Commencement : 2015 : Spring : Program

University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

Follow this and additional works at: https://digital.usfsp.edu/graduations_commencements

Recommended Citation
https://digital.usfsp.edu/graduations_commencements/60

This Other is brought to you for free and open access by the USFSP Convocations, Graduations, and Celebrations at Digital USFSP. It has been accepted for inclusion in USFSP Graduations and Commencements by an authorized administrator of Digital USFSP.
Commencement Convocation

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
ST. PETERSBURG

Spring 2015
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
Dear Graduate,

Today is a great day – it is a day to be remembered for a lifetime – to proudly be recognized as a University of South Florida St. Petersburg Spring 2015 graduate. And I feel privileged to be part of your day.

Every class you've taken, every essay you've written, every test you've taken and every friend you've met along the way are all key steps to help shape and prepare you for a more promising future. I hope you will share your strength and knowledge learned with those in your community and make a difference.

The Faculty and Staff at USFSP are very proud to have played a part in your achievement. We hope we have prepared you with the most important tools needed for your new journey and that your experience at USFSP has been challenging, rewarding and worthwhile.

Graduation is an achievement worth celebrating, so today we celebrate your accomplishments and wish you a fruitful career and success in all your endeavors in the coming years.

Sophia T. Wisniewska
Regional Chancellor
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 is considered one of the loveliest urban campuses in the nation, and as part of the University of South Florida System serves 6,000 students. This separately accredited university offers programs at the baccalaureate and master's levels.

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 community.

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. Students lead efforts to improve the environment in and around the university and the wider community. Students established a green energy fee to help fund sustainability initiatives at the university. The institution currently is leading research around the collection and storage of renewable solar energy.

This fall, the University Student Center at USFSM earned LEED Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. The USC is the institution's second LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified building and features dark-sky compliant fixtures and native, drought-tolerant landscaping, among other attributes. USFSM's Science and Technology Building was the first in the USF System to achieve LEED recognition.

LEED certifications underscore the university's commitment to sustainability. The sustainability ribbon represents the students' lifetime commitment to a healthy environment.

USF St. Petersburg is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award baccalaureate and master's degrees. Events, activities, programs and facilities of the University of South Florida are available to all without regard to race, color, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, 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.
Order of Exercises
Judy Genshaft, Presiding
Sunday, May 3, 2015, 6 p.m.
56th Commencement Convocation

PROCESSIONAL

CEREMONY OPENING
Deanna Michael
Mace Bearer

NATIONAL ANTHEM
Jeremiah Pagan, USF College of The Arts

PLATFORM INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME
Sophia Wisniewska
Regional Chancellor

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME
Judy Genshaft
USF System President

STUDENT WELCOME
Cody Boyer
Student Government President

KING O'NEAL SCHOLAR PRESENTATION
Lena-Alyeska Huebner, College of Arts and Sciences, B.A., Psychology
Zachary P. McNicce, College of Arts and Sciences, B.A., Psychology
Jennifer Nesslar, College of Arts and Sciences, B.A., Mass Communications
Jessica Woods, College of Education, B.S., Education
Carlos Agatep, Kate Tiedemann College of Business, B.S., Marketing

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE PRESENTATION
Jennifer Nesslar, College of Arts and Sciences, B.A., Mass Communications

PRESENTATION OF MASTER DEGREES
V. Mark Durand, Interim Regional Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs
Frank Biafora, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Gary Patterson, Interim Dean, Kate Tiedemann College of Business
H. William Heller, Dean, College of Education

CONFERRING OF MASTER DEGREES
President Genshaft

PRESENTATION OF BACCALAUREATE DEGREES
Frank Biafora, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Gary Patterson, Interim Dean, Kate Tiedemann College of Business
H. William Heller, Dean, College of Education

CONFERRING OF BACCALAUREATE DEGREES
President Genshaft

ALMA MATER
Jeremiah Pagan

CLOSING/RECESSIONAL
Deanna Michael

PARTICIPANTS

MACE BEARER
Deanna Michael

CEREMONY READER
Vivian Fueyo

MARSHALS
Wei Guan, Deborah Henry, Daniel Marlin, William Lang,
Mark Pezzo, and Ella Schmidt

MUSIC
Brass Ensemble by Bella Musica
Jennifer Nesslar **Outstanding Graduate**

The University of South Florida St. Petersburg Outstanding Graduate Award, given each commencement by the USF Alumni Association, recognizes the graduating senior who embodies scholarship, character, leadership, community service and school spirit. The Spring 2015 Outstanding Graduate is Jennifer Nesslar!

