

**Chapter 1 : Spring Commencement - Fort Valley State University**

*Several awards are presented annually to graduates, staff and faculty members during the William & Mary Commencement ceremony. Below is a list of the awards that were presented during this year's ceremony on May - Ed. The Lord Botetourt Medal was established in "for the honor and.*

An English major, Heins juggled biology and chemistry courses alongside her English courses and met the substantial and challenging requirements of a pre-med student. They said she was always eager to talk over her ideas and see if she could increase their originality, subtlety or relevance. In the classroom, she was focused, sensitive and thoughtful, always engaging in class discussion and contributing to the knowledge of everyone in the course. A published author, her professors described her writing as groundbreaking, perceptive and beautiful. In , Heins completed her honors thesis in just one semester. The project focused on famed physician and influential writer William Carlos Williams, whose career united the worlds of science and language. It engaged both the practice of medicine and the pleasure and analysis of literature. Heins dedicated the project to her grandfather, a physician-writer who has been her lifelong inspiration. An avid distance runner, Heins went the extra mile both inside and outside of the classroom. She spent roughly 14 hours per week training to compete in a variety of races, from 10ks to half marathons. While she has received offers from a number of medical schools, she plans to take a service year before starting the next phase in her quest to become a physician. The recipient should be a well-rounded student, have good standing in all three of these respects and carry within the spirit of willingness to sacrifice and give oneself to a cause. The award citation pointed out that Gourdie was what many would view as the perfect student. She routinely spoke up in her classes, they wrote, tackled the most difficult questions and always made comments that were thoughtful and well composed. She excelled in her coursework regardless of the topic. Her honors project explored an important issue relevant to contemporary government and politics. She examined the factors that determine why states enact various laws that restrict access to clinics that provide abortion services for women. Given that researchers have studied abortion politics in great detail but have not yet developed literature on clinic access, her work is poised to be an important contribution to academic research, with further implications for public policy. She was instrumental in helping other students and faculty push their own research projects to a higher level. As the student director of the Social Science Research Methods center, She ran the day-to-day operations of the center almost single handedly. Gourdie also had a high commitment to community service. Thatcher Prize for Excellence in Graduate and Professional Study The award recognizes an outstanding student in graduate or professional study, and is selected on the basis of scholarship, leadership, character and service. Rezaei excelled academically, led student organizations and overcame personal challenges in her pursuit of higher education. A native of Honduras, Rezaei left her hometown with the goal of obtaining the quality of education that was unavailable to her, there and use it to benefit the people of her country and of Latin America more generally. After graduating with a degree in economics and a secondary degree in international relations from Stanford, Rezaei joined the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, D. There, she worked as a consultant on topics related to institutional capacity building and public financial management in Latin America and the Caribbean. She came to realize that she wanted to effect change as a lawyer, not as an economist. She was instrumental in promoting Latino culture on campus, and brought awareness to issues facing Latinos in our community. Despite her incredible workload, Rezaei found time to explore and even climbed Kilimanjaro. The recipients honored for teaching excellence were Randolph A. Known for making required courses like Organic Chemistry II compelling and relevant, Coleman has been an innovator throughout his career. He created courses on neurochemistry and his freshman COLL , The Chemistry of Emotion and Behavior, to meet surging student demands for neuroscience courses. Faculty colleagues and students applaud his ability to convey complex concepts simply, but with rigor and infectious energy. A biochemistry student wrote: That combination is very rare and has motivated me to do well in his class. I hope that he never retires because he is truly a gem at this university. Coleman found a way to create a relaxed and professional atmosphere that promoted learning and educated discussions between students. Over

