



**SPALDING UNIVERSITY**  
COMMENCEMENT

JUNE 3-5

*Two Thousand Twenty One*

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

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IN CELEBRATION OF THE CLASSES OF 2020 & 2021

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## **Spalding University**

Spalding University continues a legacy of education and service established by the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth in 1814. Today, the university offers degree programs at the bachelor's, master's and doctoral level in liberal and professional studies to about 2,000 students each year. We meet the diverse needs of our students and the community, continuing the mission started by the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth.

### **Mission Statement**

Spalding University is a diverse community of learners, dedicated to meeting the needs of the times, in the tradition of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, through quality undergraduate and graduate liberal and professional studies, grounded in spiritual values, with emphasis on service and the promotion of peace and justice.

### **History**

Spalding University's mission and approach to education are derived from its unique history. Spalding celebrates more than 200 years of academic tradition and service, extending back to 1814, when the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth established Nazareth Academy, near Bardstown, Kentucky, 40 miles south of Louisville. The state legislature granted a charter enabling the institution to confer academic diplomas in 1829. The name of the University honors Mother Catherine Spalding (1793-1858), the founder of the SCNs. Mother Catherine is considered the first social worker in the Commonwealth. In her early 20s, as Mother Superior, Mother Catherine started multiple Catholic grammar schools in central and eastern Kentucky, paving the way for the SCNs' expansion of its educational work both nationally and globally.

In 1920, Nazareth College opened in Louisville as the first four-year Catholic institution of higher education for women in the state. One year later, "Nazareth College, Nazareth" (a women's junior college) opened in Nelson County. The two institutions were merged in 1940. Despite the Commonwealth's invidious history related to race, Spalding was the first institution in the city to desegregate and admit Black students in 1950. In 1961, Nazareth College at Nazareth and Catherine Spalding College in Louisville separated. Nazareth Academy closed in 1966, and the junior college at Nazareth closed in 1969 as all operations shifted to Louisville. In the same year (1969), the college was renamed, "Spalding College," and men were formally accepted for admission. In May 1984, in recognition of the wide range of

programs offered, the institution was renamed "Spalding University." By the 1980s and 1990s, graduate programs began to grow at Spalding. In October 2020, the university celebrated its 100th anniversary in downtown Louisville.

Today, Spalding University is a modern, urban, private university committed to "meeting the needs of the times," social justice and peace in the tradition of the SCNs. It has more than 30 undergraduate and graduate programs with students studying in healthcare-related professional programs, business administration, liberal studies and other areas.

Committed to diversity and educational access, the Spalding community draws continued inspiration and strength from its intrepid Black, indigenous and persons of color (BIPOC) alumni from the 1950s and 1960s, in providing a high-quality learning environment that fosters equity and inclusion for its BIPOC students, faculty and staff. The institution is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, and many of its academic programs have demonstrated excellence by earning specialty accreditations as well. The university's Golden Eagles are the only NCAA Division III athletic program in the city. Today, Spalding students are involved in a range of curricular and co-curricular activities, including community service projects, which connect them to the tradition of distinguished alumni who have engaged in charitable work on and off campus in the city of Louisville, the Commonwealth, the nation, and the world for 100 years.

## **Board of Trustees**

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## **Officers of Spalding University**

Tori Murden McClure, M.Div., JD, MFA '05  
President

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Provost

\* Emeriti Trustee

## **SCHEDULE OF CEREMONIES**

### **Thursday, June 3, 2021**

11 a.m.

Liberal Studies, Natural Science, Health Science

2 p.m.

Creative Arts

5 p.m.

Education

### **Friday, June 4, 2021**

11 a.m.

Athletic Training

2 p.m.

Nursing: MSN, DNP

5 p.m.

Nursing: BSN, Presentation of Caritas Medalists

### **Saturday, June 5, 2021**

10 a.m.

Business, Communication

12 p.m.

Psychology: BA, MA

2 p.m.

Psychology: Psy.D.

5 p.m.

Social Work

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES UNIVERSITY AWARDS

### *Caritas Medal Awards*

The highest award bestowed by Spalding University, the Caritas Medal has recognized the alumna or alumnus of the year since 1961. “Caritas,” meaning “charity” in Latin is a central element of the motto of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth: “Caritas Christi Urget Nos,” or “The Charity of Christ Urges Us.” As such, the Caritas medalist is recognized for his or her contributions in a particular field and for exemplifying a spirit of service consistent with the mission and tradition of Spalding.

