Martha D. Saunders, Ph.D.

Presidential Inauguration

April 21, 2017
Martha D. Saunders, Ph.D.
Sixth President of the
University of West Florida

Friday, April 21, 2017

Two O’Clock in the Afternoon
Center for Fine and Performing Arts
University of West Florida
Pensacola Campus
The custom of wearing academic regalia dates back to the 12th century when caps and gowns marked the formal admission to the body of Masters. The gowns served a practical purpose to protect teachers from the cold buildings of the time. Many of these early teachers were monks; therefore the hoods resembled a monk’s cowl that attached to the gown and could be pulled over the head. Later versions featured a detached hood.

The European tradition of academic regalia traveled to the United States. In 1895, the United States adopted a specific code for academic apparel that has had slight modifications since its adoption. Until the Civil War, students at most American universities wore caps and gowns daily while in residence. Today, the academic regalia is reserved for special occasions like inauguration and commencement ceremonies.

The Gown

The gown is made from a black material with varying degrees of fullness. The sleeves indicate a person’s academic credentials. Those with a bachelor’s degree have long, pointed sleeves and the gown is worn with a closed front. A person with a master’s degree wears the gown open with a distinctive full length square sleeves that are crescent shaped at the bottom. The doctoral gowns are worn closed and have velvet panels on the front with full, round open sleeves with three bars.

The Hood

Academic hoods tell an individual’s academic story. The master’s hood is three and a half feet long and has velvet edging while a doctorate hood is four feet long with wide panels at either side and velvet edging. The colors of the edging indicate the discipline: apricot (nursing), brown (architecture and fine arts), citron yellow (social work), crimson (journalism/communications), dark blue (philosophy), green (medicine), lemon (library science), light blue (education), orange (engineering), peacock blue (public administration), pink (music), purple (law), sage green (physical education), scarlet (theology), white (arts and humanities) and science gold (science).

The Cap

Academic caps vary by institution. Some use black mortarboards with black or colored tassels that relate to the conferred degree. Gold tassels are frequently worn for doctoral degrees. Some institutions have adopted a tam instead of the traditional mortarboard.

Regalia for President Saunders

President Saunders will wear a specially designed gown of UWF green with four black chevrons indicating the Office of the President. The gown includes the official University Seal. Her eight-sided tam is topped with a metallic gold tassel.
The University Gonfalon

Gonfalons are ceremonial flags or banners suspended from a crossbar. The use of gonfalons dates back to the 1500s when the republics of Italy used them as state or office symbols. As part of our 50th Anniversary celebration, UWF commissioned a University Gonfalon that is being unveiled today. The gonfalon features the name of the University, the University Seal and the founding date. The University's colors of blue and green serve as a background for the emblems.

University Mace

The mace symbolizes the University's governing authority and signifies that the proceedings have official sanction. The use of a mace dates back to medieval times in England when a mace was held by bodyguards for dignitaries at ceremonial functions. The U.S. House of Representatives uses a mace to indicate when the House is in session. The University Marshall carries the mace during academic processions. The University of West Florida's ebony mace was a gift to the University in 1969 by a private donor. The head of the mace features an encrusted seal of the University and the State University System.

The University Seal

Oliver Wendell Holmes’ poem, “The Chambered Nautilus,” inspired the University of West Florida’s official symbol, which was selected by Dr. Harold Bryan Crosby, the founding president of UWF. The nautilus shell rests on a shield of colors representing the green of the sea and the blue of the sky as well as the vast knowledge that we have explored and the future yet to be conquered. It bears the date of the University’s creation by the Legislature—1963.

The Presidential Medallion

Each president of UWF has worn a medallion embossed with the seals of the University and the State University System on ceremonial occasions. President Saunders will receive the chain of office during her inaugural ceremony today, marking her as the sixth president of UWF.

The Procession

The order of the inauguration is steeped in tradition. Gonfalons that symbolize the different academic areas of the University decorate the Hall.

