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SMWC marks annual Ring Day

FOR THE TRIBUNE-STAR

More than 100 Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College students filed into the historic Harvey Auditorium in the Conservatory of Music on Saturday to become the 104th group to receive the SMWC Woods Ring.

A single ceremony was held at 1 p.m. with the theme of "Adventure Awaits: The World Needs What You Bring." Students waited on stage to hear their names called and step forward as SMWC President Brennan Randolph presented their rings or ring top pendants.

For the 106 students who received a ring this year, it is the symbol of academic achievement as they become part of a more than a century-old tradition at The Woods.

"This is one of the most anticipated days at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College," Randolph said about Ring Day.

Students Margaret Williams Mead, class of 1922, and Dorothy Helm Geisel, class of 1923, designed the ring in 1922. The students partnered with Herff Jones Jewelers to create the ring. It was first given to seniors in 1922, and in 1928, juniors were granted the opportunity to receive a ring.

Dawn Tomaszewski, SP, '74, general superior of the Sisters of Providence, gave the reflection address on Saturday.

Ariella Engle couldn't wait to receive the legacy ring from her family friend, Tracy Martin Thomas '75, '16.



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Five of the students at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College who on Saturday received their SMWC Woods Rings show them here.

"(Thomas) has become like a second grandma to me, and I was so blessed and beyond grateful to be given her ring to wear," said Engle, a junior elementary education major from Brazil, Ind. "My mom was a Woodsie, and as soon as I got accepted, I couldn't wait to have a ring like hers. I remember always wanting to try hers on when I was little. Now having one just like hers is truly my younger self's dream come true."

Bentley Myer, a junior nursing major from Cincinnati, Ohio, said he's proud to be part of one of the most cherished

traditions at SMWC.

"This ring marks a great milestone in my educational journey at SMWC," he said. "I've earned this ring, and I am so excited to have it on my finger and be even more connected to this place forever."

After the ceremony, recipients presented flowers to family members or friends in attendance to express their appreciation for support throughout their student journeys.

The material for this item was submitted to the Tribune-Star by Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College.