



Convocation

CONVOCATION | WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2025 | 11 A.M.

INSIGHT CREDIT UNION ARENA AT EDMUNDS CENTER | STETSON UNIVERSITY

DELAND, FLORIDA



INTERIM UNIVERSITY MACE BEARER

Richard G. Medlin, PhD, Professor of Psychology

FACULTY MARSHALS

George Glander, PhD, Senior Associate Dean, Professor of Physics

Monica Mendoza, PhD, Associate Dean, Associate Professor of Practice in Accounting

Tara Schuwerk, PhD, Associate Dean, Professor of Communication and Media Studies

Peter Smucker, PhD, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, Associate Professor of Music Theory

GONFALONIERS REPRESENTING FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

Maura Reilly '29, Bruin Webster '29

HONOR COUNCIL ~ PRESENTING THE HONOR PLEDGE AND CLASS GONFALONS '26, '27, '28

Diana Fudge '27, Mia Martinez '27, Khushi Patel '26, Odiya Smith '28,

Niki Taropawala '26, Tory Wojnarowski '27

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Christopher F. Roellke, PhD, President, Professor of American Studies and Education

Yiorgos Bakamitsos, PhD, Dean of the School of Business Administration, Professor of Marketing

D. Benjamin Barros, JD, Dean of the College of Law, Professor of Law

Davion Belk, MBA, Chief of Staff

Krista Bofill, MED, Executive Vice President and Chief of Development

Jeremy Digorio, MA, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

John Downey, PhD, Vice President of Campus Life and Student Success

Michael A. Eskanazi, PhD, Faculty Senate Chairs, Associate Professor of Psychology

Washington Garcia, DMA, Dean of the School of Music, Professor of Music (Piano)

Jeffery T. Gates, LPD, Senior Vice President of Enrollment Management and Marketing

Carmen Johnson, JD, Executive Officer for Institutional Inclusive Excellence

Kyle Longest, PhD, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Professor of Sociology

Harry Price, PhD, Associate Professor of Chemistry, Faculty Director of Brown Center for Faculty Innovation and Excellence

Ricky Ray, EDD, Director of Athletics

Lynn Schoenberg, EDS, Associate Vice President and Dean of Students, Campus Life and Student Success

Elizabeth Skomp, PhD, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Professor of World Languages and Cultures (Russian)

Katy Webb, MA, MLIS, Director of the duPont-Ball Library and Learning Technologies

2025 CONVOCATION PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2025

*PROCESSIONAL OF FACULTY AND PLATFORM PARTY

Rigaudon by Andre Campra, arr. by Seth Wexler

Thaxted by Gustav Holst, arr. by David Schmidt

Stetson University Brass Ensemble

Chandler L. Wilson, PhD

Assistant Professor of Music

Director of Bands

WELCOME

Elizabeth Skomp, PhD

Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

Professor of World Languages and Culture

INVOCATION

Rev. Kathryn Jeffrey

Interim University Chaplain

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Christopher F. Roellke, PhD

President

Professor of American Studies and Education

GREETING FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Steven Alexander '85

Chair, Board of Trustees

*LITANY FOR THE STETSON UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Jackson Bumgarner '26

President, Student Government Association

Leader: Stetson University students, faculty, staff, families and friends, we come together to celebrate and reaffirm our commitment to each other and to Stetson University, and to proclaim ourselves as active members of a loving and inclusive community.

Together: We strive to transform life for the welfare of all.

Leader: We celebrate and reaffirm our commitment to excellence in education as learners and teachers, and to our religious heritage, which inspires us to center our lives on the quest for meaning and truth.

Together: We strive to transform life for the welfare of all.

Leader: We celebrate and reaffirm our commitment to integrate education and action, scholarship and social responsibility, for the purpose of promoting justice on our campus, in our nation and throughout the world.

Together: We affirm our quest for knowledge and our commitment to transform life for the welfare of all.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Jessily Ramirez-Mendoza '08, EPHM, IMPH

2025 MCENIRY RECIPIENT ADDRESS

John F. Riggs, PhD

Professor of Practice in Marketing

Founding Director Centurion Sales Program

2025 McEniry Award for Excellence in Teaching

*HONOR PLEDGE

Daniel Coursen '27
President, Honor Council

All: By my actions and my example, I will strive to promote the ideals of honesty, responsibility, trust, fairness and respect, which are at the heart of Stetson University's Honor System.