In 2020, we posthumously honored a graduate of our College of Education. In 2021, at a time when the nation and world continue to celebrate the contributions of nurses during the COVID-19 pandemic, we honor two distinguished graduates of the Spalding University School of Nursing.

#### 2020 Medalist | **Perry Sangalli, Ed.D. '98**

The late Dr. Perry Sangalli, the longtime President of St. Xavier High School and a longtime trustee at Spalding, was posthumously honored as the university’s alumnus of the year in 2020. Dr. Sangalli was a leader in Louisville Catholic education for nearly 40 years, serving at St. X as a math teacher, then as principal, from 1993 to 2001, and later as president (2001-2019). At Spalding, Dr. Sangalli was an active, highly respected trustee and longtime adjunct professor in the Ed.D. program from which he graduated. Dr. Sangalli was also a gifted organist who performed at parishes around the Archdiocese of Louisville.

Spalding President Tori Murden McClure praised Dr. Sangalli for his wise, dependable counsel. “His contributions (were immense) in this community as a mentor to young men, particularly at St. X, and as a mentor to every doctoral student who came through our Ed.D. program under his watchful eye,” McClure said.

### 2021 Medalist | **Vicki Hines-Martin, BSN '75, M.A.Ed. '83**

Dr. Vicki Hines-Martin is an educator and researcher who is acclaimed for her work focused on health disparities, access to care and healthcare needs of minority populations.

The author of dozens of scholarly publications and the founder of the KYANNA Black Nurses Association of Louisville, Hines-Martin serves as Associate Dean for the University of Louisville School of Nursing's Office of Community Engagement and Diversity Inclusion. She is also Director of Community Outreach for the U of L Health Sciences Center's Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

Hines-Martin has been on the full-time faculty at U of L since 1998. She has also taught at the University of Kentucky, Indiana University Southeast and Jefferson Community and Technical College and served on a range of national journal editorial boards, advisory panels and peer review boards.

In addition, she was President of the International Society of Psychiatric Mental Health Nurses (2019-20), and she has served in a variety of roles with the Kentucky Nurses Association, including Co-Director of the Kentucky Nurses Helping Nurses Project in 2020.

### 2021 Medalist | **Mary Romelfanger, BSN, '76**

Mary Romelfanger has been a longtime leader, administrator and consultant in geriatric and senior care who recently became the Director of Operations for Hildegard House, Kentucky's first and only comfort care home.

Romelfanger previously served as Associate Director for the University of Louisville School of Medicine's Institute for Sustainable Health and Optimal Aging (2013-16), and she was Vice President for Clinical Services for Presbyterian Homes and Services of Kentucky (2008-09). From 1994 to 2005, Romelfanger was Director of the U.S. Office of Health Services for the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, and before that she spent 14 years as Deputy Executive Director of the Kentucky Board of Nursing.

Romelfanger's civic service includes membership on the Board of Directors of ElderServe since 2016. She also served on the Kentucky Legislative Research Commission Alzheimer's and Dementia Workforce Assessment Task Force, the Kentucky Council on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the U of L Department of Family and Geriatrics Advisory Board and the Spalding School of Nursing Advisory Board. She has recently served as a COVID-19 testing and vaccination volunteer.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES UNIVERSITY AWARDS

### *Outstanding Faculty Awards*

The criteria for this prestigious award include the completion of at least four years of full-time faculty service with an emphasis on activities that embody the mission of Spalding University. In the spirit of the Spalding mission, the recipient of the Outstanding Faculty Award will have made a significant impact on students in areas such as teaching, advising, facilitating student research, promoting peace, justice and cultural understanding, providing support services, encouraging extracurricular activities, or in any other aspect of student life, both in and out of the classroom.

2020 Recipient | **Brenda Nash, Ph.D.**

Chair & Professor, School of Professional Psychology

2021 Recipient | **Donna Elkins, Ph.D.**

Professor, School of Communications

### *Designation of Faculty Emeriti*

In some years, the Board of Trustees honors one or more long-serving faculty members who are retiring by bestowing the title of Professor Emeritus or Emerita. Those faculty who receive emeritus status are deemed by the trustees to have left a lasting mark on the university by displaying an intense love of learning and teaching, a powerful dedication to their students and a strong loyalty to Spalding that will be remembered and appreciated for years to come.

