5-1-1998

Commencement : 1998 : 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 communications 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,

[Signature]

President Betty Castor
University of South Florida

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION
1998 Spring Commencement
Tampa/Lakeland: Saturday, May 2
St. Petersburg: Sunday, May 3
Sarasota: Friday, May 8

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, master’s, specialist and doctoral levels, including the Doctor of Medicine.
The University of South Florida, one of the new universities created in the 20th century, is driving higher education on a fast track into the next millennium. You won’t find ivy walls or weighty tradition here — rather a boundless optimism, vitality and can-do attitude indicative of its youth.

The 13th largest university in the United States and still growing, USF has built a solid reputation as a leader in learning, offering comprehensive state-of-the-art, student-centered programs. With growing prestige and a dedicated faculty, including 73 Fulbright Scholars and 42 endowed chairs, USF has become a research powerhouse. It has more than $100-million in sponsored research, contracts and grants and is fast becoming the model urban research university for the 21st century. Located in vibrant Tampa Bay, one of the fastest-growing metropolitan areas of the nation, USF has formed vital partnerships with business leaders and organizations throughout the region and contributed to the well-being of its immediate urban neighborhoods through vast networks of social research and service projects.

Founded in 1956, USF opened its doors in 1960 to 2000 students. Today the university serves nearly 36,000 students — with nearly 200 programs at the undergraduate, master’s, specialty and doctoral levels, including the M.D. Entering freshmen boast an average SAT score approaching 1,020 and a grade point average of approximately 3.25. USF’s commitment to inclusion is reflected in its student body. African Americans, Latin and Asian students comprise 20 percent of USF students. A growing contingent of international students, now representing 90 countries, demonstrates the university’s strong geographic influence and dedication to the principles of a global economy. The university’s 155,000 graduates contribute to society in numerous professional and civic activities. A majority continue to live in the Tampa region.

USF is big in size as well as stature. Its annual operating budget is close to $750-million. One of the largest employers in the Tampa area, its economic impact on the Tampa Bay region totals $1.8 billion. In the past 40-plus years USF has grown into a network of regional campuses in Tampa, St. Petersburg, Sarasota and Lakeland, serving the West Central Florida region. The main campus in Tampa covers 1,700 acres, housing more than 320 buildings, which exceed 6 million gross square feet in size. Its libraries hold some 1.4 million volumes as well as a vast computer link to hundreds of library data bases and international communications through the internet and the world wide web.

Continued enrollment growth could make it the largest university in the Southeast early in the 21st century.

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CAROLYNE ST. LOUIS, OUTSTANDING SENIOR AWARD

The Outstanding Senior award, given semesterly by the USF Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, National Urban League, national Pan-Hellenic Council, Golden Key National Honor Society, USF Dean's List, and Presenter for the Institute on Black Life Research Symposium and the National Scholars Symposium.

St. Louis' contributions to the community include volunteering for Joshua House, Shriners' Hospital, Paint Your Heart Out Tampa Bay, Habitat for Humanity and the Adopt-A-School Program. St. Louis plans to attend law school this fall while completing her masters in Public Health.
GOLIATH J. DAVIS III, COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Chief of Police, St. Petersburg Police Department

Goliath J. Davis III presently serves as Chief of Police of the St. Petersburg Police Department. He is also an adjunct professor of criminology at USF St. Petersburg.

Chief Davis was born and raised in St. Petersburg and joined the City’s Public Safety Agency in 1973 as a certified police officer and fire fighter. He was certified as a police instructor in 1976 and was assigned to the Department’s innovative Field Training and Evaluation Program in 1979.

His assignments have included patrol, training, vice and narcotics, and research and development. In 1980 he was appointed Division Chief and assigned to the Training and Research Division where he managed a staff responsible for the training, research and development needs of 600 departmental employees. Rising through the ranks, he was promoted to Deputy Chief in 1984, at which time he managed the Services Bureau and later the Patrol Division. He served as Assistant Chief of the Administrative Services Bureau from 1990 until his appointment to Chief of Police last year.

Chief Davis graduated from Rollins College in 1973 with a bachelor’s degree in behavioral science. He earned his master’s degree in criminal justice at USF in 1977, and a doctorate in criminology from Florida State University in 1984. Chief Davis is also a 1993 graduate of Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government.

He is actively involved in community service and has served on numerous boards and in various volunteer capacities.

LORI K. GAUDREAU

Pinellas County Teacher of the Year

Lori K. Gaudreau was named 1998 Pinellas County Teacher of the Year. Gaudreau, an educator for 10 years, teaches fourth and fifth grade students with learning disabilities at Ponce de Leon Elementary School in Clearwater.

Gaudreau holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Florida and a master's degree in education from the University of New Orleans.

“I believe that I am an important and significant success agent for my children,” says Gaudreau. “It's my responsibility to make my time with them count so that learning is an exciting, lifelong experience.”
# ST. PETERSBURG CAMPUS ORDER OF EXERCISES

*Betty Castor, Presiding*

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