*ALMA MATER

Emy Acosta '26
Giffin Scholarship Recipient

Dear Alma Mater, smile upon thy children,
Gladly we greet thee, altogether lovely!
Peace be within thy classic halls and temples.
Hail, Alma Mater dear!

Dear Alma Mater, tenderly thy children
Gather and bring to thee gracious salutations.
Comrades, your voices lift once again in chorus;
Hail, Alma Mater dear!

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Kathryn Jeffrey

*RECESSIONAL OF PLATFORM PARTY AND FACULTY

Gloria by Jacobus Gallus, arr. David Schmidt

Stetson University Brass Ensemble
Chandler L. Wilson, PhD

***The audience is asked to stand.**

Special thanks to Chandler L. Wilson, PhD, Assistant Professor of Music, Director of Bands and members of the Brass Ensemble

Trumpets - Abigail Clouser '27, Carrie Helms '27, Elinor "Ellie" Kos '28, Jace Frohlich '28, Seth Mullet '28

Horns - Carlissa Gudino '27, Elizabeth Stebleton '28

Trombones - Alexis Bean '27, Grey Justice '26, Sebastian Puerta '27

Euphonium - Charles Gavin McNabb '26

Tuba - Aidan Blust '28, Angelo Garcia '28

COMMUNITY LUNCH

Please join us for a complimentary lunch in the Lynn Dining Commons and Warren and Barbara Carr Stetson Room following the ceremony. Students, faculty and staff are asked to bring their Stetson IDs for entry.

Convocation is a cultural credit opportunity.

THE PRESIDENTIAL CHAIN OF OFFICE

The President's Chain of Office, worn at all official academic occasions, was first used by Stetson's sixth president, John E. Johns, PhD. The original medallion is the university seal embraced by a wreath of laurel.

During the inauguration of Christopher F. Roellke, PhD, the university's 10th president, the Board of Trustees presented a new Chain of Office, honoring the names of the presidents of the institution. At the bottom of the Chain is a banner that bears the inscription President, below which sits the official Presidential Medallion, a round medal with the Seal of the University.

ACADEMIC REGALIA

The traditional pageantry of an academic procession is one of the impressive spectacles of our time. The array of handsome gowns and vividly colored hoods worn by the faculty and administration are the symbols of scholarly attainment.

FACULTY COLORS

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Arts, Letters, Humanities | White |
| Business, Accountancy | Drab |
| Economics | Copper |
| Education | Light Blue |
| Fine Arts | Brown |
| Journalism | Crimson |
| Law | Purple |
| Library Science | Lemon |
| Music | Pink |
| Oratory (Speech) | Silver Gray |
| Philosophy | Dark Blue |
| Physical Education | Sage Green |
| Public Administration | Peacock Blue |
| Science | Golden Yellow |
| Social Science | Cream |
| Social Work | Citron |
| Theology | Scarlet |

THE UNIVERSITY SEAL

The circular seal of Stetson University was first adopted between 1889 and 1891, around the time the name of the institution changed from DeLand College to John B. Stetson University. It first appeared on a university catalogue in 1891. The drawing was by an artist-in-residence and approved by President John F. Forbes, Henry DeLand, and John B. Stetson, as well as by the Board of Trustees. The Latin motto, "Pro Deo et Veritate," is translated "For God and Truth." The lamp, signifying the "Light of Truth," rests on the "Book of Wisdom."

MACE

Maces were originally war instruments, but since the 13th century have been carried by the sergeant-at-arms of educational entities. The mace symbolizes the dignity and authority of the President and the Board of Trustees. The Stetson University mace, designed by Episcopal Canon Edward Nason West of the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, New York, was presented to President J. Ollie Edmunds in 1956.

GONFALONS

Gonfalons are thought to have originated in Western Europe during the Middle Ages, when such banners displayed the personal coat of arms of a nobleman and were used as war flags hung from a horizontal bar and carried on a staff or suspended from a knight's lance. As early as the 12th century, they were commonly used at state and religious ceremonies. Such pageantry finds a place today in the academic ceremonies of many colleges and universities. The gonfalons prominently feature the university seal and the class year. The stately Elizabeth Hall cupola graces each gonfalon as a symbol of our heritage. The bearers are outstanding members of the student body who have been selected for their high academic standing and confirmed by the president of the university for this honor.

THE FLAG

The university flag, designed by an alumna in 1976, features Stetson University's official seal in the center, surrounded by the university's colors of green and white.