the years, he has taught nearly a dozen different courses and is constantly innovating teaching techniques, according to the award citation. Students rave about his knowledge and passion for each subject and consistently remark on how inspiring it is to learn from him. As one student wrote: He has so much knowledge on the subject and always made sure we were critical of outcomes. He exchanges class visits with every single junior faculty member at the Law School where he is recognized as a leader in teaching. According to one faculty member: He seems to almost anticipate student questions and confusions, and he is masterful at using questions to help teach the material. Marcus is also a three-time winner of the Walter Williams, Jr. Memorial Teaching Award, which is selected by the graduating students. He also created and taught an innovative law and literature course for inmates at the local jail. Algernon Sydney Sullivan Awards students Named in honor of Algernon Sydney Sullivan, a lawyer and activist, the Sullivan Awards are distributed each year to two graduating students and one non-student in recognition of their influence for good, taking into consideration such characteristics as heart, mind and helpfulness to others. She is constantly caring, listening, working, learning and advocating. She acts as an inspiring mentor for many others in Alpha Phi Omega APO , a co-ed organization dedicated to service, leadership and community, as well as on her Ultimate Frisbee team and in her personal life. Uppal serves on the executive board and oversees all of the interns for Alma Mater Productions, spending a copious amount of time getting to know each intern on an individual level and uses her institutional knowledge and experience to help them make their ideas come to life, according to the citation. She also serves as a tour guide and orientation aide, as well as a senior interviewer. A marketing major with a concentration in entrepreneurship, he fosters meaningful connections with students and the wider campus community. Paige is known across campus for his authentic nature, caring spirit and genuine love of making other people feel like their stories are heard. Paige completed an independent research study focused on the differences in benevolence perception within the context of prejudicial confrontation. With the goal of becoming a certified business consultant and marketing strategist, he completed an internship at Deloitte Consulting. As the secretary to the Board of Visitors, Fox quietly guides many key initiatives through fraught political and interpersonal waters, bringing disparate factions together for the greater good. He has respectfully and faithfully served as chief of staff to three very different presidents, deftly handling transitions between each administration. Most recently, he worked closely with the Presidential Search Committee and was instrumental in helping to bring the search to a successful conclusion. His record of service and helpfulness to others, drawing on his good sense and heart, is nothing short of extraordinary.

## Chapter 2 : Commencement speakers announced

*The Link Crew, a group of upperclassmen mentors, helps organize and lead activities for freshmen at Pineville like Commitment to Commencement. "This is the big event that's sort of their pact to.*

Click here for more information and to request a letter for international guests. Intent to Graduate You must notify the Office of the Registrar of your intent to graduate when you are registering for your final course s of your degree program. Also, please tell us how you would like your name printed on your diploma. The date that diplomas are available will be posted on this web page. Certificate only students do not submit an intent to graduate and do not participate in Commencement ceremonies. Please contact the Graduation Coordinator at elizalde pnw. If you need to update your address, please complete the Address Change form. You may participate in the December commencement. Fall Candidates for Graduation: Contact the Graduation Coordinator at or at elizalde pnw. Spring Candidates for Graduation: Intent to Graduate Survey is available until January 31, If your final classes end in August, your graduation term is Summer and you should complete the Summer Intent to Graduate. Both Summer and Fall graduates participate in the December commencement. Summer Candidates for Graduation: Survey is not yet available. Do not complete another survey. Return to top Cap and Gown In order to participate in commencement exercises, you must purchase your cap and gown from your campus bookstore no later than Friday, November 9, by 2: Be sure to sign the log at the bookstore in Hammond or in Schwarz 40 in Westville when you purchase your cap and gown, as the commencement participation list is generated from the information on this log. You will need it when you pick up your guest tickets for the ceremony. Guest Tickets All guests including children infants and toddlers must have a ticket in order to attend the commencement ceremony. Candidates for graduation receive 4 guest tickets at the Graduation Expo. In order to receive your tickets, you must present the receipt from your cap and gown purchase.

