12-11-2011

Commencement : 2011 : Fall : Program

University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

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Dear Graduates,

Today is a very proud moment for you, your family and friends, and for the University of South Florida St. Petersburg. Congratulations on achieving your dream.

We fully appreciate just how hard you worked to reach this milestone. You have faced high standards since you entered USF St. Petersburg. You have undoubtedly changed in many ways, some obvious, others more subtle. You have refined your skills in the arts of listening, research and thinking. You have learned the confidence to challenge ideas and developed the communication skills to preserve relationships while engaging in dialogue with others.

May your life's journey never take you far from these principles, and may it frequently bring you back.

Sincerely,

Judy Genshaft
President
University of South Florida System
Margaret M. Sullivan
Regional Chancellor

Dear Graduate,

Congratulations to you, the University of South Florida St. Petersburg Fall 2011 graduates. Graduation is a defining time in your life. We come together to celebrate this achievement, for graduation represents persistence, courage, honor and determination.

You graduate during a period in our nation's history that will be remembered for its extraordinary challenges. You will face many obstacles in the years ahead. Remember that the qualities and values that served you well during your studies here have positioned you for success.

Learning has taught you that your success involves hard work and determination. You have been well educated by some of the best faculty in the country. Your professors, fellow graduates and family stand here today to celebrate your achievements.

Though you will be faced with many difficult tasks in the days to come, do not lose confidence or sight of your goals. Your university education has prepared you to face these uncertain days with courage, creativity and persistence. Maintain your intellectual curiosity and the persistence that carried you to commencement. These values will mark you as a leader and will enrich your life in many ways.

Remember fondly your days on the harbor and come back often. You bring pride and credit to the University of South Florida St. Petersburg. May your hopes and dreams be realized.

Sincerely,

Margaret M. Sullivan
Regional Chancellor

Margaret M. Sullivan
Regional Chancellor

University of South Florida St. Petersburg

An Academic Pioneer

Nestled along the waterfront on beautiful Bayboro Harbor, USF St. Petersburg opened for classes September 7, 1965 in the barracks of a World War II Merchant Marine Base. The state legislature established it as an official campus of the University of South Florida in 1968. Its first degrees were conferred to 51 students in elementary education.

Today, USF St. Petersburg has come of age. It is considered one of the loveliest urban campuses in the nation and is part of the University of South Florida System. This separately accredited university offers programs at the baccalaureate and master's levels. More than 6,000 students are enrolled each term.

USF St. Petersburg's array of arts and sciences, business, and education programs combined with stellar faculty creates a vibrancy and dynamic energy that pervades the campus.

Curricula in the Community

USF St. Petersburg, identified as a master's comprehensive institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, also holds the elective Community Engagement Classification from the Carnegie Foundation. The designation honors the university's alignment among mission, culture, leadership, resources, and practices that support dynamic and noteworthy community engagement.

By pairing courses with corporate and community partners for immersive learning, professors involve students in the world outside the classroom.

Steward of its Environment

USF St. Petersburg values its stewardship of the environment. Through organizations and projects, students lead efforts to improve the environment in and around the university and the wider community. Students established a green energy fee to fund sustainability initiatives at the university. The institution is also a test site for the collection and storage of renewable solar energy.

The university's Science and Technology Building earned Gold certification from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System. It was the first building in the USF System to achieve LEED recognition. The Multipurpose Student Center, the second LEED-certified building at USF St. Petersburg, the student center is located along Harborwalk, a tree-lined pedestrian promenade featuring native and drought-tolerant plants and dark-sky compliant fixtures.
Order of Exercises
Harold W. Mullis, President

Christopher J. Davis
Commencement Marshal

Laura Davis, '01, College of Education

Margaret Sullivan
Regional Chancellor

Harold W. Mullis
Vice Chair, USF Board of Trustees

Stephanie Nicole Lawler, College of Arts and Sciences
Student Representative

Kimberly Choto, '92, President-Elect
Board of Directors for the Alumni Association

Kara B. Harmon, College of Education, B.S., Elementary Exceptional Education

Kristin E. Perkins, College of Education, B.S., Elementary Exceptional Education

Ivan Bengtson, College of Business, B.A./B.S., Accounting and Finance

Margaret Sullivan, presenting
Vylye Davis, Retired Educator, Principal and Senior Administrator for Pinellas County Schools

Noorine Noorinan, Regional Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs
Frank A. Biafora, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Maling Ebrahimpour, Dean, College of Business
Vivian Paezio, Dean, College of Education

Vice Chair Mullis

Frank A. Biafora, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Maling Ebrahimpour, Dean, College of Business
Vivian Paezio, Dean, College of Education

Vice Chair Mullis

Laura Davis

Christopher J. Davis

Order of Exercises

Ivan Bengtson

Outstanding Graduate

The Fall 2011 Outstanding Graduate is Ivan Bengtson. Ivan is a College of Business student graduating with a dual degree in Accounting and Finance.

