Commencement Exercise

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
Tallahassee, Florida

Monday, the Tenth of May
Nine O’Clock in the Morning

The Year Two-Thousand and Twenty-One

Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts
Frontyard Festival at Seneff Arts Plaza
Orlando, Florida
Florida A&M University

Commencement Exercise

Monday, the Tenth of May
Nine O’Clock in the Morning

Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts
Frontyard Festival at Seneff Arts Plaza
Orlando, Florida
Prelude: “Elsa’s Processional to the Cathedral” .............................................................. Richard Wagner

Processional: “War March of the Priests” from Athalia ................................................ Felix Mendelssohn

Selection: “Star Spangled Banner” .................................................................................. Francis Scott Key

Cynthia Adams, College of Law Staff

Meditation .......................................................................................................................... Rev. Cyrus Ellison, J.D.

Ordained Minister and College of Law Alumnus

Welcome .............................................................................................................................. Deidré A. Keller, J.D.

Dean, FAMU College of Law

Greetings ............................................................................................................................... Ann Marie Cavazos, J.D.

Member, FAMU Board of Trustees/President, Faculty Senate

Introduction of Speaker .................................................................................................... Trustee Cavazos, J.D.

Commencement Address .................................................................................................. President Robinson

Special Recognitions

Presentation of the Dean .................................................................................................. Maurice Edington, Ph.D.

Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs

Conferring of the Degrees ................................................................................................. President Robinson

Graduate Transcendent Ceremony .................................................................................. Col. Gregory L. Clark

President, FAMU National Alumni Association

Alma Mater ........................................ (No walking or movement during the Alma Mater; and men should remove hats/caps)

Benediction ......................................................................................................................... Rev. Ellison, J.D.

Recessional: “Pomp and Circumstance” ................................................................. Sir Edward Elgar

(The audience will remain seated during the Processional and Recessional.)
Academic Honors

Candidates for the baccalaureate degree who maintain high scholarship are graduated with honors. Graduation with honors is based on earning a minimum of 45 semester hours at Florida A&M University and maintaining a cumulative 3.00 grade point average or higher for all work completed prior to the awarding of the degree. Candidates graduating with honors wear cords during the commencement exercises. The averages necessary for earning graduation honors for all bachelor and doctor of pharmacy degrees are listed below.

***Summa Cum Laude: 3.70 - 4.00 — Orange and Green

**Magna Cum Laude: 3.30 - 3.69 — Green

*Cum Laude: 3.00 - 3.29 — Orange

Academic Honors for College of Law

Honors for the College of Law graduates will be awarded as follows:

***Summa Cum Laude: highest honors to graduates with a cumulative GPA of 3.80 or higher — Orange and Green

**Magna Cum Laude: high honors to graduates with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 - 3.79 or higher — Green

*Cum Laude: honors to graduates with a cumulative GPA of 3.1 - 3.49 — Orange

★ Military Graduates

(H) Honors Graduates
Candidates for Degrees

COLLEGE OF LAW
PRESENTED BY DEIDRÉ KELLER, J.D., DEAN

JURIS DOCTOR

Brian Eugene Agard II (Veteran)  Christopher M. Colbert
Vanessa R. Agosto*              Chelsea Tucker Cooke
Natalie Rose Alfonso           Chezney Alea Cunningham
Maiyanna Truelove Allen        Andrew Thomas Dawson*
Mikayla Elizabeth Almeida**    Jenalee Diaz
Bianca Nicole Aponte           Kelly Liliana Dominguez
Richard A. Arena Jr.           Jade Downing*
Scott Andrew Armstrong         Nicole D. Eldemire
Ashley Shanice Barksdale       John Joseph Erny IV
NyShell LaRae Xandria Barnes   Asia Renee Evans*
Hannah Noelle Barnett          Victoria Lynn Evans
Briana J. Basta                Yvette Garrett*
Micah Baxter-Miller           Nattaly Annabelle Gomez
David Aaron Goolsby Belford    Nickeysa S. Gordon
Noel Gabriel Berrios           Osha Mytokia Majik Hammock ★
Denzil Anthony Blackwood       Ebony Shanice Hankerson
Anne Marie Bratton-Jeffery     Jordan Matthew Hebbert
Bria Marilyn Calvin*           Dylan Shane Hilliman
Arelys Caraballo-Colon*       David H. Hoffman
Katherine Helen Castellon ★    Ashaunte Diana Holmes
Nicolas Gerardo Castiello      Briggs Lander Holshey
Michael D. Chandler            Markeia Janay Holton*

