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Commencement : 2002 : Spring : 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. Congratulations on achieving your dream.

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

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

Sincerely,

Judy Genshaft
President
University of South Florida

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION

St. Petersburg
Sunday, May 5, 2002
The University of South Florida, founded in 1960, has become the second-largest university in the Southeast, with a student body of 36,000 on campuses in Tampa, St. Petersburg, Sarasota/Manatee and Lakeland, as well as its centers in downtown Tampa, New Port Richey and northern Pinellas County.

USF's national reputation as a dynamic research university continues to attract more and more of the nation's best and brightest scholars to the Tampa Bay area. That research is taking place across an astonishing array of disciplines, from marine science to teacher education, micro-engineering and cancer treatments. This dedication to research is what prompted the Florida Board of Regents to recently designate University of South Florida a "Research 1 University." USF now ranks among the nation's elite research institutions, according to the prestigious Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, which bases its rankings on the range of doctoral programs offered at an institution and the number of doctorates awarded annually.

USF St. Petersburg continues the University's energy and bright outlook. From its first classes in 1965 to barracks left over from a WWII Merchant Marine base, the urban waterfront campus has flourished. It has advanced from serving only junior, seniors and graduate students to a full, four-year, fully autonomous University. USF St. Petersburg today offers nearly 50 programs at the undergraduate, masters and doctoral levels. Enrollment has increased 56 percent over the past five years. Some 4,000 students are studying for degrees in business, education, nursing and the arts and sciences. With the general admission of freshmen and sophomores in the fall of 1989, student body includes a continuing cooperation with the YWCA of Tampa Bay, the university operates a day care center for students with children. The campus fosters a student-oriented, personalized learning environment within and beyond the classroom that encourages close interaction among students, faculty and staff. Several programs have their roots at USF St. Petersburg as well. A progressive undergraduate in journalism studies, with a faculty that includes the Poet laureate of Endowed Chair in Media Ethics and Press Policy, is based on this campus. The highly regarded Justice- Teacher for All Children program, which prepares students for certification in both elementary and special education, is considered one of the best of its kind. The Program for Ethics in Education and Community improves the teaching of ethics throughout the curriculum and beyond through a popular public lecture series. A new graphic design program is offered only at USF St. Petersburg.

Newly renovated high-tech science labs opened this fall for courses in undergraduate chemistry and biology that support the new environmental science and policy major. A state-of-the-art computer lab with Macintosh G4 computers provides the technical foundation for a day care center for students with children. The program began this fall. In addition, the university has begun a certificate program in cultural institutions management. Residential housing will soon appear with the first apartments available within one year.

USF St. Petersburg is a leading light in higher education in Pinellas County, and is considered America's most inviting campus.

Even with all this growth, courses at USF St. Petersburg are notable for their small class sizes and individual faculty attention. Flexible scheduling and affordable tuition allows students of all ages to accommodate family work and school in a balanced fashion. In cooperation with the YWCA of Tampa Bay, the university operates a day care center for students with children. The campus fosters a student-oriented, personalized learning environment within and beyond the classroom that encourages close interaction among students, faculty and staff.

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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. Their dress was the outward sign of stature and responsibility. Academic regalia was thus a visible manifestation — in color, pattern and design — that united those of common discipline and like purpose. In later centuries, to preserve the regalia's dignity and meaning, universities set rules of academic dress. American universities agreed on a definitive system after 1899, establishing a code of approved attire. In 1932, 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 three: the gown, the cap and the hood.

- **THE GOWN** — The gown has become symbolic of the democracy of scholarship, for it completely covers any dress of rank or social standing. The sleeves of the gown indicate the level of the degree held by the wearer. A long, pointed sleeve indicates the bachelor's degree. The master's gown has an oblong sleeve cut in an arc, with a slit at either the upper arm or wrist. The doctor's gown has bell-shaped sleeves and may also have velvet facing and sleeve bars or chevrons. The trimming may be black, or it may match the degree color on the gown edging.

- **THE CAP** — The hood in ancient Rome won the privilege of wearing a cap, and the academic cap is a sign of the freedom of scholarship and the responsibility and dignity with which scholarship endows the wearer. Old poetry records the cap of scholarship as a square symbolizing the book; although other authorities claim that it is a motor board, the symbol of the muse, a privileged guild. The color of the tassel on the cap denotes the discipline. The tassels on the caps (mortar boards) worn by the faculty may be black or a color indicating the degree. Those who hold a doctoral degree may wear a gold tassel. It is traditional for degree candidates to wear their tassels on the right and for those holding degrees to wear them on the left. Graduates transfer their tassels to the left after conferring of the degrees by the President.

- **THE Hoods** — The hoods are lined with the official colors of the institution conferring the degree. They are edged and bound with the color appropriate for the degree. At USF the lining of the hood is green with a gold chevron, representing the university's colors. Among the shading colors of hoods worn by our faculty today are:
  - Apricot — Nursing
  - Blue (Dark) — Philosophy
  - Blue (Light) — Education
  - Blue (Periwinkle) — Public Administration
  - Brown — Visual & Performing Arts
  - Crimson — Social Work/Criminology/Rehab. Counseling
  - Crimson — Journalism/Communication
  - Dark — Business
  - Golden — Science
  - Green — Medicine
  - Lemon Yellow — Library Science
  - Orange — Engineering
  - Pink — Music
  - Salmon — Public Health
  - Scarlet — Theology
  - Violet — Architecture
  - White — Arts and Letters

The University of South Florida is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award degrees at the baccalaureate, masters, specialist and doctoral levels, including the Doctor of Medicine. Events, activities, programs and facilities of the University of South Florida are available to all without regard to race, color, marital status, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, Vietnam or disabled veteran status as provided by law and in accordance with the university's respect for personal dignity.
Dear Graduates,

Congratulations on your commencement! I, along with everyone at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg, share pride in your accomplishment.

Several years ago when you began your educational journey at this very special campus, our intent was to provide you with the intellectual and ethical directions that will guide you toward your ambitions. As the name of the ceremony implies, today is not the end of that journey. Today is its commencement. We hope that your learning experience was rewarding and meaningful. We trust that we've prepared you well to be an effective citizen and leader in an increasingly changing society.

Please remember that this is your university, your campus and your home. You are always welcome to visit or return for a second degree. We hope you will stay in touch and know that you can call on us at any time.

Sincerely,

Bill Heller
Vice President and CEO
USF St. Petersburg