



INDEPENDENT COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES of FLORIDA

ED H. MOORE, PhD, PRESIDENT
(850) 681-3188 emoore@icuf.org

ICUF NEWSLETTER

Graduation Highlights

JUNE 2011



Rick Scott, Florida's 45th governor, was the keynote speaker and honorary degree recipient at **Nova Southeastern University's** commencement ceremony, where 856 NSU Health Professions Division students received their degrees. "We are honored to have the governor address our graduating health professionals, who will become Florida and the nation's future health care providers," said Fred Lippman, chancellor of the Health Professions Division.



Governor Scott



Jack Slotnick

Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush addressed more than 330 students walking in this year's undergraduate commencement ceremony at **Lynn University**. Along with those who walked, was Lynn's oldest grad, 85 year-old Jack Slotnick. Slotnick graduated cum laude with a GPA of 3.64 and a degree in psychology.

Last year, 84-year-old Purple Heart vet, Jack Slotnick, enrolled a few credits shy of the completion of his undergraduate degree. A mere year-and-a-half later, Slotnick walked in Lynn's 46th commencement ceremony. "I've never studied so hard in my life," said Slotnick, "but I knew it was something I needed to do for me and my family. It's been a lot of work, but I can't wait to start my graduate degree."



**Former Florida
Governor Bush**



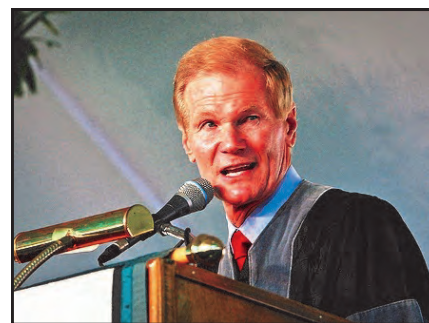
Former U.S. Senator George LeMieux was the featured speaker at **Palm Beach Atlantic University's** spring commencement. A total of 435 candidates for associate, bachelor's, master's and professional degrees from both the West Palm Beach and Orlando campuses participated in the ceremony.

Former Sen. George LeMieux





At **Eckerd College's** 48th Commencement, keynote speaker U.S. Senator Bill Nelson urged 532 graduates, "Whatever you decide to do, whether it be business, politics, arts or science, consider your humanity with the intent to make the world a better place." The 393 graduates from the Residential Program and the 139 graduates from the Program for Experienced Learners adult degree program received their bachelor's degrees in arts and sciences.



U.S. Senator Bill Nelson



Webber International University

Webber International University

celebrated its 84th Commencement with 162 graduates receiving associate's, bachelor's, and master's degrees. Presiding over the graduation were Board of Trustees Chairman Joe Strickler and University President Dr. H. Keith Wade.

Dr. Ed Moore, President of Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida gave the commencement address reminding the graduates to be thankful and of the importance of integrity as they begin the next chapter of their lives.



In light of recent events—cataclysmic natural disasters, recessions, political unrest, and more—the guest speaker at **Florida College's** 2011 commencement ceremony, focused on the future: both the hope for a better tomorrow, and also the necessity to plan to improve personally in the days ahead.



Author and evangelist Mike Wilson focused on how to be successful after college, boiling it down to working hard, learning from adversity, doing more than what is expected, and putting God first. He assured the students that, no matter what the future holds, these tools will help them make the most of their post college experience. "When you get to the batter's box of life...hit it out of the park!" he said.

Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, the titular head of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, saluted **Florida Memorial University's** Spring 2011 graduating class. The spiritual leader served as keynote speaker. She encouraged more than 150 graduates to share the gospel around the globe.

**Bishop Vashti
Murphy McKenzie**



The 140th graduating class at **Edward Waters College** received their diplomas while commencement speaker Rep. James E. Clyburn, the Majority Whip of the House of Representatives, urged students to "never give up." Clyburn spoke of his upbringing as the son of a minister and being expected to follow in his father's footsteps; but feeling the ministry was not his calling. He encouraged students to do one thing in their life that they would not be paid for, as volunteering would bring its own reward.