Delegates

Other colleges and universities send delegates to march in the inaugural procession. The delegates march according to the institution’s founding date, with the oldest college or university going first.

Learned Societies

Learned societies, which are organizations of scholars devoted to the promotion of research, scholarly publication and education within their fields, send a representative to the inauguration ceremony.

University Marshal and College Marshals

Like many higher education traditions, the title of marshal originates from medieval Europe when marshals were trusted advisors. The University Marshal carries the University Mace. During today’s procession, the Mace, carried by the University Marshal, precedes President Emeritus Judith Bense. For the recession, the mace precedes our newly inaugurated president, Dr. Martha D. Saunders.

Presidential Escort

The University’s most senior faculty member, Dr. Allen Josephs, professor in the Department of English, will escort President Martha D. Saunders into the ceremony. Dr. Josephs, who has taught at the UWF since 1969, is a world-renowned Hemingway scholar.

The Chambered Nautilus

by Oliver Wendell Holmes

Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul,
As the swift seasons roll!
Leave thy low-vaulted past!
Let each new temple, nobler than the last,
Shut thee from heaven with a dome more vast,
Till thou at length are free,
Leaving thine outgrown shell by life’s unresting sea!
The University of West Florida

At the University of West Florida, we see change and rush forward.

For 50 years, the best and brightest minds have gathered at UWF, connecting coursework to careers in business and education; training professionals for an ever-changing healthcare landscape; preparing future scientists with hands-on experiences in the lab; preserving history through a world-class archaeology program. What started out as a ripple in 1967 has grown into a wave—of innovation, collaboration and creativity. Or, as it’s known at UWF—Sea Change.

Based in Pensacola with additional locations in the region, UWF is home to five academic colleges, offering a variety of bachelor’s and master’s degree programs, as well as specialist degrees and a doctorate in education. With a student population of nearly 13,000, UWF is committed to a close-knit academic experience and is consistently named a top “military friendly” University. In 2016, UWF added football to its roster of NCAA Division II sports.

In 2015, UWF was recognized for its community engagement by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. A driver of economic impact in Northwest Florida and beyond, UWF generates approximately $1.47 billion in total annual sales across the Florida economy.

At UWF, we see change coming, faster than ever, and we’re ready for it. Because we’re leading it.

50th Anniversary

In the last 50 years, the University of West Florida has undergone a profound transformation. It’s grown from a graduating class of 58 students to more than 80,000 alumni who are making an impact across the world, as nurses, teachers, engineers, historians and entrepreneurs. What started out as a pine forest has become the forward-thinking, innovative side of Florida. Fifty years ago was just the beginning. Here’s to the next 50 years of creation, innovation and transformation.

Let’s make some waves. Sea Change.
Past Presidents

Dr. Judith Bense 2008-2016
Dr. Judith Bense became the fifth president of the University of West Florida on July 1, 2008, after serving at the University for 28 years. President Bense focused on growth, visibility, enhancing the student “collegiate” experience and partnerships with the goal of making UWF a first-choice University. She built a solid network of community partners, identified regional workforce needs, increased enrollment and strengthened academic programs to prepare students for future leadership. Bense founded the UWF Division of Anthropology and Archaeology in 1980, becoming the first academic chair in 2001. She also established the Archaeology Institute in 1980 and served as its director for 20 years.

Dr. John Cavanaugh 2002-2008
Dr. John C. Cavanaugh became UWF’s fourth president and the first named by the Board of Trustees on July 15, 2002. During his six years at UWF, the Board of Trustees adopted a new campus master plan, the Florida Legislature approved UWF’s four-year nursing program, the University launched a degree in hospitality, recreation and resort management, graduate classes in historic preservation began in Historic Pensacola Village and the UWF baseball field, renamed Pelican Park, became host to the professional team, Pensacola Pelicans.