*Commencement is a time for graduates, the campus community, as well as family, and guests to celebrate years of commitment and hard work. It is important to note that graduation and commencement involve the work of several offices.*

The ceremonies will begin at 9 a. Saturday and 9 a. Sunday in Spanos Stadium. They are leaving the university ready to begin a new challenge. I know that many will evolve into industry leaders and practitioners of innovation and creativity – skills developed and honed through Learn by Doing. Commencement also offers us the opportunity to highlight those individuals who helped our graduates get to where they are today – a nurturing support network that includes family, friends, their professors and the professionals in their fields of study. All members of the Mustang family are beaming with pride today. Jassy will address graduates from the College of Engineering and College of Architecture and Environmental Design at 9 a. The university will award honorary doctorate degrees to three individuals: Fortune, a former CSU trustee who launched the Fortune School, a network of tuition-free, college preparatory, public charter schools in Sacramento and San Bernardino counties, will be recognized during the afternoon ceremony. Permits are not required to park on campus during commencement. Because of road closures and residence hall move-out traffic, guests need to enter campus from Highland Drive. Follow directional signs for parking. Accessible parking for guests with mobility impairments will be available in lots C7, H2 and the Grand Avenue Structure. All vehicles must have a valid accessible parking place card or license plate in order to park in accessible lots. Shuttles will be available for guests with mobility impairments and one companion. For additional parking and shuttle information, visit <https://www.calpoly.edu/parking>. Parking, shuttle and other commencement-related information can be found on the Cal Poly Now app. To download and learn more, visit <https://www.calpoly.edu/commencement>. Reporters and photographers planning to cover commencement will need credentials. Please contact University Communications before Friday, June 15, to arrange for credentials.

**Chapter 4 : Prohibited Items // Commencement // University of Notre Dame**

*Protecting and nourishing free speech is for us a fundamental commitment, and one that demands constant attention and vigilance, especially in a time of sharp political and social polarization.*

April 10, Introduction Good afternoon. It is a pleasure to be here in New York and to have this opportunity to speak to you today. I know I have. Then over the weekend there is a party in the neighborhood and the food is outstanding, so you decide that the diet can wait until next week. But as the days and weeks go by, next week just never comes, and you, in effect, abandon your dieting plan altogether. We all know we would have been better off if we had just stuck to our diet. Yet somehow we failed to follow through consistently on what was basically a good plan. At this point some of you may be thinking, "What does this have to do with monetary policy? The Federal Reserve as the monetary authority has a mandate to provide a stable price level and promote maximum sustainable growth. These are important goals that can contribute to a more efficiently functioning economy and thus help to promote higher living standards. So the question becomes: How can the Federal Reserve System best go about achieving these goals? Discretion The issue of whether it is better for a policymaker to commit to a policy or to operate with pure discretion has long been a central question for many areas of policymaking, including monetary policy. In the late s, Nobel Laureates Finn Kydland and Edward Prescott showed that a regime that pre-commits policymakers to behave in a particular way is preferable to a regime that allows policymakers pure discretionâ€”that is, to choose a policy independently at each point in time. This idea is very counter-intuitive to most people. After all, the policymaker could choose the same set of actions under discretion as he could under commitment. So it seems that a discretionary policy can certainly be no worse than a policy that entails pre-commitment. Therefore, so the argument goes, there is value in retaining "flexibility" so that the policymaker can respond "appropriately" to the current environment. Thanks to Kydland and Prescott, and many others that followed, we now know that this argument is fundamentally flawed. The fatal flaw in this conventional wisdom stems from its failure to recognize the important role played by expectations of future policy in economic decisions made today. I hope to convince you of that today and to highlight some of the important implications of that reasoning for how we ought to think about monetary policy. Before I continue, I want to be precise and define what I mean by commitment and discretion. Commitment means delivering, in any particular situation, on past promises. In other words, the policymaker unequivocally will follow through on a promise made about future actions. Discretion, on the other hand, means that the policymaker is not bound by previous actions or plans and thus is free to make an independent decision every period. It seemed like a great decision at the time, and I certainly enjoyed it. Moreover, each time I chose to eat more extravagantly as opposed to dieting I was making a choice that made me feel better. Yet the consequences of those meal-by-meal or day-by-day choices added up to a very poor outcomeâ€”I gained ten pounds rather than lost them. Well, policymakers can find themselves in similar situations. Discretion means the policymaker may find it preferable to change his mind, or re-optimize, and do something other than what was initially promised. The temptation to renege on previous promises or plans is what economists refer to as the time-inconsistency problem, and it has surprisingly troublesome consequences. In particular, it can mean that outcomes under a discretionary regime are likely to be worse than those under a regime where the policymaker is constrained to follow through on previous commitments. A few examples may help illustrate this seemingly surprising but important idea. Patent Protection Research and development by the private sector is an important source of innovation in our economy. From new drugs to computers, research has led to new products that have enhanced our health and productivity. Thus investment in research generates important social returns that contribute to the improvement in living standards both here and around the world. To encourage investment, governments frequently seek to ensure that the private returns to innovation are sufficient to elicit the socially optimal amount of investment in new ideas. In practice, governments often give temporary monopoly rights to companies, in the form of a patent, as a means of assuring the private inventor that he can earn a sufficient rate of return on what may be a very costly and risky investment project. Such an action will likely result in more competition, and the ensuing price reductions will