Rep. James E. Clyburn

90 graduates received degrees.



Ave Maria University graduated its first class whose members attended all four years at the permanent campus in Florida recently, at a ceremony that was the last graduation presided over by retiring AMU president Nick Healy.

The graduates were urged by Cardinal William Levada at the day's opening Baccalaureate Mass to retain and deepen the religious life they have developed experiencing "the vibrant Catholic identity of Ave Maria University."

Ave Maria conferred 130 Bachelor of Arts degrees, 24 Masters degrees and 1 Ph.D.



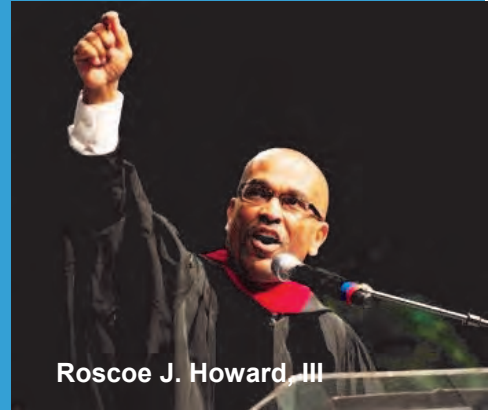
Ninety-one-year-old, medical pioneer, Dr. Margaret Elizabeth Brand, accepted an honorary Doctor of Science degree from **Barry University's School of Podiatric Medicine** and also accepted a posthumous honorary Doctor of Science degree on behalf of her late husband Dr. Paul Wilson Brand.

For more than four decades the Brands treated countless leprosy patients. Their groundbreaking work made it possible for insensate patients, including those with leprosy and diabetes, to function normally despite enormous handicaps.



From left: Barry University president, Sister Linda Bevilacqua, Dr. Margaret Elizabeth Brand and Dr. Jeffrey Jensen, dean of School of Podiatric Medicine

Roscoe J. Howard, III, V.P. of Mission and Ministries for Adventist Health Systems, was the speaker at **Florida Hospital College of Health Science's** commencement ceremony. Mr. Howard's address, entitled "Set Sail," had both amusing anecdotes and insightful advice for the graduates as they prepare to embark on their new careers.



Roscoe J. Howard, III

Commencement speaker, civil rights activist and political leader Rev. Al Sharpton urged **Bethune-Cookman University** students to make the most of their degree, continue support of historically black colleges and seek healing and reconciliation rather than revenge in times of conflict.



The ceremony was an emotional moment for Sharpton, as he received an honorary Doctorate of Divinity degree, before his



Rev. Al Sharpton

father, Al Sharpton Sr., who was seated in the audience among the thousands in attendance. A product of a single-parent household, Sharpton recalled graduating from high school 40 years ago, and resenting his father's absence at his graduation. However, he credits his efforts to reconcile with his father as the reason he is now able to rekindle that lost moment four decades later. He used that example as a teachable moment for the graduates. "If I had focused on revenge, [my dad] would not have shared this moment with me," Rev. Sharpton said.



The commencement address at **Clearwater Christian College** was given by Dr. Matthew Olson, president of Northland Ministries. Northland Ministries is the organization that houses the collective ministries of Northland International University, Northland Camp and Conference Center, and Pioneer Christian School located in Dunbar, Wisconsin. Dr. Olson presented a charge to the graduates to view their respective fields, albeit some in the secular world, as a God-given ministry.

124 undergraduate students and one graduate student received their diplomas during the 2011 commencement ceremony, after successfully completing the requirements for their degrees.



Dr. Matthew Olson

The **University of Tampa** honored more than 1,200 graduates at its 130th commencement. The speaker was Kristen Price '81, professor and chair of the Department of Critical Care at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. "In my profession, the art of being a good physician is sharing in these emotions personally with patients and their families," she said. "No matter what field you enter, let the art of your profession lie in the way you treat and interact with others."