Florida A&M University Commencement Exercise
COLLEGE OF LAW (cont’d)

JURIS DOCTOR (cont’d)

Allison Mariah Horton
Serge J. Hovhanessian
Courtney Ashton Jackson
Elliot Omega Preston Jackson*
Brooke Richelle Jamison
Elmire Jean-Baptiste
Brady Christopher Johnson*
Jacqueline Chantel Johnson
Richard A. Jones
Tyla Shawn Jones
Tobias Jacob Theodore Koch
Victoria Kroger*
Paul John Lanza
Chelcee G. Lee
Vanessa Marie Lee
Dontrell A. Lemon
Stephanie N. Lopez Rivera*
Lucinda Louis
Haley Mark*
Kimberley L. Martín
Samendio Laurore Mathieu**
Julien Winston Maynard*

Aerial Ashlynne McCann
Dwight Whitney Mckenzie
Amara Imani McNeish
Soleg R. McWilliam**
Delino Marquis Miller*
Paiton Renee Mizelle
Brent J. Moore
Okoye Unoka Morgan Jr.
Zachary Muñoz
Kaitlyn D. Neely
Tye-Ashley Chiaka Nwoke
Jennifer K. Onwuka
Adaora Ogenwa Onyebeke
Itzen N. Orozco*
Emmanuel Ortiz
Niyah L. Owens*
Mercedes Marie Parks*
Reginald Louis Penn
Brian David Penney
Calaranda Kay Petrochko
Jennifer Pinto*
Angelica R. Prince
COLLEGE OF LAW (cont'd)

JURIS DOCTOR (cont’d)

Raidiris Ramirez Reynolds
Amina Courtney Ramsey
Willie Frank Reynolds Jr.
Lyndia Aubriel Manior Riley
Christopher Patrick Robinson
Sueanna Gareen Rodney-Jones
James Pierre Rodriguez
Scarlett Christy Roque*
Gabriella DiMario Rothermel
Amanda K. Rudy
Courtnie Jeanee’ Russell
William Trower Russell III (Veteran)
Justin Ellis Salas
Elizabeth Ann Santiago*
Malaysha Rachael Seals
Shamieka T. Seburn
Kristina Lynn Smith* (Veteran)
Matthew T. Smith**
Angel Ray Soto*
Katherine Ann Starr*
Jonathan D. Staudt*
Jordan William Stevenson

Christina M. Stewart
Alexander John Tanios
Oliver Edward Telusma
Kiara Rae Thomas*
Sean O. Thomas
Tiffany Tess Trevino
Alexis Nydra Tucker*
Jakob Edward Uzzle**
Emil Elias Valerio
Carlo Alejandro Vargas
Imara Danielle Vaughn
Christopher Robert Viso
Willie James Walker III
Natiyah Deshante Washington*
Saisha Sade White
Jordan Marie Whitford
Spencer Colin Whittaker
Bridgette N. Williams*
Jessica Nicole Williams
Kendra Demetria Willis
Devin Grant Young
Recognition of Fall 2020 Graduates

COLLEGE OF LAW
PRESENTED BY DEIDRÉ KELLER, J.D., DEAN
JURIS DOCTOR

Jennifer Altreche*
Jariel Borges-Del Valle*
Cynthia Carrasco*
Laura L. Cepero**
Christopher J. Charnell
Kelly Clerveaux
Imran Dhanani
Andrew D. Easler **(Veteran)
Louis J. Fields
Tiara M. Fields
Mary R. Fritz*

Jennifer V. Gonzalez*
Ashley T. Hicks
Micheal C. Ihe
Glorimar Maldonado*
Tyler V. Miller*
Anesha Renee Parker
Luis M. Perez
Simon G. Safir
Kevin T. Senak
Sergio A. Torres*

