

Florida A&M University College of Law

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Information

FAMU College of Law History

2021

2021 Commencement Ceremony Program

FAMU College of Law

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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)

FLORIDA **A&M** UNIVERSITY
SPRING 2021 COMMENCEMENT

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

Program

Monday, May 10, 2021 | 9 a.m.
LARRY ROBINSON, PH.D.
UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT, PRESIDING

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	Nickeysha 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*

COLLEGE OF LAW (cont'd)

JURIS DOCTOR (cont'd)

Allison Mariah Horton	Aeriel Ashlynne McCann
Serge J. Hovhanessian	Dwight Whitney Mckenzie
Courtney Ashton Jackson	Amara Imani McNeish
Elliot Omega Preston Jackson*	Soleg R. McWilliam**
Brooke Richelle Jamison	Delino Marquis Miller*
Elmire Jean-Baptiste	Paiton Renee Mizelle
Brady Christopher Johnson*	Brent J. Moore
Jacqueline Chantel Johnson	Okoye Unoka Morgan Jr.
Richard A. Jones	Zachary Muñoz
Tyla Shawn Jones	Kaitlyn D. Neely
Tobias Jacob Theodore Koch	Tye-Ashley Chiaka Nwoke
Victoria Kroger*	Jennifer K. Onwuka
Paul John Lanza	Adaora Ogenwa Onyebeke
Chelcee G. Lee	Itzen N. Orozco*
Vanessa Marie Lee	Emmanuel Ortiz
Dontrell A. Lemon	Niyah L. Owens*
Stephanie N. Lopez Rivera*	Mercedes Marie Parks*
Lucinda Louis	Reginald Louis Penn
Haley Mark*	Brian David Penney
Kimberley L. Martin	Calaranda Kay Petrochko
Samendio Laureore Mathieu**	Jennifer Pinto*
Julien Winston Maynard*	Angelica R. Prince

COLLEGE OF LAW (cont'd)

JURIS DOCTOR (cont'd)

Raidiris Ramirez Reynolds	Christina M. Stewart
Amina Courtney Ramsey	Alexander John Tanios
Willie Frank Reynolds Jr.	Oliver Edward Telusma
Lyndia Aubriel Manior Riley	Kiara Rae Thomas*
Christopher Patrick Robinson	Sean O. Thomas
Sueanna Gareen Rodney-Jones	Tiffany Tess Trevino
James Pierre Rodriguez	Alexis Nydra Tucker*
Scarlett Christy Roque*	Jakob Edward Uzzle**
Gabriella DiMario Rothermel	Emil Elias Valerio
Amanda K. Rudy	Carlo Alejandro Vargas
Courtnie Jeanee` Russell	Imara Danielle Vaughn
William Trower Russell III (Veteran)	Christopher Robert Viso
Justin Ellis Salas	Willie James Walker III
Elizabeth Ann Santiago*	Natayah Deshante Washington*
Malaysha Rachael Seals	Saisha Sade White
Shamieka T. Seburn	Jordan Marie Whitford
Kristina Lynn Smith* (Veteran)	Spencer Colin Whittaker
Matthew T. Smith**	Bridgette N. Williams*
Angel Ray Soto*	Jessica Nicole Williams
Katherine Ann Starr*	Kendra Demetria Willis
Jonathan D. Staudt*	Devin Grant Young
Jordan William Stevenson	

Recognition of Fall 2020 Graduates

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

JURIS DOCTOR

Jennifer Altreche*	Jennifer V. Gonzalez*
Jariel Borges-Del Valle*	Ashley T. Hicks
Cynthia Carrasco*	Micheal C. Ihe
Laura L. Cepero**	Glorimar Maldonado*
Christopher J. Charnell	Tyler V. Miller*
Kelly Clerveaux	Anesha Renee Parker
Imran Dhanani	Luis M. Perez
Andrew D. Easler **(Veteran)	Simon G. Safir
Louis J. Fields	Kevin T. Senak
Tiara M. Fields	Sergio A. Torres*
Mary R. Fritz*	

Recognition of Summer 2021 Candidates

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

JURIS DOCTOR

Dejah B. Boudreaux	April R. Jackson (Veteran)
Rachel T. Hernandez	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
Evet 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



Graduate Transcendent Ceremony

Alumni President

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.



About The Speaker

LARRY ROBINSON, PH.D.

University President



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.

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