5-6-2015

Commencement Speakers

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Recommended Citation
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USF St. Petersburg Commencement Speakers

GRADUATION CELEBRATION

Graduation Celebration was a ceremony-dinner-dance held annually to honor “Candidates for Graduation” from USFSP. Guest speakers were selected by the event committee and members of the graduating class. Student awards were given at this event.

Graduation Celebration evolved into a post-Commencement Reception once the official Commencement for USF St. Petersburg was established in 1982. Graduation Celebration was continued well into the 2000s, but did not feature a guest speaker.

March 18, 1971  No speaker
1972  No event
June 8, 1973  PROF. ROBERT HALL, English
June 7, 1974  PROF. ROBERT HALL, English
June 15, 1975  DR. DANIEL WELLS, English
June 11, 1976  PROF. HARRY J. SCHAILEMAN, JR., Geography
June 10, 1977  PROF. DAVID KENERSON, Business
June 8, 1979  DR. DAVID R. CARR, History
June 13, 1980  DICK BOTHWELL, staff writer, St. Petersburg Times
June 12, 1981  PROF. HAMILTON STIRLING, Business
May 1, 1982  PROF. HARRIET DEER, English

COMMENCEMENT

May 1, 1982  First USFSP Commencement
              CLEVELAND AMORY, noted author
April 30, 1983  BARBARA NEWELL, Chancellor, State University System
April 28, 1984  ROY BLOUNT, JR., noted author
April 27, 1985  BARBARA NEWELL, Chancellor, State University System
May 3, 1986  **EUGENE PATTERSON**, Chairman of the Board and CEO, Times Publishing Company

May 2, 1987  **LOWELL E. DAVIS**, Campus Dean (CEO of USFSP)

April 30, 1988  **CHARLES B. REED**, Chancellor, State University System

April 30, 1989  **ANDREW H. HINES, JR.**, Chairman of Florida Power Corp.

April 29, 1990  **LESTER W. TUTTLE**, USFSP Founding Dean (CEO)

April 28, 1991  **LEANDER J. SHAW JR.**, Chief Justice, Florida Supreme Court

May 3, 1992  **JACOB NEUSNER**, Distinguished Research Professor, Religious Studies


Dec. 16, 1993  **First December Commencement**  
**SISTER MARGARET FREEMAN**, Founder of St. Petersburg Free Clinic

May 4, 1994  **JAY BLACK**, USF Poynter Jamison Eminent Scholar of Media Ethics and Press Policy

(Spring 1994 Commencement at USF Tampa)  
**DOUG JAMERSON**, State Representative and USFSP alumnus, was awarded the President's Fellow Medallion at USF Tampa.

Dec. 15, 1994  **DAVID FISCHER**, Mayor, City of St. Petersburg

May 9, 1995  **J. HOWARD HINESLEY**, Superintendent of Pinellas County Schools

Dec. 18, 1995  **HARM J. de BLIJ**, University Scientist and Scholar in Geography, Distinguished Professor of Geography at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service

May 5, 1996  **PETER A. FRENCH**, USF Marie E. and E. Leslie Cole Endowed Chair in Ethics
Dec. 16, 1996  BOB GILDER, Civil Rights Activist and Humanitarian

May 4, 1997  PETER RUDY WALLACE, Former Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives

Dec. 15, 1997  BILL MAXWELL, Editorial Writer and Columnist, St. Petersburg Times

May 3, 1998  GOLIATH J. DAVIS III, Chief of Police, St. Petersburg Police Department

Dec. 14, 1998  ANN HENDERSON, Executive Director, MacArthur Foundation, Former Executive Director, Florida Humanities Council,

May 2, 1999  JACOB NEUSNER, USF Distinguished Research Professor of Religious Studies


Dec. 13, 1999  GUS STAVROS, USF Foundation Chair and Capital Campaign Co-chair; Chairman, PELAM Investments

May 7, 2000  JUDGE RAYMOND O. GROSS, Sixth Judicial Circuit: President, USF Alumni Association

Dec. 18, 2000  DR. JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN, historian

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS were generally eliminated beginning in May 2001


Prepared by Sudsy Tschiderer
6 August 2015