

8-6-2015

Commencement Speakers

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Recommended Citation

Tschiderer, J. M. (Sudsy), "Commencement Speakers" (2015). *USFSP Graduations and Commencements*. 62.
https://digital.usfsp.edu/graduations_commencements/62

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USF St. Petersburg Commencement Speakers

GRADUATION CELEBRATION

Graduation Celebration was a ceremony-dinner-dance held annually to honor "Candidates for Graduation" from USFSP. Guest speakers were selected by the event committee and members of the graduating class. Student awards were given at this event.

Graduation Celebration evolved into a post-Commencement Reception once the official Commencement for USF St. Petersburg was established in 1982. Graduation Celebration was continued well into the 2000s, but did not feature a guest speaker.

March 18, 1971	No speaker
1972	No event
June 8, 1973	PROF. ROBERT HALL , English
June 7, 1974	PROF. ROBERT HALL , English
June 15, 1975	DR. DANIEL WELLS , English
June 11, 1976	PROF. HARRY J. SCHALEMAN, JR. , Geography
June 10, 1977	PROF. DAVID KENERSON , Business
June 8, 1979	DR. DAVID R. CARR , History
June 13, 1980	DICK BOTHWELL , staff writer, <i>St. Petersburg Times</i>
June 12, 1981	PROF. HAMILTON STIRLING , Business
May 1, 1982	PROF. HARRIET DEER , English

COMMENCEMENT

May 1, 1982	First USFSP Commencement CLEVELAND AMORY , noted author
April 30, 1983	BARBARA NEWELL , Chancellor, State University System
April 28, 1984	ROY BLOUNT, JR. , noted author
April 27, 1985	BARBARA NEWELL , Chancellor, State University System

May 3, 1986 **EUGENE PATTERSON**, Chairman of the Board and CEO, Times Publishing Company

May 2, 1987 **LOWELL E. DAVIS**, Campus Dean (CEO of USFSP)

April 30, 1988 **CHARLES B. REED**, Chancellor, State University System

April 30, 1989 **ANDREW H. HINES, JR.**, Chairman of Florida Power Corp.

April 29, 1990 **LESTER W. TUTTLE**, USFSP Founding Dean (CEO)

April 28, 1991 **LEANDER J. SHAW JR.**, Chief Justice, Florida Supreme Court

May 3, 1992 **JACOB NEUSNER**, Distinguished Research Professor, Religious Studies

May 5, 1993 **C.W. (BILL) YOUNG**, U.S. Representative, District 9

Dec. 16, 1993 **First December Commencement**
SISTER MARGARET FREEMAN, Founder of St. Petersburg Free Clinic

May 4, 1994 **JAY BLACK**, USF Poynter Jamison Eminent Scholar of Media Ethics and Press Policy

(Spring 1994 Commencement at USF Tampa

DOUG JAMERSON, State Representative and USFSP alumnus, was awarded the President's Fellow Medallion at USF Tampa.

Dec. 15, 1994 **DAVID FISCHER**, Mayor, City of St. Petersburg

May 9, 1995 **J. HOWARD HINESLEY**, Superintendent of Pinellas County Schools

Dec. 18, 1995 **HARM J. de BLIJ**, University Scientist and Scholar in Geography, Distinguished Professor of Geography at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service

May 5, 1996 **PETER A. FRENCH**, USF Marie E. and E. Leslie Cole Endowed Chair in Ethics

- Dec. 16, 1996 **BOB GILDER**, Civil Rights Activist and Humanitarian
- May 4, 1997 **PETER RUDY WALLACE**, Former Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives
- Dec. 15, 1997 **BILL MAXWELL**, Editorial Writer and Columnist, *St. Petersburg Times*
- May 3, 1998 **GOLIATH J. DAVIS III**, Chief of Police, St. Petersburg Police Department
- Dec.14, 1998 **ANN HENDERSON**, Executive Director, MacArthur Foundation, Former Executive Director, Florida Humanities Council,
- May 2, 1999 **JACOB NEUSNER**, USF Distinguished Research Professor of Religious Studies
- Commencement note: "In memory of Samuel Y. Fustukjian, 1945-1999, and Professor Regis A. Factor, 1937-1999"*
- Dec. 13, 1999 **GUS STAVROS**, USF Foundation Chair and Capital Campaign Co-chair; Chairman, PELAM Investments
- May 7, 2000 **JUDGE RAYMOND O. GROSS**, Sixth Judicial Circuit: President, USF Alumni Association
- Dec. 18, 2000 **DR. JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN**, historian
- COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS were generally eliminated beginning in May 2001***
- Dec. 17, 2006 **C.W. (BILL) YOUNG**, U.S. House of Representatives