



University Mace

There are two maces used at commencement. The oldest mace is from the 1970s, made from wood, and represents the founding of Samford University. It contains a medallion used in past university presidents' inauguration ceremonies.

The new mace—constructed of silver and ebony—comprises eight elements that symbolize Samford's history and tradition as a Christian university. A simple cross resides at the top of the instrument. Beneath the cross, silver bands embrace a Lucite sphere embedding a computer chip containing the entire Bible, linking the high-tech world with the timeless biblical Word. A likeness of columns, reflective of Samford's Georgian Colonial architecture, bears the university motto, "for God, for learning, forever." A decahedron follows bearing the university seal, logo and historical scenes. A globe symbolizes Samford's international mission as an educational institution devoted to world awareness and ministry. Below the globe, a cylinder encases actual soil from Samford's four campuses (two in Marion, Alabama, and two in Birmingham). The cylinder bears the Shema ("Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One"). Extending to the bottom of the mace is an ebony wood shaft inlaid with silver plates bearing the names of Samford presidents. The mace rests on an acorn base, reflective of Sherman Oak, symbol of the East Lake campus, and of the fact that sturdy, strong lives spring from humble beginnings.

The mace is borne by a faculty representative at the head of all university academic processions as an ensign of authority. To be the mace bearer is an honor extended to faculty who have won teaching awards or who have been recommended for this honor by the dean of their college.