journalism and Communication.....	5
Chemistry.....	2	Modern Languages.....	2
Computing.....	3	Music.....	1
Education and Psychology		Nursing.....	22
Education	5	Religion.....	5
Psychology	9	Visual Art and Design.....	4
English.....	2		

DEPARTMENTS/SCHOOLS WITH ASSOCIATE DEGREE GRADUATES

Applied Technology.....	2	Health and Kinesiology.....	2
Biology and Allied Health.....	5	Nursing.....	30
General Studies.....	3	Physical Therapist Assistant	7

SCHOOLS WITH MASTER'S DEGREE GRADUATES

Business	1	Computing	3
Education and Psychology		Nursing.....	5
Counseling	6	Social Work	6
Education	11		

DOCTORAL DEGREE GRADUATES

Nursing.....	2
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MISSION STATEMENT



Grounded in Jesus Christ and dedicated to the beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, we equip students to embrace biblical truth, embody academic and professional excellence, and pursue Spirit-filled lives of service.

THE VISION



Southern Adventist University's vision is to:

- Model the love of Jesus in every interaction.
- Invite each student into a saving relationship with Jesus.
- Inspire each student to engage with God's Church and the world through service and witness.
- Provide each student with an exceptional learning experience that equips them to thrive in a fluid, global job market.

CORE VALUES



As Southern Adventist University employees, we:

- Embrace the Seventh-day Adventist Church's Worldview and Fundamental Beliefs
- Love Others as God Loves Them
- Act with Integrity
- Live Prayerfully
- Serve Others Generously
- Follow God's Calling
- Pursue Excellence
- Exercise Responsible Stewardship
- Offer an Exceptional, Wholistic Learning Experience

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 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. The marshal's regalia is evergreen, the university's traditional color.

SPECIAL THANKS



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

Financial Administration
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.

SAVE THE DATE FOR HOMECOMING WEEKEND



October 23-26, 2025

Alumni Honor Classes:
1945, 1955, 1965, 1975, 1985, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2015

Visit southern.edu/homecoming for updated information throughout the year.