Recognition of Summer 2021 Candidates

COLLEGE OF LAW
PRESENTED BY DEIDRÉ KELLER, J.D., DEAN
JURIS DOCTOR

Dejah B. Boudreaux
Rachel T. Hernandez

April R. Jackson (Veteran)
Alovarson Odige
Commencement Committee Members

Claudine Beale
Genyne H. Boston, Ph.D.
Vernon Bryant
Regina Gardner
Mildred Graham
Gwendolyn Hayslip
Robin Holmes
Brooke Jamison
Valencia E. Matthews, Ph.D.
Julien Maynard
Keith Miles
Andrew Skerritt
Britney Smith
Stephanie Strong

Commencement Volunteers

Phyllis Allen
Lorelle Anderson
Gloria Baskerville-Johnson
Luis Burgos-Martine
Evett Collins
Sharron Cunningham
Merline Dieujuste
Aubrey Hayslip
Erika Hill
Deborah Holmes
Ayinde Johnson
Courtney Jones
Margot Jones
Armando Legros
Erica Polite
Achara Stone
Celia Westbrook

Grand Marshall

Jonathan Fineman, J.D.

Graduate Marshall

Reginald Green, J.D.

Mace-Bearer

Maurice Holder, Ph.D.

Special Acknowledgements

Carey Brown, Assistant Director of Operations and Facilities, Business and Auxiliary Services
W. Rebecca Brown, Assistant Vice President, Finance and Administration
Reginald Green, Associate Dean for Student Services and Administration
Gary Harrington, Director of Student Affairs
Pepsi of Tallahassee
Will the members of the graduating class please stand? As you prepare to make the transition from student to alumnus, I want to impress upon you that, for the past several years, you have been an integral part of the many exciting events that have taken place at Florida A&M University. You are now about to become a part of its history, forever.

You are among the privileged who have been nurtured in the spirit of the many men and women who have passed this way and are rendering distinguished service to mankind because of the dedication of Florida A&M University to QUALITY EDUCATION.

You have been trained by men and women who have passed on to you, the very best that time and experience have given to them and that you do well to remember their dedicated service.

As a member of the Florida A&M University National Alumni Association, do you solemnly promise to:

REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE THE RECIPIENT OF A GREAT AND PRECIOUS HERITAGE; THAT YOU WILL STRIVE WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT AND ENERGY TO PROVE YOURSELF WORTHY, THROUGH SERVICE TO MANKIND; AND TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAMS OF FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY AND ITS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION. DO YOU SO PROMISE?

Graduates

I DO!

Alumni President

By the authority vested in me as President of the Florida A&M University National Alumni Association, I pronounce that you have full membership in the Association with all the rights, privileges and duties appertaining thereto. We invite you to join us for progress at the University in the years ahead.

Congratulations! Please be seated.
Larry Robinson, Ph.D., is Florida A&M University’s (FAMU’s) 12th president and a distinguished professor and researcher in the School of the Environment at FAMU. Previously, he served as the interim president of FAMU from September 2016 to November 2017, from July 2012 to March 2014 and in 2007.

He also served as director of FAMU’s Environmental Sciences Institute from 1997 to 2003, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs from 2003 to 2005 and vice president for Research in 2009.

Dr. Robinson’s recent honors include an appointment in July 2018 to serve on the national STEM Education Advisory Panel. Congress authorized the creation of the panel to encourage U.S. scientific and technological innovations in education.

Dr. Robinson is actively engaged in research with students and faculty as the director and principal investigator of the Center for Coastal and Marine Ecosystems. The Center was established in September 2016 with a $15.4 million award from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Educational Partnership Program. FAMU is leading the partnership and collaborating with five universities to make a major impact on coastal and marine ecosystems education, science and policy.

From 2001 to 2010, Dr. Robinson served as director of the NOAA Environmental Cooperative Science Center housed at FAMU. His research interests include environmental chemistry, environmental radiochemistry, and environmental policy and management.

In 2007-2009, Dr. Robinson served as senior scientific advisor at the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service. In May 2010, he took a leave of absence from FAMU to serve in a U.S. Senate-confirmed position as assistant secretary of Commerce for Conservation and Management at NOAA. While there, he supported and managed NOAA’s coastal and marine programs, including marine sanctuaries for preserving areas of special national significance, fisheries management, and preparation of nautical charts. He also supported NOAA’s participation in addressing the BP oil spill crisis, and served on the Ocean Policy Task Force and Gulf Coast Restoration Task Force.