Kristen Price

Stetson University awarded degrees to 570 students during Spring Commencement ceremonies. President Wendy B. Libby gave the "charge" – a tradition where the president places a duty and responsibility upon the graduates.

Graduating seniors Caitlin Peterson of Ocala, Fla., representing the College of Arts & Sciences; Jason Reese of Telford, Tenn., representing the School of Business Administration; and Maxwell Grossman of Wellington, Fla., representing the School of Music, were the commencement speakers.



Stetson University graduate Leah Knapp decorated her cap with "veritas lux mea," - "the truth is my light"

Local business executive and philanthropist Edward W. Scott Jr. received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from President Anthony J. Catanese at **Florida Institute of Technology's** spring commencement. "Mr. Scott is a pillar of the community who has enriched our university and our world with his time and resources. And, as an internationally recognized activist for humanitarian causes, he is an extremely worthy recipient of this honor," said Catanese.

About 1,080 students walked across the stage in FL Tech's largest commencement in at least 30 years.



Edward W. Scott Jr. (lft) and President Catanese



Carla A. Harris

Nearly 700 students received their degrees at **Jacksonville University's** annual spring commencement ceremony. Keynote speaker Carla A. Harris, managing director at Morgan Stanley Investment Management, encouraged graduates to always make choices that will have a positive ripple effect on others. Harris told the graduates that to maximize their success in life would depend on the following three factors: the choices you make; how you recover from your mistakes; and the view you have of yourself. "When faced with a choice, always choose the option that will push and stretch you the most," said Harris. "Choose to be a leader and not let life happen to you."



Deborah Brodbeck, President of **Beacon College** from 1992-2011 was awarded President Emeritus status at the College's 22nd annual commencement ceremony, which bestowed 39 graduates associate and bachelor degrees.

The College's Board of Trustees presented the retiring President the title President Emeritus in recognition of her exemplary dedication, commitment, service, and contributions which have served to advance the mission of Beacon College.



Former President Brodbeck



Commencement ceremonies for **Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's** three campuses included the celebration of a key milestone in the institution's 85-year history. The number of alumni from Daytona Beach, Prescott, and Worldwide campuses, collectively reached the 100,000 mark. In celebration of this milestone, Embry-Riddle Alumni Relations established an Alumni Association Scholarship Fund so alumni and friends can give back to benefit all future alumni.

Of the distinguished guest speakers at the University's three May Commencement ceremonies, two, Norman Knight and Zane Rowe, are Embry-Riddle alumni. Norman Knight, the featured speaker for the 261-strong graduating class at the Prescott, Ariz., campus, has worked at NASA Johnson Space Center for over 20 years, and currently as deputy chief of the Flight Director Office.

Zane Rowe was the guest speaker at the Commencement ceremony for 727 students of ERAU's Daytona Beach campus. He is the executive vice president and chief financial officer of United Continental Holdings, the holding company for United Airlines and Continental Airlines.






Kay Mullally

Rollins College student, seventy-four-year-old Kay Mullally, a recent graduate is a testament to the fact that it's never too late to pursue your dreams. Forty-one years after graduating high school — and after supporting her five children through college — Mullally decided it was her time. “My friends thought I was crazy,” she says. “They were convinced I wouldn't be able to handle the coursework and felt that college was reserved for the young. Unfortunately, they had bought into the stereotypes of what people our age could and couldn't do, but I didn't feel that way at all.” Mullally graduated summa cum laude with a degree in English and a minor in creative writing.