Ivan was born and raised on the island of Puerto Rico. His Swedish father and Guatemalan mother exposed him to various cultures, traditions, and languages which defined the person he is today. The journey that brought him to USFSP began in December 1999 when his parents moved to Seminole, Florida. After graduating with honors from Seminole High School in 2002, Ivan joined the U.S. Army with his twin brother, Christian. After 18 months of training, he joined the ranks of the Army's elite Special Forces. He deployed to Afghanistan in the fall of 2004. On this deployment, Ivan was severely injured in a vehicular rollover and underwent five months of surgery and physical therapy. He resumed his duty with deployments to South America, where he was able to use his proficiency in Spanish and his cultural and combat experiences.

Ivan transitioned from active duty service to the National Guard in Florida in the fall of 2007 and enlisted at USFSP. He quickly became involved in the USFSP community by joining the Financial Aid Office as a peer counselor and the Academic Success Center as an accounting and finance tutor. He co-founded and served as treasurer for the USFSP American Red Cross Club from 2008-2010. He joined Beta Alpha Psi in 2009, where he served as the Social & Service Chair and later took the lead as President during the spring and fall of 2011. Ivan represented USFSP in the 2011 Beta Alpha Psi Regional Best Practices Competition and took 2nd place. He coordinated Haiti relief efforts with the Red Cross and was recognized with the 2010 American Red Cross Collegiate Leadership Award and the 2010-2011 CSPF Unsung Hero Award. Ivan maintained a GPA of no less than 3.46 while taking full course loads, working 20 to 30 hours a week and staying involved with the campus and the community.

As a student, Ivan completed four consecutive summer internships with PwC. In August 2012, he begins his full-time position as a consultant for the PwC Washington Federal Practice in McLean, Virginia.
Vyrle Davis
Regional Chancellor's Award for Civic Leadership

Mr. Vyrle Davis dedicated his career as an educator to improving the lives and opportunities of countless students in Pinellas County. As a longtime teacher and school administrator, Mr. Davis served as a transformational leader in his approach to improving the educational experience of African American students.

A Tampa native, he began his career as a teacher at 16th Street Elementary and Junior High School, now known as John Hopkins Middle School. Mr. Davis spent two years as an assistant principal at Gibbs High School before assuming the position of principal at St. Petersburg High School from 1973 to 1983. He was the first African American appointed to lead what had once been an all-white school. He became the Operations Director for Pinellas County Schools before serving as the first African American Area Superintendent from 1986 until his retirement in 1995.

Beyond his tremendous impact through his numerous leadership roles, Mr. Davis sought to create even more of a community impact through his activism. He founded the Ebony Scholars Program, which provides institutional and economic support to high-achieving African-American students. He co-founded the African-American Voters Registration Education Committee and founded the Concerned Organizations for Quality Education for Black Students. He pushed for single-member political districts for both the Pinellas County School Board and County Commission, and helped elect Mary Brown, the county's first African American elected School Board member.

His dedication to the students of Pinellas County and to the community at large makes Mr. Davis a pillar of this community - one whose significant commitment to improving the lives of those around him was evident in each of his initiatives. We thank Mr. Davis for his exceptional service and present the Chancellor's Award for Civic Leadership in appreciation of the work he has done and the legacy of service he has created.

Rich Heruska Alumni Association President

Congratulations! Today is your first day as a USF Alumni, a distinction you will proudly hold for the rest of your life. It is a special day for you and the friends and family that supported you.

Since the very first graduating class in 1965, USF alumni have brought honor and distinction to the university in many areas, including medicine, business, law, the arts, public service, technology, engineering and education. With each passing year - and graduating class - the university's stature continues to grow as its alumni are recognized across the state and nation, and around the world. From this day forward, you will carry on that tradition. Wherever your future takes you, you'll carry with you the distinguished reputation of a world class university.