Dr. Morris Marx 1988-2002
Dr. Morris Leon Marx, the third UWF president, was inaugurated in September 1988. During Marx’s tenure, Congress approved the 136-acre land swap to create the permanent Okaloosa-Walton College-UWF joint Fort Walton Beach campus, which then opened in 1992. Additionally, UWF joined NCAA Division II, John C. Pace Jr. left UWF his $12 million estate and the Foundation capital campaign netted $32 million. During Marx’s presidency, the University conferred its first doctoral degrees in education, purchased additional land bringing the size of the Pensacola campus to 1,600 acres and the Archaeology Institute raised the anchor from the Tristan de Luna ship in Pensacola Bay. In 2001, West Florida Historic Preservation Inc., now UWF Historic Trust, became a direct support organization of UWF.

Dr. James Robinson 1974-1988
Dr. James Arthur Robinson, the second UWF president, took the helm in December 1974. During his 14 years as president, the University experienced several significant milestones, including the establishment of the campus art gallery, Edward Ball Nature Trail, Small Business Development Center, aquatic center, WUWF-FM, Argonaut baseball and softball teams, 400-meter track and computer center. Under Robinson’s leadership, the University’s colleges were restructured to traditional arts and sciences, business and education in 1979. UWF switched to the semester system in 1981 and the first freshman class was admitted in 1983.

Dr. Harold Crosby 1964-1974
Dr. Harold Bryan Crosby was selected as the first UWF president and assumed office in July 1964. In his first year, Escambia County purchased 13 parcels of land for $1.2 million to form the 1,000-acre campus, ground was broken for the first UWF buildings, the University adopted the Nautilus shell as its official emblem, the UWF Foundation was chartered and the first classes were offered in the name of the University. Other accomplishments during Crosby’s tenure include the selection of the Argonaut as the UWF mascot, the naming of the John C. Pace Library, the SACS accreditation of University undergraduate program, the establishment of the UWF Fort Walton Beach Center and the presentation of the first distinguished teaching awards.
Dr. Martha Dunagin Saunders received a doctorate in communication theory and research from Florida State University. She earned a master’s degree in journalism from the University of Georgia and a bachelor’s degree in French from the University of Southern Mississippi.

She began her career in higher education at the University of West Florida in 1984 as an instructor in the communication arts department. Little did she know that one day she would return to the University as its sixth president.

Dr. Saunders rose through the ranks at UWF, taking on several roles including coordinator of the public relations program for the communication arts department (1986-1996), director of University Honors Program, and dean for the College of Arts and Sciences (1999-2002). At the urging of then President Morris Marx, Saunders left UWF to take on jobs with increased responsibilities. First she became vice president for academic affairs at Columbus State University in Columbus, Georgia. During her time there, she led the creation of Centers of Excellence that resulted in more private-public partnerships. She helped lead a successful $100 million capital campaign, led the campus strategic planning process and developed initiatives to increase student enrollment and faculty retention.
Saunders served as the first female chancellor for the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater from 2005 to 2007. She then led the University of Southern Mississippi as president from 2007 to 2012. In 2013, she returned to UWF as provost and was appointed as executive vice president in 2014. As provost of UWF, Dr. Saunders oversaw the reorganization of the University’s colleges. She also established the UWF Innovation Institute, the Center for Research and Economic Opportunity, University College, the UWF Center for Cybersecurity and the Office of Equity, Diversity and International Programs. Under her guidance, UWF established two new colleges—the Usha Kundu, MD College of Health and the Hal Marcus College of Science and Engineering.

Throughout her career in higher education, President Saunders has taught thousands of students. Her philosophy of education follows three simple guiding principles: know your students, connect them to bigger things and set a good example.

