12-1-1998

Commencement : 1998 : 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. 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,

President Betty Castor
University of South Florida
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 the 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 2,000 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 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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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.
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JOY McVEY, OUTSTANDING SENIOR AWARD

The Outstanding Senior award, given semestery by the USF Alumni Association, recognizes the graduating senior who embodies leadership, school spirit, community service, character and scholarship. This semester's award goes to Miss Joy McVey.

McVey is receiving her Bachelor of Arts in Communication from the College of Arts and Sciences. Her scholastic achievements and leadership involvement include Golden Key National Honor Society, Order of Omega Senior Scholarship, Panhellenic Council President, Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society, USF Communication Department Outstanding Intern, Tampa Panhellenic Alumnae Association Scholarship, Dean's List, Honor's Convocation, Greek Week Committee, Kappa Delta Sorority Officer, American Sign Language Club, College of Arts and Sciences Honor Society, and Homecoming Steering Committee.

McVey's contributions to the community include volunteering for the annual St. Jude Radio-A-Thon, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Tampa AIDS Network and sign language tutoring. As a result of McVey's involvement with the American Sign Language Club, the National Anthem was performed in sign language at the USF Homecoming Football game and "silent lunches" are offered weekly at USF to raise deaf awareness. McVey plans to remain in Tampa and complete her master's degree in Community and Family Health at the USF College of Public Health.
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 and pattern and design — that unified 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 definite system in 1895, 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 freed slave in ancient Rome won the privilege of wearing a cap, and so 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 mortar board — the symbol of the masons, 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 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 lining of the hood is green with a gold chevron, representing the university's colors. Among the trimming colors of hoods worn by our faculty today are:

- Apricot — Nursing
- Blue (Dark) — Philosophy
- Blue (Light) — Education
- Blue (Peacock) — Public Administration
- Brown — Fine Arts
- Citron — Social Work/Criminology/Rehab. Counseling
- Crimson — Journalism/Communication
- Drab — Business
- Golden Yellow — Science
- Green — Medicine
- Lemon Yellow — Library Science
- Orange — Engineering
- Pink — Music
- Salmon — Public Health
- Scarlet — Theology
- Violet — Architecture
- White — Arts and Letters

THE MEDALLION — The medallions worn by candidates for the bachelor's degree identify those graduating with honors. The black hood of a bachelor's candidate indicates a student who has completed graduation requirements for the University-wide Honors Program.

THE MACE — The Academic Ceremonial Mace, which is closely related to maces used by ecclesiastical and civil authorities, dates back to at least the 14th century and is derived from the original battle mace that was designed to protect a king and was carried by the royal bodyguard. This symbolism of authority and power has been conveyed to the Academic Mace and signifies the authority of the Chief Executive Officer of the university. The size, shape and design of academic maces vary tremendously. The most common design has a major shaft that is topped with a head and an ornament, with the lower end of the shaft having a terminal finial. The University of South Florida's Mace is made of brass, jade and rosewood and carries on its staff the USF crest. Following the tradition of the original battle mace, USF's Academic Mace is flanged at its head.

THE SASH — The golden-colored sash is made available to students who are members of university honors societies. The sash is embroidered with the university seal and the student's honors society.

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!
ANN L. HENDERSON, COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

Ann L. Henderson is the executive director of the MacArthur Foundation's Abacoa Partnership for Community (APC). APC activates ideas and programs that build community, engender environmental stewardship and foster a common purpose. Prior to joining APC, Dr. Henderson served as the executive director of the Florida Humanities Council, and as a diplomat in Latin America. Her 1998 editorial "Whatever Happened to our Public Places" won the Florida Magazine Association's Award for Best Editorial.

She earned her undergraduate degree from Vassar College and her doctorate from George Washington University.

She has taught American history on the secondary and undergraduate levels and has worked as a research associate at the Smithsonian Institution. She was an adjunct instructor of American Studies at USF.

Dr. Henderson was a Fulbright-Hays scholar in 1976 in Calcutta, the first Caribbean Fellow chosen by the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowships Program in 1989. She was a member of Leadership Florida, and is an avid swimmer, a hiker and an amateur musician.

USF proudly recognizes Ann Henderson with the President's Distinguished Citizen Award for enriching the lives of Floridians through her commitment to promoting the humanities to the broader community. Dr. Henderson's efforts to bring the humanities to Florida's teachers in a manner that respects and values them as individuals and as educators are especially appreciated. Her vision for the Florida Center for Teachers will rekindle a desire for educators to learn so that they may further enhance those they teach.
ST. PETERSBURG CAMPUS ORDER OF EXERCISES
Betty Castor, Presiding

PRELUDE CONCERT
Pomp and Circumstance
The Florida Orchestra Brass Quintet
Elgar (please stand)

PROCESSIONAL
Janet Moore
Commencement Marshal

NATIONAL ANTHEM
Susan Holsonback
USF St. Petersburg Student

GREETINGS
H. William Heller
Campus Executive Officer and Dean

REMARKS
Betty Castor
University President

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

STUDENT REFLECTIONS
David Rodrigues
Student Government President

OUTSTANDING SENIORS
Dean Heller

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE
Ronnie Beck
Pinellas County Alumni Chapter President

PRESIDENT'S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
Ann Henderson
Former Executive Director, Florida Humanities

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS
Ann Henderson
MacArthur Foundation

CONFERRING OF GRADUATE DEGREES
President Castor

CONFERRING OF BACCALAUREATE DEGREES
President Castor

CLOSING REMARKS
Dean Heller

ALMA MATER
Susan Holsonback

RECESSIONAL
Trumpet Tune
The Florida Orchestra Brass Quintet
Purcell

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