make society better off. In this case the policymaker is acting in a way that is conditioned on previous outcomes and that may appear, at the time, to be optimal for society as a whole. But I think you can all see that such change in policy, while having short-term benefits, is likely to have devastating effects on future investments in research and inventive activity. In particular, since the potential returns to innovation might well vanish at the discretion of the policymaker, the incentive to invest in risky research will fall. On the other hand, if the policymaker could commit to enforcing the patent rights, the potential payoff to risky research and innovation would remain. Of course, an unanswered question is: How can the policymaker commit to this policy in a credible way? I will have more to say about this later, but, in this case, commitment is attempted through legislation. The idea is that while passing a law is not a binding commitment because laws can always be changed, it does substantially raise the barrier to policymakers acting in a time inconsistent fashion.

Living in the Desert The patent example is a simple case, yet it illustrates that by committing to a policy, and tying the hands of the policymaker to honor that policy, commitment actually leads to better outcomes. Allow me to use a slightly more complicated example that further highlights the importance of expectations and the role they play in economic outcomes. In this example, all else being equal, people like living in warm, dry places as opposed to cold, wet ones. But the government can solve the water problem by building an infrastructure of dams and canals to deliver water from some far-away source. However, this infrastructure is extremely costly and would have to be paid for by a tax on all citizens. In this scenario, the government has only one decision to make—to build or not to build the infrastructure. Thus, there is no conflict between the desires of the public and the desires of the government. Of course, that will depend on the cost of the infrastructure, the benefits from living in a desert with water, and the hardship of trying to live in a desert with no water. More simply, the collective costs of having people live in the desert outweigh the collective benefits they receive. Therefore, the socially desirable outcome, the best outcome, is for people not to build houses in the desert and for the government not to build the necessary water-carrying infrastructure. The logic is straightforward. The government would announce that no infrastructure will be built, and since this is a commitment that everyone believes, no one will choose to live in the desert. Thus the outcome under commitment is the one that maximizes social welfare. Now what if government could not commit to a policy? For example, suppose the government announced that it would not build the infrastructure, but people did not necessarily believe it would follow through on that announcement. Under this scenario there are some significant complications and problems that result in social welfare being less than in a regime with credible commitment. So what determines what the government will decide? Well, if a lot of people decide to build in the desert, then the best decision for the government is to build the necessary infrastructure to support the population living there. On the other hand, if relatively few people decide to live in the desert, the government will not build the infrastructure. If he thinks a lot of other people are going to build in the desert, meaning enough to force the government to build the infrastructure, he should build in the desert as well. If correct, he gets to live in a more desirable place that has abundant water. Further, if he is correct, the water-carrying infrastructure is going to be built, and he will have to pay for it whether he lives in the desert or not. On the other hand, if he is incorrect, he is in trouble. He will end up living in a desert with little water. Thus, the regime with credible commitment strictly dominates the regime of discretion in terms of social welfare.