She was selected for the Fulbright International Administrators Program in France in 2015. She has received numerous recognitions for her achievements, including 50 Top Business Women in Mississippi (2012), National Stevie Award for Women in Business (2011), National Silver Anvil Award from the Public Relations Society of America for a campaign to enrich the brand of a research university (2011), Carnegie Community Engagement Classification (2011) and the University of Southern Mississippi Alumni Hall of Fame (2010).
The Platform Parties

University Gonfalon
Dr. Cheng Zhang, Engineering

University Marshal
Dr. Daniel Drost, Exercise Science and Community Health

Members of the Board of Trustees
Mort O’Sullivan, Chair
Dave Cleveland, Vice Chair
Dick Baker
Lewis Bear, Jr.
Greg Britton
Dr. Ted Fox, President, Faculty Senate
Jacob Hebert, President, Student Government Association
Suzanne Lewis
Lu Timothy May

Chairs of Affiliated Boards
K.C. Clark, Chair, UWF Business Enterprises, Inc.
Collier Merrill, Chair, UWF Historic Trust
Gordon Sprague, Chair, UWF Foundation, Inc.
Brett Barrow, President, UWF National Alumni Association Board

State University System of Florida
Marshall Criser III, Chancellor

Florida College System
Madeline Pumariega, Chancellor

Mayor of the City of Pensacola
The Honorable Ashton Hayward

Past Presidents
Mrs. Connie Crosby, Representing Dr. Harold Crosby, First President
Dr. Morris Marx, Third President
Dr. John Cavanaugh, Fourth President
Dr. Judith Bense, Fifth President

President’s Cabinet
Dr. George Ellenberg, Interim Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs
Dr. Kevin Bailey, Vice President, Student Affairs
Dr. Meredith Brunen, Interim Vice President, University Advancement
Dr. Steve Cunningham, Vice President, Finance and Administration
James Felder, Interim General Counsel
Dr. Joffery Gaymon, Associate Vice President, Enrollment Affairs
Dr. Kim LeDuff, Chief Diversity Officer and Dean and Associate Vice Provost, University College
Dr. Pam Northrup, Vice President, Research and Strategic Innovation
Dr. Mark Roltsch, Assistant Vice President, Research and Sponsored Programs

University Deans
Dr. Steven Brown, Dean, College of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities
Dr. Timothy O’Keefe, Dean, College of Business
Dr. Michael Huggins, Dean, Hal Marcus College of Science and Engineering
Dr. Ermalynn Kiehl, Dean, Usha Kundu, MD College of Health
Dr. William Crawley, Dean, College of Education and Professional Studies
Robert Dugan, Dean, University Libraries

UWF Staff Senate
Dr. Eric Kollar, President, Staff Senate

Senior Faculty Member
Dr. Allen Josephs, English

Our Sixth President
Dr. Martha D. Saunders

Learned Societies

Alpha Psi Omega
Hope Englestad

Beta Alpha Psi
James Williams

American Society of Mechanical Engineers
Amelia Leenig

Chi Sigma Alpha
Taylor Williams

Eta Kappa Nu
Winston Riley

National Society of Leadership and Success
Chloe Diehl

Order of Omega
Cassidy Koch

Psi Chi
Levi M. Haven
### Institutions Sending Delegates

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Alma Mater
of the
University of West Florida

Where learning’s light sends forth its beam through darkness of our youth,
There you, West Florida, home of dreams Prepare the way of truth.
You guide us toward tomorrow’s shore With knowledge of our past;
Your power in us rests secure, And evermore will last.
Your stately mansions were our home Where minds and hearts are free
And though we may far from you roam, We’ll always honor thee.

Composer: Lynn Lauderdale, D.M.A.
Lyricist: A. Michael Yots, Ph.D.

Marshal for the
Ceremony

University Marshal
Dr. Daniel Drost
Assistant Professor, Exercise Science and Community Health
Usha Kunda, MD College of Health

The Color Guard

U.S. Army ROTC
Cadet John McCormack
Cadet Isaac Kimbrell

U.S. Air Force ROTC
Cadet Ashley Curtis
Cadet Kenneth Anshro

Committee for the
Inauguration

Irene A. Patti, Chair
Bonnie Bell
Brittany Boyd
Jerre Brisky
Carol Britton
Pat Crawford
Megan Gonzalez
Cindy Harigel
Meredith Jones
Becky Luntsford
Fifty years ago was just the beginning. Here’s to the next 50 years of creation, innovation and transformation.