2020 Professor Emeritus | **Kenneth Linfield, Ph.D.**

Professor, School of Professional Psychology

2021 Professor Emeritus | **Brother Ignatius Perkins, Ph.D.**

Chair & Professor, School of Nursing

2021 Professor Emeritus | **Joseph Maloney, Ph.D.**

Professor, School of Nursing



## GRADUATE UNIVERSITY AWARDS

### *Sister Eileen Egan Ph.D. Graduate Award*

Each academic unit may designate a recipient of the Sister Eileen Egan Graduate Award. This award is named in honor of Sister Eileen Egan, Ph.D., SCN, President of Spalding University for 25 years, and who was recognized as an outstanding University and community leader. Sister Eileen was instrumental in the development of many of our graduate programs and ultimately, the University's designation as a doctoral and research University.

## UNDERGRADUATE UNIVERSITY AWARDS

### *Mother Catherine Spalding Service Learning Awards*

This award is given to a graduating senior who embodies the spiritual values of faith, hope, and charity, exemplified by our founder, Mother Catherine Spalding. The recipient will have distinguished themselves through outstanding service to the community, personal leadership, and witness to the dignity of human life as a person committed to meeting the needs of others in the spirit of Christ's invocation to love one another as you love yourself.

2020 Recipient | **Sally Rother**  
BFA in Creative Writing

2021 Recipient | **To Be Announced**

### *Mother Rose Meagher Senior Awards*

This award is presented annually to a graduating senior with an outstanding scholastic record who also displays exceptional qualities of maturity, judgment, and leadership in academic and co-curricular affairs. The award recipient is an individual who works diligently to achieve harmonious human relations and exhibits outstanding promise of becoming a worthy member of their chosen profession and a leader in the community.

2020 Recipient | **Kasim Alsalman**  
BS in Health Science

2021 Recipient | **To Be Announced**

## SYMBOLIC ASPECTS OF THE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

### THE MACE

A marshal leads the academic procession, formally bearing the ceremonial staff called a mace. In ancient days, scholars used the mace for protection, since relations between townspeople and scholars in the medieval university centers were not often tranquil. However, with the passage of time and custom, the mace has come to symbolize the authority of the faculty over its academic programs.

The current mace was created for the 175th anniversary of Spalding University from a wood beam found in St. Vincent's Church, in Nazareth, Kentucky. At the top of the mace is a floriated cross from Spalding's Tompkins-Buchanan-Rankin Mansion. Mother Catherine Spalding directed the building of St. Vincent's Church, giving the mace added historical significance to Spalding University.

### THE ACADEMIC REGALIA

The academic regalia worn in the processional are a reflection of the ancient origins of modern, higher education in America. The traditional costume derives from medieval times, when the scholars of Oxford, Paris, and elsewhere, robed themselves in caps, hoods, and gowns to distinguish themselves from their fellow townsmen; hence, the controversy is captured in the term "town and gown." Most American colleges and universities follow the uniform code for costumes established in 1893 by an intercollegiate commission.

Initially, the gown may have served primarily as a type of overcoat to protect the instructor from the cold in unheated and cavernous buildings. The gowns worn by the recipients of bachelor's and master's degrees are usually plain and unadorned, while the gowns of doctoral graduates are distinguished by wide velvet bands on both the sleeves and front of the gown. The cap, or mortarboard, can be traced to the square cap worn by the masons in the Middle Ages. The tassel on the cap is the color of the student's discipline.

The most distinctive item of the academic costume is the hood that passes around the neck and extends down the back of the gown. The hood is a triangular piece of fabric, edged with velvet in the color that indicates the discipline. Some of the more traditional colors that reflect the different disciplines are white for the arts, gold for science, blue for education, and apricot for nursing. The colors extending down the back of the hood represent the institution from which the degree was earned; the colors of Spalding are blue and gold.

## SYMBOLIC ASPECTS OF THE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY



### THE SPALDING SEAL

At the center of the Spalding University seal, shown on the program cover, is the pelican, with wings displayed and inverted. According to medieval legend, she is pecking at her breast for drops of blood to feed her young.

The pelican is the symbol of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky, founders of Spalding University, and is representative of the service that the University and its graduates offer to the community. At each side of the pelican are variations of the Christian cross. On the right side is the fleur-de-lis, or French cross, symbol of the City of Louisville, and a reflection of the French influence upon the Sisters of Charity through their co-founder, Bishop Jean Baptiste M. David.

On the left side is the cross emblazoned on the coat of arms of the Spalding family, from which Catherine Spalding, co-founder of the Sisters of Charity, descended and for whom Spalding University is named.

The founding date of the university, 1814, is inscribed in the pelican's nest; the university name and location create the circumference of the shield.

At each university commencement, the president wears the presidential medallion with an image of the university seal.