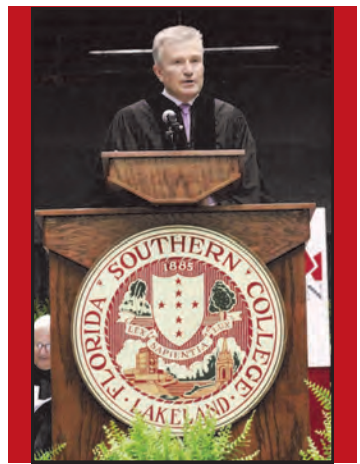
The commencement speaker at **Flagler College's** spring commencement ceremony was Adam W. Herbert, Jr., Ph.D., president and professor emeritus of Indiana University. He served as president of the university from 1989-1998. From that position, he was appointed as the sixth chancellor of the State University System of Florida.

406 students received diplomas. 

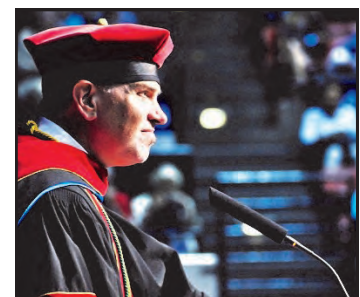


Duncan L. Niederauer, chief executive officer and a director of NYSE Euronext, the New York Stock Exchange's parent company, delivered **Florida Southern College's** spring commencement address. Mr. Niederauer's current memberships include the G100, The Economic Club of New York, the British-American Business Council International Advisory Committee, the Partnership for New York City, the Committee Encouraging Corporate Philanthropy, and the Shanghai International Financial Advisory Committee. He also serves on the board of trustees for Colgate University.

Duncan L. Niederauer



Southeastern University graduated 399 students, its largest class ever, during this year's spring commencement. The commencement speaker was Craig Groeschel, founding and senior pastor of Oklahoma-based LifeChurch.tv; a church that meets on the Internet and on 14 campuses in five states. Pastor Groeschel also received an honorary doctorate for his many efforts in leading people throughout the world to Christianity and for his support of Southeastern, which is affiliated with the Assemblies of God.



**Southeastern University
President Kent Ingle**

Admiral James Stavridis was a **University of Miami** commencement speaker at one of its six commencement ceremonies this past spring. Admiral James Stavridis assumed duties as Commander of European Command and as Supreme Allied Commander, Europe in early summer 2009. Stavridis is a 1976 distinguished graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and a native of South Florida. All in all nearly 3,500 students graduated with degrees.



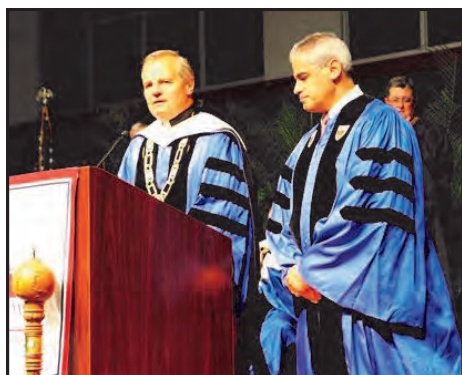
Representative Nugent

Freshman U.S. Representative Rich Nugent delivered the commencement address at one of three ceremonies hosted at **Saint Leo University's** Pascoe county campus. It was the first time Saint Leo hosted three ceremonies in one weekend at the campus, a development warranted by its growth in undergraduate and graduate enrollment. Nearly 960 degree candidates participated.



J. C. Herz

Ringling College of Art and Design's commencement speaker J. C. Herz, runs the analytics company, Batchtags LLC, who sells a next-generation graph database and information visualization to enterprise customers. Part of her message to the graduates included reflection. Consider your portfolio – and your life – from the perspective of yourself at 80 years of age. When you don't know what to do, picture your old-guy or old-lady self looking back on this moment and being proud of the work you did, or the decision you made, or how you conducted yourself.



St. Thomas University held its 2011 commencement ceremonies starting with the School of Law graduation. Two highly recognized leaders, Cuban born US Ambassador to the Holy See, internationally recognized theologian and STU alumnus - Miguel Diaz, and Florida Bar Association President Stephen Zack, were keynote speakers.