In November 2011, Dr. Robinson was asked to return to the University as a special assistant to the president and professor to coordinate administrative and eminent scholar searches and integrate Graduate Studies and Title III Programs within the Division of Sponsored Research. He was later asked to chair the University’s Crisis Management Team, which addressed a number of issues, including anti-hazing efforts. He was selected again as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs in March 2012.

Dr. Robinson began his career at FAMU in January 1995 as a visiting professor in the Environmental Sciences Institute and later became director of the Institute in January 1997.

From 1984 – 1997, he served as a research scientist and group leader of a neutron activation analysis facility at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). His research responsibilities at ORNL included trace element analysis in environmental science, epidemiology, forensics, material science and paleontology. His expertise also includes environmental radiochemistry, nuclear safeguards, and non-proliferation.

Dr. Robinson attended Lemoyne-Owen College, earned a bachelor’s degree in chemistry (summa cum laude) from Memphis State University and a doctorate in nuclear chemistry from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. He is married to Sharon Hollowell Robinson; and has three daughters, Nicole, Arlin and Talia.
The Academic Attire

The academic attire, which makes an inaugural procession colorful, is as old as universities. The attire represents eight centuries of a continuous tradition; it is not a modern revival of medieval customs. It goes back to the days when students were “clerks” – that is, members of the minor clergy – and wore monkish gowns and hoods. In those days of unheated study halls and garret sleeping quarters, the hoods served a very practical purpose. When the hood was pulled over the head, the “tippet,” a sort of hollow tail, served as a convenient pocket. Today, the hood is only an adornment.

The mortarboard, which seems to have evolved from the square biretta of Renaissance churchmen, came into use after the hood had ceased to be worn on the head. The tassel on the mortarboard may be either black or the “color of the faculty” – as described below; or for the holder of a doctorate degree, it may be of gold. Many universities replace the mortarboard with their own distinctive headgear.

Both the gown and the hood indicate the degree held by the wearer. The gown for the bachelor’s degree has pointed sleeves. Bachelor’s hoods have only recently become a part of the attire in the United States. In the master’s gown, the wearer’s arm projects from the sleeve at the elbow, or, in the more modern gowns, at the wrist, and the lower part of the sleeve, ending in another tippet, dangles below the arm. The doctor’s gown has bell-shaped sleeves. Bachelor’s and master’s gowns have no trimmings, but the doctor’s gown is faced down the front with velvet and has three velvet cross-bars on each sleeve. This velvet may be either black or the color of the faculty members’ discipline.

Graduates of some institutions, on all continents, may wear gowns in the color of the university that awarded their degree, for instance, orange and green for Florida A&M University. In the United States, the hood is edged with velvet in the color of the faculty and lined with the colors of the university conferring the degree. For all academic purposes, trimmings of the doctor’s gowns, edgings of hoods and tassels of caps, adhere to the colors for the different subjects as indicated:

College of Agriculture and Food Sciences - Maize; College of Education - Light Blue; FAMU-FSU College of Engineering - Orange; College of Law - Purple; College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences - Forest Green; College of Science and Technology - Bright Gold; College of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities - White; School of Allied Health Sciences - Olive; School of Architecture and Engineering Technology - Lilac; School of Business and Industry - Drab; School of Journalism & Graphic Communication - Crimson; School of Nursing - Apricot; School of the Environment - Light Gold; Doctor of Philosophy - Royal Blue; Doctor of Physical Therapy – Sage Green; Doctor of Public Health - Salmon
The Ceremonial Mace

Symbolizing the authority vested in the president by the University’s governing body, the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Ceremonial Mace is made of bright gold plated bronze and mahogany wood. The shaft of the mace bearing the seal of the University is made of bright gold plated bronze, double-sided medal surrounded with orange and emerald green Swarovski crystals around the outer edge upon a six inch diameter chrome plated polished mace head with clear Swarovski crystals around the circumference.

Ten gold plated engraved nameplates featuring the names of each university president are mounted on a 2-inch diameter mahogany baton. A 1.5 inch mahogany wood staff with wood and chrome plated polished aluminum turnings separates the rest of the baton from its base. The baton is made of mahogany, which symbolizes the trees of knowledge, which adorn the campus of the University. The overall length of the mace is 30 inches long. At the very base of the mace is a gold plated brass “Rattler”, the symbol of the University. Its coiled posture represents the fact that although the dark clouds may surround the horizon, the “Rattler” will strike, strike, and strike again!