Jennifer is graduating from the College of Arts and Sciences, majoring in Mass Communications. She possesses intellectual poise and beautifully represents the academic and character values of USF St. Petersburg. She is described by her professors as determined, smart, articulate, hard-working, and truly committed to this campus and community. Jennifer is well-liked and respected by her peers, who consider her an excellent role model and friend.

Jennifer grew up just 30 minutes from our university and her respect for USF St. Petersburg and love of the surrounding community led her to make her home on campus. She immediately dedicated herself both academically and socially, which is why she is one of five King O’Neal Scholars at USF St. Petersburg and is in the Honors Program with a 4.0 GPA. Her commitment to service and leadership is at the same high level of achievement: During her freshman year, Jennifer volunteered at Keswick Christian School working as a classroom aide with high school and middle school students. She joined CoMission, an on-campus organization through which she became an active member in Gulf Coast Community Church. Jennifer also worked at an on-campus job in Student Disabilities Services.

What do gun regulations, university speech codes, diversity and inclusion, gender issues, bike thefts, sexual harassment and campus safety have in common? These were all significant issues that Jennifer pursued as editor-in-chief of the Crow’s Nest. This outstanding leadership contribution required hours of dedication, hard work and passion, shaped by a strong sense of responsibility. Jennifer devoted countless hours and effort to produce a news publication competitive in professionalism, accuracy and ethics with some of the best campus media in the country.

Jennifer is looking forward to her next great contributions and accomplishments in the journalism field. We express our gratitude for all that she has done for USF St. Petersburg and our community, we offer heartfelt congratulations, and we wish her the very best in life.
King O’Neal Scholars

A tradition since 1988, the King O’Neal Scholars are recognized each semester by the Alumni Association in honor of charter graduates Lucas King and Evelyn O’Neal. Graduating seniors with the highest cumulative grade point average, 4.0, are identified as King O’Neal Scholars candidates during commencement ceremonies. The recipients of the King O’Neal also receive a certificate of accomplishment and a gold medallion of the university seal.

Carlos Agatеп
Kate Tiedemann College of Business
Bachelor of Science
Marketing

Lena-Alyeska Huebner
College of Arts and Sciences
Bachelor of Arts
Psychology

Zachary McNiece
College of Arts and Sciences
Bachelor of Arts
Psychology

Jennifer Nesslar
College of Arts and Sciences
Bachelor of Arts
Journalism and Media Studies

Jessica Woods
College of Education
Bachelor of Science
Education
Dear Graduate,

Congratulations! Today is your first day as a USF Alumnus, 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 1963, 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,

Michael Griffin '03
Chair, USF Alumni Association
# Candidates For The Master's Degree

## College of Arts and Sciences

**Dean**
Frank Bialora, Dean

**Master of Arts**

*Digital Journalism*
- Michael Featherston
- Omar Gonzalez
- Jeremy Matthews Harriot
- Rose Lee
- Peter P. Soscia III

*Journalism and Media Studies*
- Frederick Randolph Carlson
- Matthew E. Wiley

*Psychology*
- Tara Little
- Kristen Hannum
- Michael James Havelka
- Martelle Machacek
- Jessica L. Martin
- Brandon David Peacock
- Ashley Wheeler

**Master of Liberal Arts**

*Liberal Arts*
- Robin Shwedo
- Krystin Van Leuven
- Marissa Wyatt

*Liberal Arts, Florida Studies*
- Karen LeSueur Rhodes
- John Stewart

**Environmental Science and Policy**
- Kira Erin Barrera
- Upton Nickle

## Kate Tiedemann

**College of Business**

**Dean**
Gary Patterson, Interim Dean

**Master of Business Administration**

*Business Administration*
- Erin Whiten Bhagvat
- Evan Beherr
- William Perry Brock
- Zachary Chase
- Jenna Colesman
- Ann Marie C. Cooper
- Curt Dailey
- Anam DeWitt
- Forrest Feld
- Bradley Allen Gavornik
- Kimberly Griss
- Dominic Grosso
- Sean Aaron Rich Gump
- Zineb Hether
- Andrea Little
- Nicholas Looper
- Marsha Manrique
- Marina Matveeva
- Timothy Patrick McNamara
- Kristen Menke
- Wacam Mohamed
- Nasrin Nabpoor
- Andrew Odell
- Georgelina M. Perez
- Noelle Petillo
- Christos Politis
- David Samuel Ponraj
- Gabriel A. Quiles-Perez
- Christina Kelly Allen
- Deborah L.G. Shapiro
- Vanessa Thompson
- Hannah Ulm
- Madeline Grace Vitale
- Don Henry Ward II
- Tiffany Washington
- Irma Muka
- Michael Louis Pappas III
- Marlene Randolph
- Stephanie Rich
- Anila Sefa
- Michael M. Spear
- Amberly Sugihara
- Darla May Tournat
- Zachary Wendkos
- Christian Wintch