I personally invite and encourage you to stay connected to your Alma Mater by joining your USF Alumni Association. From networking opportunities to social events, there is truly something for everyone. Your involvement will help strengthen "Bull Country" and will also help us launch a young alumni segment tailored to you.

We are incredibly proud of the accomplishments you and your family celebrate today. With your degree and educational experiences to reflect on, you are now truly unstoppable!

In Bull Pride,

Rich Heruska '99
President, USF Alumni Association
Candidates For The Masters Degree

College of Arts & Sciences
Frank A. Stabenow, Dean
Master of Arts
Journalism and Media Studies
Christopher J. Duray
Elizabeth Free-McKee
Dhahane Clive Anthony Lindo
Matthew Fleming Parke

Lukasz Talalaj

Maitha Mutal

Ebacine Marie Rhee

Master of Education
Jennifer Voigtner

Master of Business

Environmental Science

Liberal Arts

Liberals & Fine Arts

Summa Cum Laude

Candidates For The Bachelors Degree

At the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, we take great pride in the academic achievements of our students. Undergraduate students who are graduating with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher are identified in this Commencement program as graduating with honors. The honors designations are as follows:

- Cum Laude, graduating with honor: grade point average of 3.5 or higher
- Summa Cum Laude, graduating with highest honor: grade point average of 3.7 or higher

Graduates with the highest cumulative grade point average, 4.0, are also identified as King O'Neal Scholars.
The gold- colored sash is made available to Music. The hoods are lined with the official colors Accoun ting and Finance. Accountin g. Astha Goyal. Names published in this term or calendmfor Iv an B ach e l o r of Ar ts. Nichole Lawler. Laude. Names of gmduates . are also appear on the university record.

The Symbols of Learning

Modern academic regalia evolved from the kinds of apparel worn by monks and students in the 11th and 12th centuries to keep warm in the medieval castles and halls in which they studied. Academic life as we know it today began in the Middle Ages — first in the church, then in the guilds. The teaching guild was the Guild of the Master of Arts, and the Bachelor was the apprentice of the Master. The gown was the outward sign of status and responsibility. Academic regalia was thus a visible manifestation — in color, pattern and design — that unified those of common discipline and life purpose. In later centuries, to preserve the regalia’s dignity and meaning, universities set rules of academic dress. American universities agreed on a definite system in 1885, establishing a code of approved attire. In 1992, the American Council on Education revised this code, which, for the most part, governs the style of academic dress today. The principal features of academic dress are these: the gown, the cap and the hood.

The HOOD — The hoods are lined with the official colors of the institution conferring the degree. They are edged and bound with velvet of the color appropriate for the degree. At USF, the listing of the hood is green with a gold chevron, representing the university’s colors. The COLORS — In regalia, academic disciplines are noted by color. These colors can be found on undergraduate and master’s hoods and on master and doctorate hoods on the velvet edge of the institution conferring the degree. They are edged and bound with velvet of the color appropriate for the degree. At USF, the listing of the hood is green with a gold chevron, representing the university’s colors.

The MACE — If the USF Mace, used during all Commencement ceremonies, is a ceremonial staff similar to those used by many institutions of higher learning to show the right of academic instruction to graduate degrees to graduates. The USF mace is used during all Commencement ceremonies and is carried by the President of the Faculty Senate. Our mace, an ornate gold pine cone at its top represents growth and continuity. Eight silver semicircles, which support the pine cone, stand for the eight colleges in existence at USF when the mace was commissioned in 1998. When not in use, today’s mace is on display in the Alum n i Center.

The MEDALLION — The medallions worn by candidates for the bachelor’s degree identifies those graduating with honors. The black hood of a bachelor’s candidate indicates a student who has earned the Honors College degree.

The SASH — The golden-colored sash is made available to students who are members of university honors societies. The
ALMA MATER

Hail to thee, our Alma Mater
May thy name be told,
Where above thy gleaming splendor,
Waves the green and gold.
Thou our guide in quest for knowledge
Where we all are free
University of South Florida,
Alma Mater, hail to thee!

Be our guide in truth and wisdom
As we onward go,
May thy glory, fame and honor
Never cease to grow,
May our thoughts and prayers
be with thee through eternity,
University of South Florida,
Alma Mater, Hail to thee!