Commitment and Monetary Policy Commitment, or the lack thereof, also has important implications for monetary policy. As a result, the central bank faces a time-inconsistency problem. That is, it will be tempted to pursue policies that deliver temporary economic benefits that may be inconsistent with longer-term goals. And realizing that the central bank will have the latitude to give into this temptation, people will make decisions today that drive the economy to a suboptimal outcome. Let me illustrate my argument using a typical view of how monetary policy works. Now, it is widely acknowledged that in the long run, monetary policy cannot raise the level of output or employment. However, due to various rigidities in the economy, the monetary authority may face a short-run tradeoff: By like token, unexpectedly low inflation may temporarily reduce output and employment. Economic analysis tells us that as long as the prospect of exploiting this short-run tradeoff exists, a central bank conducting a discretionary monetary policy will not be able to achieve its desired rate of inflation. To see the reason why, imagine the monetary authority announces it is going to maintain average inflation at some

desired level. If policy successfully maintains that desired inflation rate, then output would grow at trend. But at some point the monetary authority will be tempted to exercise its discretion to generate a bit more inflation, which may not be very costly, in exchange for the benefit of more output in the short run. However, once the higher inflation is recognized, the public will revise its expectations of future inflation and push wages and prices up. Consequently, the monetary authority will see higher inflation, but no higher output. It might be tempted to try the same experiment again, but it will generate the same outcome. The monetary authority now faces a dilemma: The loss of output would diminish public welfare; thus it seems unlikely that policymakers will undertake such action, and so the economy gets stuck with a permanently higher inflation rate than it desires. Thus, discretionary monetary policy proves to be time inconsistent and so fails to deliver on the desired inflation objective. Now, what if the monetary authority could commit itself, in some way, to producing the desired inflation rate that it had announced? The answer is clear. The public would expect that inflation rate would be maintained, there would be no unanticipated inflation, and output would grow at trend. So a monetary authority that could commit to its desired inflation policy would outperform a monetary authority that is free to exercise discretion—that is, it would deliver the same output growth, but lower inflation rate. Some people may find this result counterintuitive. But remember our example of the dieter. Letting the dieter have discretion to yield to temptation will not lead to the desired outcome. But in fact, doing so gives a better outcome. Yet I would argue that the reason these ideas have been so influential on how economists think about policy is how well they help us understand the evolution of monetary policy choices and their outcomes over the past three decades. In the late 1970s, after a decade or more of fairly benign inflation, accommodative monetary policy began to drive up inflation.

**Chapter 5 : Commencement Ceremony – Office of the President**

*This month on campuses across our region and our country, students will toss caps in the air and celebrate earning a college degree after years of hard work.*