## College of Education

**Dean**
H. William Helle, Dean

**Master of Arts**

*Elementary Education*
- Lucy Jones Bowers
- Jeannine Hunt
- Caprice Lorraine Johnson
- Emma Noonan-Pomad

*Elementary Education, Science and Mathematics*
- Jay Miller
- LaToya C. Rushing

*English Education*
- Nancy Carol Carr
- Linda Husted
- Rayna Lerner
- Tiffany Owen
- Idriisa Stephen

*Exceptional Student Education*
- Nicole Goloch-Howe
- Laura Gonzalez Hamburg
- Cher Harris
- Lise Harris
- Lindsay Heiss
- Laurie W. Jackson
- Angela Michelle King
- Kimberly R. Noorbalish
- Karen Michelle Brindle

*Reading Education*
- Lecia Ackerman
- Dayna Anderson
- Angel Ellars
- Ifeanyichukwu Onw
- Rebecca Riddell
- Tia Sherman

**Master of Education**

*Educational Leadership*
- Mike Aday
- Elizabeth Cetnor
- Kerry Donegan
- April Victoria Edwards Gill
- Joel Thomas Lust
- Benjamin Smet
- Marisa Soloeus
- Joseph Robinson Strickland

*Master of Science*  

*Elementary Grades Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education*
- Melanie Tucker
Candidates For The Bachelor’s 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
Magna Cum Laude, graduating with high honor: grade point average of 3.7 or higher
Summa Cum Laude, graduating with highest honor: grade point average of 3.9 or higher

Graduates with the highest cumulative grade point average, 4.0, are also identified as King O’Neal Scholars.

College of Arts and Sciences
Frank Balfour, Dean

Bachelor of Arts

Anthropology
John Cannizzaro
Bridge Head
Wendy Edwards
Makienzie Kroll
David William Morehead
Holly Neveill
Cum Laude
Michael Randall
Magna Cum Laude
Petronella Vandoorn

Criminology
Deirdre Chamberlain
Jamie Chappelle
Rebecca Laura Distler
Vanessa Ray Ferguson
Trevor Gaul
Naraed Harris
Jamie Hoagland
Kimitches Jackson
Yuki Jackson
Kevin Jacques
Jelena Mlakovic
Scott Moser
Magna cum Laude
Maria Polauff
Nicholas Rennert
Charles Sturm
Justine Toler
Alexander Vega
Joseph Waugh

English, Literature
Amber Morcillo
Jordan Wilson

English, Literature and Cultural Studies
Rebecca Carlo DeGrazio
Jon Clarke Lee
Brenden Taylor Schlesinger

English, Professional-Technical Writing
Joseph Theodose Alber
Bill Makris

English, Writing Studies
Khang Truong

History
Trenton Thomas Barrow
Robert Collins
Cum Laude
Wesley Hamilton
Daniel Jolly
Keegan Labrador
Robert Matthew Landry
Summa cum Laude
Patrick Mugar
Hannah Leanne Shulla
Robinson C. Valverde
Dylan Kurir Wirkowski
Daniel Wright
Hector Zelaya

Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, Anthropology, Environmental Science & Policy
Rachel Jean Petit

Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, Anthropology, History
Hope Sewell
Magna cum Laude
Honors Program

Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, Anthropology, International Studies
Shanna Olivia Pierre
Jayne Tetsuma

Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, Criminology, Anthropology
Matthew Evins

Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, Criminology, International Studies
Michael Longton

Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, Criminology, Social Work
Elizabeth Mastorides

Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, Criminology, Political Science
Debra Mundy

Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, Economics, Political Science
Shaun Ferguson

Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, Environmental Science, Political Science
James House

Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, History, Political Science
James Collins
Maria Del Mar Ramos

Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, International Studies, Political Science
Chelsee Gonzalez
George Wells

Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, International Studies, Psychology
Alexandra Jones

Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, International Studies, Social Work
Anna Stolz
Cum Laude

Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, Political Science, Criminology
Franklin Figueiredo Alves

Mass Communications, Journalism and Media Studies
Shelby Bourgeois
Thomas Boyd
Ellery Butler
Michael Shea Butler
Elizabeth England
Chelsi Kallis
Matthew Caleb Liddell
Cum Laude
Jay McCallum
Juliet Morales
Jennifer Kesselar
Summa cum Laude
King O’Neal
Outstanding Graduate Honors Program
Sarah Nocini
Cum Laude
Samartha Ouimet
John Ray
Natasha S. E. Sears
Jenna Shaw
Kristin Stigaard
Hillary Lynn Teohune
Tienney Tran
Maria Alejandro Vera
Emily Wchemn
Taylor Williams
Cum Laude

