12-13-2015

Commencement : 2015 : Fall : Program

University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

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Commencement Convocation

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
ST. PETERSBURG

Fall 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,

[Signature]

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 Fall 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

Nested 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. As part of the University of South Florida System, USFSP serves more than 6,000 students, 4,500 of whom call this campus home. 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 the 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.

The University Student Center at USFSP earned LEED Gold Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council in 2014. The University Student Center at USFSP earned LEED Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council in 2014. 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. USFSP’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.
# Order of Exercises

**Judy Genshaft, Presiding**

Sunday, December 13, 2015, 6 p.m.
57th Commencement Convocation

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Daniel Marlin
Faculty Senate President

Jeremiah Pagan, College of The Arts

Sophia Wisniewska
Regional Chancellor

Judy Genshaft
USF System President

Jozef Gherman
Trustee and Student Government President

Nora Khatcherian, College of Arts and Sciences, B.A., Political Science
Taylor Lents, College of Education, B.S., Education
Siarra Rogers, College of Arts and Sciences, B.A., Political Science

Rachel Gordon, Kate Tiedemann College of Business, B.S., Business Economics, B.A., Global Business

Sophia Wisniewska, presenting
Paul C. Tash, Chairman and CEO of the Times Publishing Company

V. Mark Durand, Interim Regional Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs
Jeffrey Cornelius, Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Gary Patterson, Interim Dean, Kate Tiedemann College of Business
H. William Heller, Dean, College of Education

President Genshaft

Jeffrey Cornelius, Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Gary Patterson, Interim Dean, College of Business
H. William Heller, Dean, College of Education

President Genshaft

Jeremiah Pagan

Daniel Marlin

Vivian Fuego

William Lang, Jill McCracken, Deanna Michael, Patricia Pettijohn, Mark Pezzo, and Debra Sinclair

Kama Clippard, Lydia Dowe
Paul C. Tash  Regional Chancellor's Award for Civic Leadership

Paul C. Tash is the chairman and CEO of the Times Publishing Company.

A native of South Bend, Indiana, Tash graduated summa cum laude in 1976 from Indiana University. He received a Marshall Scholarship and graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor of laws degree from Edinburgh University in Scotland in 1978.

He started with the Times that fall as a local news reporter. He also has been a Tallahassee reporter, the city editor, metropolitan editor, Washington bureau chief and editor of the Times. From 1990-91, Tash was the editor and publisher of Florida Trend, a statewide business magazine owned by Times Publishing.

Tash is chairman of the Poynter Institute for Media Studies, a school for journalists and media leaders, which owns Times Publishing. He also is past chairman of the Pulitzer Prize board and serves on the boards of the Associated Press and the Committee to Protect Journalists. Tash is a member of the Florida Council of 100, a group of business leaders.

In 2012, Tash received the Distinguished Alumni Service Award from Indiana University, and he was inducted to the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame the following year.

Tash is married to the former Karyn Krayer of St. Petersburg, a high school teacher. They have two daughters in Tampa; one is a physician and the other is a lawyer.

The Tampa Bay Times is Florida's leading newspaper, with an average Sunday circulation of 398,000, and it is widely considered among the country's best newspapers. It has won 10 Pulitzer Prizes, including the 2014 prize for local reporting. Until 2012, the newspaper was known as the St. Petersburg Times, but changed its name to reflect its growth throughout the Tampa Bay region.
Rachel A. Gordon  Outstanding Graduate

The University of South Florida St. Petersburg Outstanding Graduate Award, given by the USF Alumni Association, recognizes graduating senior who embodies leadership, school spirit, community service, character and scholarship. The Fall 2015 Outstanding Graduate is Rachel Adrian-Marie Gordon.

Rachel is graduating Summa Cum Laude from the Kate Tiedemann College of Business with a Bachelor of Science in Economics, a Bachelor of Arts in Global Business, and a minor in Spanish and Latino Studies. She has achieved an overall GPA of 3.98 and has completed the 4-year USFSP Honors Program. In addition to being a member of business and language clubs, Rachel has been inducted into four prestigious national and international honor societies. She is respected by her peers and superiors alike and represents USF St. Petersburg everywhere she goes. Rachel's time at USF St. Petersburg has not been without its challenges. For many months now, she has been facing debilitating symptoms of a very rare illness, but with the help of understanding professors and unwavering support of family and friends, Rachel's love of learning is overcoming adversity.

Despite her health battle, Rachel has played an active role on campus. She has tutored Spanish, Mathematics, Economics and other business classes at the Debbie Nye Sembler Student Success Center, which has allowed her to share her passion of learning and help other students achieve their academic goals. On her healthiest days, Rachel showed her school spirit by attending sporting events, club meetings, and social gatherings on both the USF St. Petersburg and Tampa campuses. During her sophomore year, Rachel volunteered to act as President of the Honors Program Council. This leadership position allowed her to welcome new Honors students, connect students via the Honors Program Council social media pages, and start the most rewarding project during her time on campus: the Annual Honors Program Council Donations Drive for Pet Pals Animal Shelter. With the help of council members, she organized, advertised, collected, and delivered donations to a local St. Pete animal shelter and started a new tradition that inspires community service and connects USF St. Petersburg with the local community.