Like many of his fellow graduates, Patrick will wear his Wolfpack Red regalia and listen intently to speakers including Marian Wright Edelman, Chancellor Woodson, and several others. Then, Patrick will stand up and address eighteen thousand people as the spring student commencement speaker. Patrick is a typically extraordinary NC State student. While he does share the diverse background, commitment to excellence, and desire to collaborate like many of his fellow NC State graduates, there is no other person here quite like Patrick Schilling, and he fits right in because of it. He is an international student from Germany, but calls Raleigh his second home. He grew up with a physical disability, and now works to create inclusive environments for all. He faced struggles adapting to the workload of American higher education, yet has maintained a 4. He is a natural leader, constantly seeking to share the credit. Patrick founded and served as president of Digital ShapRs, a student organization dedicated to educating students on the complex nature of artificial intelligence and other digital innovations. We sat down with Patrick recently to get his perspective on life here at NC State as he prepares to address the typically extraordinary class of 2018. What led you down that road? Through that partnership, Poole and my German university offer the International Business Dual Degree IBDD program, through which a student like me attends university in one country for two years Germany in my case, and a second country in a second language for another two years. As soon as I looked through the choices, I knew I wanted to end up at Poole. Describe your experience as an international student at NC State. I recall looking for a printer on my first day here. Walking around Nelson Hall, I met Dr. That said, being so far from home is not something that is always easy. But since that time, I have grown more and more fond of this place. It really is a second home. He makes the world a better place wherever he is. What impact has your experience at Poole College had on your personal and academic life? I think a major part of who I am right now is due to my experience in Poole College—but also specifically individuals I have met here. He organizes and tries to find structure in the chaos of international partnerships. Also, Professor Lewis Sheats from my entrepreneurship program has become a role model for me in the last two years simply because he does some things I find to be exceptional both for a professor and for a person—he goes above and beyond for his students. He supervised a thesis that I was fortunate enough to write for my German university, and he basically did that in his free time. He has been just one example of what I think makes Poole so amazing—the investment of professors, staff—everyone wants students to succeed. How has NC State shaped your future career choices? I have profited from NC State, especially the think and do mindset. In fact, that helped me a lot during my interviews with Google. One of the skills that big tech companies, but also consultancies, look for is that problem solving mentality. We are in an age where we are confronted with so many challenges that exceed what we can comprehend. One of the core skills is going to be that when confronted with challenges, we can think through the implications of the problems and then fix them. Just dive in and find solutions. As a person, it is easy to see his compassion and the support he shows to people around him. How did that come together? The spark that ignited the idea of the club occurred when I interned at SAP. I was fortunate to work with some highly seasoned consultants on emerging topics from artificial intelligence to quantum computing to blockchain to machine learning. I learned a lot and also noticed so many other students just as curious. But there was not a club at NC State specifically dedicated to those topics. I began by assembling my executive board, which are three close friends of mine. I work with them every day and have been fortunate to have them on with me. We were very passionate and set a goal of bringing in, during our first semester, highly seasoned speakers. I think we accomplished that. Our first event was about the blockchain with one of the SAP solution center blockchain experts that I happen to know. He came in and he talked about the blockchain, and I think we had at our first meeting about sixty people present—which was mind-blowing. We have had some amazing discussions, and the plurality of ideas that came from our student members has been something that has helped all of us learn an incredible amount. You are interested in emerging technologies, but you

have also mentioned a passion for public speaking. How do those intersect? At the end of the day individuals are attached to those new technologies. When you talk about AI, you talk about the truck driver who is danger of losing her job. Or when you talk about blockchain, you talk about ensuring that musicians might finally be fairly compensated for the beautiful music they create. So as future business leaders, it is more important to think about the people who are attached to these topics and ensure we engage in a discussion around how to provide for people who will be affected by technology. Speaking at Commencement You are speaking at the university commencement ceremony. I still sleep at night so farâ€¦will see if that changes as the day gets closer! It is an incredible honor to have been selected. The pressure is definitely on. I just heard the other day that about fifteen to eighteen thousand people will be expected in the PNC Arena. I feel like my personal story is something that can ideally inspire a lot of other people. And that is going to be the underlying theme of my speechâ€¦The idea that you have to transcend your own borders in order to achieve your own goals no matter how insurmountable the challenge ahead. My goal is for graduates to leave the commencement ceremony and this institution with the ultimate will to pursue whatever they want to pursue. We will see how it goes! Patrick has a unique combination of talents. He lets nothing stand in his way yet he approaches everything he does with a sense of kindness and caring towards others. It has been an honor to get to know Patrick and I imagine his future as a Wolfpack alumnus is very bright. With social media it is easy to stay in touch, but the physical distance is going to be tough. Also faculty and staffâ€¦and Howling Cow ice cream. This is a place where it does not matter who you are, or where you come from, or what you believe, where you are supported to achieve your goals if you are dedicated and willing to try your best. That is at the core of NC State University. What is your favorite Howling Cow flavor? That one is my favorite. He clearly knows what he is doing. Thirty years from now looking back: What kind of difference do you hope to have made? I think ever since I was a small kid I have adhered to a set of principles that I want society to live by. Everything that I do is supposed to contribute to the greater mission of making this world a place that is more just and more open for everyone. Having grown up with a physical disability, I have experienced both severe social injustice as well as extraordinary commitment aimed at remedying it. Thus, I am a strong believer in creating inclusive, individualized environments that provide the same opportunity to everyone. Kind of my own version of the American Dream. So, I will want to look back and have inspired people to pursue their individual hopes and to make the most out of themselves. What does it mean to be a part of the Pack to you?