President Monsignor Casale (lft) and US Ambassador in the Holy See Miguel Diaz



Success and inspiration were the constant themes throughout **Hodges University's** 21st commencement ceremony, where nearly 600 students earned Associate, Baccalaureate or Master's degrees in a variety of disciplines.

Naples resident and student speaker, Brett Sargeant, inspired both the graduates and the audience of family and friends. "The pursuit of excellence that began the first day of classes, will continue long after this ceremony concludes," he said. "Make excellence, and the continued pursuit of excellence, a challenge in whatever journey you decide to travel.

Mei-Mei Chan, president and publisher of the News Press Media Group, delivered the commencement address. In her speech to the graduates, she assured them that the sacrifices made in order to pursue their education were well worth the journey. "You seized control of your destiny, you worked amazingly hard and you made numerous sacrifices to attain this level of education," she said.



Brett Sargeant, Student Speaker; John Agnelli, HU Trustees Chair; Dr. Jeanette Brock, HU EVP Academic Affairs; Dr. Terry McMahan, HU President; Mei-Mei Chan, President & Publisher, The News-Press Media Group; Dr. John Meyer, HU Professor; Keith Arnold, HU Trustee Vice Chair

Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd was the commencement speaker during the 2011 graduation ceremony at **Warner University**, which awarded a total of 146 degrees; 110 bachelor's degrees, 22 masters' degrees and 14 associates' degrees.



Grady Judd began his career at the Polk County Sheriff's Office in 1972 as a dispatcher. He quickly progressed through the ranks and in 2004, Polk County overwhelmingly elected Grady to serve as Sheriff.



Sheriff Judd



Go to - www.ICUF.org - to register for the Taiwan-Florida Higher Education Conference, September 1, 2011
Coronado Springs Resort, Orlando, Florida

*INDEPENDENT COLLEGES
AND UNIVERSITIES of
FLORIDA*

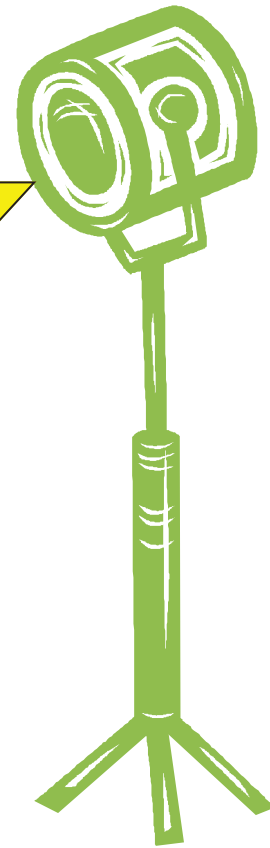
SPOTLIGHT

***on this month's Preferred
Vendor***

Ajax Building Corporation

1080 Commerce Boulevard
Midway, FL 32343
www.ajaxbuilding.com

Established in 1958, Ajax is a third generation family owned company, providing construction services exclusively to public entities, including 13 Florida Colleges and Universities. Ranked as the #6 Top Education Contractor by Southeast Construction Magazine, Ajax's resume includes administration, classroom and laboratory buildings, as well as student activity centers, sports complexes and parking structures.



Ave Maria University · Barry University
Beacon College · Bethune-Cookman University · Clearwater Christian College
Eckerd College · Edward Waters College · Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Flagler College · Florida College · Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences
Florida Institute of Technology · Florida Memorial University
Florida Southern College · Hodges University · Jacksonville University
Lynn University · Nova Southeastern University · Palm Beach Atlantic University
Ringling College of Art and Design · Rollins College · Saint Leo University
St. Thomas University · Southeastern University · Stetson University
The University of Tampa · University of Miami
Warner University · Webber International University

Melissa Armstrong is responsible for the content, layout and visual formatting of the ICUF News Report. Please email comments and suggested news items to marmstrong@icuf.org.