Political Science
Michael Ryan Alvarez
Martin Patrick Barrett
Monica Edwards
Erica Mary Gordon
Christa Hiedges
Jamie A. Odorioso
John Putzino
Ivana Radman
Kelsey Rowe
Kelly Shaw
Cum Laude
Victoria Elizabeth Taylor
Karen Villota-Lozano

Psychology
Yared Armstrong
Susan Aschom
Brian Anastasia Atalla
Cedric Barbour Castillo
Jennifer Bear
Christina Beck
Steven Daniel Bird
Kristine Camning
Ashley Cassavitis
Vanessa Alicia Cortes
Rose Margaret De Sapio
Jennifer DeMaio
Deonray Dixon
Fatimah Ebadi
Antwon L. Frazier
Olivia Friedel
Stefani Princess Gittelle
Keisten Haley
Brian K. Hasting
Alexander Hudson
Lena-Alyeska Huehner
Summa cum Laude
King O’Neal
Jami King
Vasilea Kunchova
Angela Lamb
Kristina Lazic
Linda Rae Lebretch
Jennifer Leinbach
Andrea Lewetig
College of Education
H. William Heller, Dean

Bachelor of Science

Education
Emily Bertrand  
Magna cum Laude
Luko James Boles
Deanna Brunk
Ashley Buckey
Amanda Carroll
Heather Cochrane
Joe Anna Marie Connaway
Danielle DeMilly
Jeanna Marie Diaz
Leah DiPolito
Scott Finn
Shannon Fouts
Kristianne Garcia  
Magna cum Laude
Kathleen Garnett
Jennifer Gross  
cum Laude
Nicole Heckley  
Summa cum Laude
Lauren Leilani Jank
Kelly Marie Johnson
Kathleen Langhan  
cum Laude
Jessica Leiser
Greta Martinez  
Magna cum Laude
Jacob Mendenhall  
Magna cum Laude
JoAnn M. Merrill
Jennifer Miller  
Magna cum Laude
Danielle N. Murphy
Veda M. Nault  
Magna cum Laude
Megumi Ochi
Juan Ortiz
Tori Palmieri
Kellie Pentaudi
Brianna Alyss Raeford  
cum Laude
Tyler Rhodes
Sandra Angelina Rivera
Marie Estrella Schrantz  
cum Laude
Stephanie Nicole Shueger  
Magna cum Laude
Amber Shuhart
Racquel Skyrers  
Magna cum Laude
Trisha Lee Swanson
Kasi Techton
Jessica Woods  
Summa cum Laude
King O'Neal
Bret Yankee  
Magna cum Laude

Names published in this Commencement program are a list of candidates who have applied to graduate by the deadline noted in the academic calendar for this term. Names do not appear if the application was not submitted by that deadline or for those who applied to graduate in an earlier term or who plan to apply in a later term. Names are also not printed for those who elected total privacy on their university record. The list of candidates in this program is not a certified list of graduates.
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 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 three black bars on the sleeve. The doctoral robe also has the seal of the university on the velvet facing.

**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 MACE** — 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 institutions to grant degrees to graduates. The USF mace is used during all Commencement ceremonies and is carried by the President of the Faculty Senate. Our mace includes a gold pine cone at its top to represent 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 displayed in the foyer of the President's office. The original university mace is on display in the Alumni Center.

**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 earned the Honors College degree.

**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. International students may choose to wear a special sash honoring their home country. The colors of their sash reflect the colors of their native flags.

**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.

**THE COLORS** — In regalia, academic disciplines are noted by color. These colors can be found on undergraduate and masters tassels and on master and doctorate hoods on the velvet edging.

- Apricot — Nursing
- Black — Independent Studies
- Blue (dark) — Philosophy, African Studies, Economics, History, International Studies, Medical Sciences (doctorate), Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Women's Studies
- Blue (light) — Education
- Blue (peacock) — Public Administration
- Blue (Rhodes) — Audiology
- Brown — Visual and Performing Arts
- Citron — Social Work, Criminology, Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling
- Copper — Economics
- Crimson — Mass Communications
- Drab — Business
- Green — Medicine
- Orange — Engineering
- Pink — Music
- Salmon — Public Health
- Violet — Architecture
- Silver — Speech Communications
- Teal — Physical Therapy
- Yellow — Anthropology, Biology, Bio Medical Sciences, Chemistry, Communication Sciences and Disorders, Environmental Science, Geography, Geology, Gerontology, Information Technologies, Medical Sciences (Masters), Medical Technology, Mathematics, Marine Science, Physics, Speech Pathology
- Yellow (lemon) — Library Science
- Yellow (pineapple) — Hotel and Restaurant Management
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!