**Chapter 6 : UNF - Commencement - Homepage**

*SAN LUIS OBISPO* – More than 4, students are eligible to graduate in three ceremonies at Cal Poly's spring commencement Saturday and Sunday, June 16 and The ceremonies will begin at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. Sunday in Spanos Stadium.

Remarks for Ronald J. Daniels Johns Hopkins University Commencement May 24, [As prepared] To our honorary degree recipients, alumni, and trustees, to our faculty and staff, to our parents, family members and friends; and most especially to our graduates, welcome to the Johns Hopkins University commencement for the great Class of ! Your transformation from timid first-years sneaking Chipotle into Brody to proud seniors striding in, burritos aloft, mid-bite. Your persistence in offloading your Iggy tickets to this day! And your domination of meme wars with an unnamed Midwestern university. Yes, your tremendous personal achievements are on full display today. But today, as you know, is not just about you. I also look forward to this moment because it is an opportunity to celebrate the people who helped you arrive here—the people who are here in person or here in spirit. Graduations are one of the great milestones in the life of a family, however you define it. You see, my father came to Canada as a 7-year-old boy with his parents and two older siblings. They arrived from Warsaw, Poland, as Jewish refugees in March , just months before Hitler invaded the country. For my father, the motivating force in his life was trying to make sense of this good fortune in escaping to Canada on the eve of the Holocaust, becoming educated, and having such a full and meaningful life. Indeed, in the hours before he passed away at the age of 78, he told me that when he learned he had a terminal illness, his first reaction was, not surprisingly, one of disappointment. He told me he had hoped to live to Why not go for 80, 85, something divisible by five. Dad replied that 83 was his target because he started to see his friends that age fail. For my dad, the dream was that if he made it to 83, he would go out at the top of his game. But then he paused and he reflected and said though he wished he had those five more years, he never lost sight of the 71 years he gained by having been spared at the age of 7. All told, he felt he had won the lottery of life. This is, of course, an intensely personal story. It is one that I come back to with some regularity—not only because of its centrality to my own life, but also because, like any good story, it holds new meaning in new moments. Something that recent public surveys show is being all too quickly forgotten. As historian Irving Abella has documented, during the time in which the Nazis governed Germany, from the early s to , the United States admitted only , Jewish refugees. The United Kingdom, 70, refugees. And Canada, inexplicably, fewer than 5, refugees, my dad and his immediate family among the lucky few. This jarring response reveals that the Canadian government was not simply misinformed about the plight of the Jews. They were at best disinterested, at worst active in turning away those in desperate need of refuge. There was no ambiguity about what was happening in Europe. Newspaper coverage, radio broadcasts, public opinion polls, and international conferences on the refugee crisis, and protests everywhere from Los Angeles to Bulgaria had all shone a light on the violence, discrimination, and persecution unleashed against Jews in Europe. In doing so, ugly prejudice and parochial tribalism were openly espoused and allowed to prevail. And of course, parts of this sound vaguely, hauntingly familiar. Around the world, examples of such prejudices are legion. And they are not consigned to history, but very much, tragically, part of our present. The rise of nativism in elections across Europe. The sectarian violence that is rending the Middle East. The increase in vicious activity among hate groups targeting people of color here in America. How does this continue to happen? Some of you may have studied it here at Hopkins. And as you may know, they began by recruiting 22 and year old American boys from similar backgrounds—same level of income, same educational backgrounds, same religious backgrounds—a and took them to a secluded summer camp. In classic color-war fashion, they were split into two groups—the Eagles and the Rattlers—and were thrown into a series of contests with one another. In a matter of days, these groups of boys began to dislike each other, intensely. Name-calling and vandalism quickly escalated to physical aggression and violence. Now, as soon-to-be Hopkins graduates you will discern that the ethics and methods of bringing unsuspecting boys to a fake camp for psychological experimentation do not quite hold up to modern research standards. How quickly the boys in