The Presidential Medallion and Chain of Office

Dating to medieval times, the Presidential Medallion and Chain of Office signify the symbol of authority vested in the President as head of the University. The current chain is approximately 36 inches long and is made of gold plated bronze. It features ten 1-3/4 inch gold plated sculpted engravings of each president from 1887 to the present. Under each sculpted model are ten banner link engravings inscribed with the names of each president and his term of office. At the base of the chain is the Presidential Medallion, which features the seal of the University.
Board of Trustees

Kelvin L. Lawson, Chair
Director, National Client Service
Acosta Sales and Marketing

Kimberly Moore, Vice Chair
Vice President, Workforce Development

Ann Marie Cavazos, J.D.
President Faculty Senate Florida A&M University/Professor of Law

Thomas W. Dortch Jr.
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of TWD, Inc.

Otis Clatt II
President of Pacific Harbor Line, Inc.

David Lawrence Jr.
Chair, The Children’s Movement of Florida

Xavier McClinton
President, Student Government Association Florida A&M University

Belvin Perry Jr., J.D.
Personal Injury Attorney
Law Firm of Morgan & Morgan

Nicole Washington
Principal, Washington Education Strategies

Kristin Harper
Founder and CEO of Driven to Succeed, LLC

Craig Reed
Chief Procurement Officer and Head of Corporate Real Estate for Corteva Agriscience

Kenward Stone
Co-Chief Executive Officer, Broughton Pharmaceuticals

Michael Dubose
President of Fisher Healthcare, A Division of Thermo Fisher Scientific

University Administrators

Larry Robinson, Ph.D.
University President

Maurice Edington, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

William E. Hudson Jr., Ph.D.
Vice President for Student Affairs

Alan Robertson, Ed.D.
Vice President for Finance and Administration

Charles Weatherford, Ph.D.
Vice President for Research

Joseph Maleszewski, MBA
Vice President for Audit

Shawnta Friday-Stroud, Ph.D.
Vice President for University Advancement

Keith Miles
Director of Communications

Carmen Cummings Martin, M.S.
Assistant Vice President for Alumni Affairs/University Engagement

Linda Barge-Miles, Esq.
Chief of Staff

Danielle McBeth, J.D.
Director of Governmental Relations

Kortne Gosha, M.S.
Vice President and Director of Athletics

Lewis Johnson, Ph.D.
Interim Vice President for Strategic Planning and Institutional Effectiveness

Rica Calhoun, Esq.
Chief Compliance and Ethics Officer

Denise Wallace, J.S.D.
Vice President of Legal Affairs and General Counsel

Erick Akins, Ph.D.
Director of Title III

Academic Deans

Robert Taylor, Ph.D.
College of Agriculture and Food Sciences

Allyson L. Watson, Ph.D.
College of Education

Richard Aô, Ph.D.
College of Science and Technology

Valencia E. Matthews, Ph.D.
College of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities

Shawnta Friday-Stroud, Ph.D.
School of Business and Industry

Deidré Keller, J.D.
College of Law

J. Murray Gibson, Ph.D.
FAMU-FSU College of Engineering

Rodner B. Wright, AIA
School of Architecture and Engineering Technology

Cynthia Hughes Harris, Ph.D.
School of Allied Health Sciences

David H. Jackson Jr., Ph.D.
School of Graduate Studies and Research

Bettye A. Grable, Ph.D.
(Intern)
School of Journalism & Graphic Communication

Victor M. Ibeanusi, Ph.D.
School of the Environment

Shelley Johnson, Ed.D.
School of Nursing

Johnnie L. Early II, Ph.D.
College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Institute of Public Health
Alma Mater

College of love and charity
We gather 'round thy noble shrine;
We lift our voice in praise to thee,
And ask a blessing all divine.

Chorus
FAM-U! FAM-U! I love thee!
I'll fight and win whate'er the battle be,
The Orange and the green thy sons shall
e'er defend
And loyal to thy voice of love attend
FAM-U! FAM-U! FAM-U! I love thee!

On gridiron, diamond, track and field,
Thy sons the vict'ry never yield,
And while they tread a broader life
Thy love shall stay them in the strife.

(repeat chorus)

God ever keep us true to thee;
Thy faith that truth shall make men free,
Shall guide thy loyal sons aright
And fend them thru the skeptic night.

(repeat chorus)