After graduating, Rachel plans on focusing on her health and pursuing entrepreneurial opportunities. When she regains her full strength, Rachel hopes to follow her love of learning by earning a Master's degree and a Ph.D. in Economics.
A tradition since 1988, the King O'Neal Scholars are recognized each semester by the USF Alumni Association in honor of charter graduates Lucas King and Evelyn O'Neal. Graduating seniors with the highest overall grade point average, a 4.0 GPA, are identified as King O'Neal Scholar candidates during commencement ceremonies. The recipients of the King O'Neal award also receive a certificate of accomplishment and a gold medallion with the university seal.

**Nora Khatcherian**

Nora Khatcherian is graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the College of Arts and Sciences and a minor in Economics from the Kate Tiedemann College of Business. While at USFSP she served as program coordinator for Women's Empowerment Club, President of the Political Question and President and founder of Needle Arts Club. Following graduation she plans to pursue a Master's degree in International Affairs.

**Taylor Lents**

Taylor Lents is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Education with K-6 Elementary Education certification, a K-12 Exceptional Student Education certification and endorsements in reading and English for speakers of other languages from the College of Education. While at USFSP she was a member of Kappa Delta Pi, an International Honor Society in Education. Upon graduation Taylor plans to teach elementary school students.

**Siarra Rogers**

Siarra Rogers is receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a minor in legal studies from the College of Arts and Sciences. While at USFSP she worked as a research assistant in the Department of History & Politics, served as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court and acted as Vice President of Public Relations of the Pre-Law Society. She is a member of the National Political Science honors society Pi Sigma Alpha and the academic honors society Delta Epsilon Iota. After graduation she plans to pursue a Juris Doctor degree and a career in public interest law and civil service.
Dear Graduate,

Congratulations! Today is your first day as a USF alumnus, a distinction you have earned and will proudly hold for the rest of your life. It is a special day for you and the friends and family who supported you.

Since the 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 grows 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 through the USF Alumni Association.

Your membership connects you with your fellow Bulls and creates meaningful ways for all of us to:
- Promote and protect USF
- Share your USF pride
- Stay connected
- Make an impact and help USF succeed

Take full advantage of your first year complimentary USF Alumni Association membership by getting involved in your local chapter (we have USF alumni chapters around the globe!) and your college alumni society.

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,

Betty Otter-Nickerson '76
Chair, USF Alumni Association
Candidates For The Master’s Degree

College of Arts and Sciences
Jeffrey Cornelius, Interim Dean

Master of Arts
Digital Journalism
Alexandra Christy
Brandi Jessica Hollis
Ozana Loredana Loznianu

Journalism and Media Studies
Frederick R. Carlson

Psychology
Stacey J. Buchanan
Bethlyn Christman
Brandie A. Kretzschmar
Molly Susan Quinn
Rochelle Raymond
Sarah Roberts
Danica Yee Ting Tan

Master of Liberal Arts
Liberal Arts
Codey Oswald
Michael T. Slattery

Liberal Arts, Florida Studies
Margaret A. Brown
Katherine A. Godfrey

Master of Science
Environmental Science and Policy
Hazel Decina Anderson
Steven Hunter Douglas
Upton Nickle

College of Education
William Heller, Dean

Master of Arts
Elementary Education
Ivy Marie Maisel

Elementary Education, Science and Mathematics
April Bradley
Carybeth Hobbs

English Education
Nicole Fritz
Rebecca Givens
Jonathan Streeter

Exceptional Student Education
Alexa Athena Lavelle
Danielle R. Troupé
Patrick Walker

Master of Education
Educational Leadership
Linda D. Brown-Hammonds
Ann Carter
Christopher Dean Church
Pamela Law Davis
Kathleen E. Deegan
Wanda Jeannphilippe
David Michael Lammie
Marka Lehman
Erin Leigh Senior
Hillary Van Dyke

Master of Science
Middle Grades Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education
David E. Carver, Jr.
Nidal Hasan
Lorna Leigh MacIntyre
Earl Fitzgerald Morris
Tracie A. Russo

Kate Tiedemann College of Business
Gary Patterson, Interim Dean

Master of Business Administration
Business Administration
Christina K. Allen
Kathleen Elizabeth Annunziata
Aron Joseph Barker
Robert Brassaw
Sheawn Brown
Allison Paige Byrd
Michael Carter
Long Hao Chen
Annette Aliya Cooksey
Chrysalis Dartez
Simone Bennett Deloach
Diana Fridlyand Tasdemir
Walter Page Harris IV
Benjamin S. Hennessy
Stephanie Elaine Hinson
Christian Allen Kafel
Jeffery Keener
Stacey Kumi Kwakwa
Eric K. Labarre
Sean F. Likeness
James Joseph Martin
Jason D. McElhaney
Taylor McKown
Andrea Molinaro
Joseph N. Pearson
Stephanie Periera
Michael Christopher Phillips
Andrea Rice
Arun Sahi
Bibi Sipra
Cameron David Solley
David Sutten
Joshua Verge
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 recognized in this Commencement program as graduating with honors, designated 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.
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 USF 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
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!