this studyâ€”boys who were so similar in so many waysâ€”came to cling to their relatively brief identification with a totally arbitrary group and turn on one another. Imagine what happens when instead of being pulled from an essentially homogenous group, people are separated and defined on the basis of race, religion, gender, or geography and pitted against one another? How quickly does the potential for immediate distrust and conflict then rise? Sadly, despite the technologies that promise to close the distances and misunderstandings between us, we live in a world today where unbridgeable divides seem to be growing. A world in which distinctions, like the racial and economic inequities that have long plagued this nation, are being further exacerbated. And our ability to discern the forces exacerbating these rifts, and then counter them, is ever more compromised and complicated. Mental fences are erected that limit our capacity to see others as fellow human beings deserving of recognition, respect, and compassion. Mental fences that allow people to tell themselves the stories they want to hear instead of grappling with the difficult, unnerving truths that are right in front of them. So here, graduates, this is where you come in. In your time at Johns Hopkins, you have gained skills, understanding, and perspectives that cross disciplines and schools of thought. You have learned to live with and learn from people who hold different views than your own, who come from very different backgrounds and have had different experiences. You have wrestled with complex ideas and brought to bear the tools of reason, evidence, principle, and debate. So today, I am calling on you. To use all that you have learned here to recognize and confront your own biases and to help others do the same. To create and support institutions that share your values, and challenge those leaders who do not. And indeed when they do not, vote. Be the kinds of citizens who will identify the mental fences that hold us back from extending opportunity to people who seek only the fair chance to build lives of decency and meaning. Be among thoseâ€”like your commencement speaker todayâ€”who are determined, committed, resolute about tearing those fences down. Iâ€”indeed, weâ€”are counting on you. In whatever way you heed this call, you will vindicate the work of those generations who built the civic, educational, and political institutions that have shaped good, sound, flourishing liberal democracies like the one we have in this country and have allowed us all to thrive and excel. And you will, with your words and deeds, imagine and construct even better ones. Of that I am sure. Class of , we are so very, very proud of you.

## Chapter 7 : Core to Commencement

*Commencement is our favorite time of year! We get to celebrate YOU, our graduates, and reward your hard work with a Purdue University diploma.*

She had received her diagnosis shortly before her first term of law school. Each person today has the opportunity to use the lessons learned at SLU to give a voice to a cause. He also took part in sacramental ministry at St. Francis Xavier College Church and at St. SLU has made that devotion its own, part of its Jesuit mission, and we see it in all who labor here. In a world too dominated by fear of the other and the divisions that promotes, a radical openness to others and the world represents a gift we all need. What Does a Billiken Look Like? Chaifetz School of Business graduate Timothy Gruensfelder. University President Fred P. Louis Mayor Francis G. Clay was active in the St. Louis Civil Rights Movement before being elected to Congress in He served 16 terms and was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus and guided initiatives aimed at protecting workers, disadvantaged students and families. His efforts are also credited with making St. Louis one of the fastest growing startup cities in the nation. Mercier received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree for his leadership and work with young Jesuits in formation. Golden Billikens will be honored at University commencements going forward. The song was written in by Alfred G. Robyn, a composer who traced his SLU roots back to his father, a musician and composer who taught at the University for several years. Pomp and Circumstance Commencement began with the traditional procession, with John Waide, University archivist emeritus and member of the Bicentennial Steering Committee, acting as mace bearer. With a blast of music, confetti, and streamers, those gathered in the arena raised their voices as the newest sons and daughters of SLU celebrated the beginning of their lives as SLU alumni. Members of the Class of pose for a photo on their big day. Photo by Steve Dolan Class of By the Numbers

## Chapter 8 : Notice of Commencement

*Commencement. Dear UNF Graduate: On behalf of the faculty of the University of North Florida I would like to congratulate you upon the successful completion of your degree. We recognize that your graduation is the culmination of years of hard work and dedication, and we share your pride in your accompl.*

## Chapter 9 : What is a Notice of Commencement? - Building Permits Storage - City of Bradenton

*Commencement will be held on Saturday, May 19, at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. For more information about Commencement and this year's program visit the website here.*