

[Everyone remains standing until processional completes and the music ends.]

President Cost: Good morning, everyone. Welcome to our spring 2018 bacculaureate

Thanks to all of you for being with us.

President Cost: Now, it's my distinct pleasure to introduce today's keynote speaker, a true visionary in the economic and public policy arena for the past several decades and someone I greatly admire, the president of the **American Enterprise Institute (AEI)** since January 1, 2009, Arthur Brooks. He is the **Beth and Ravenel Curry Scholar in Free Enterprise** at **AEI**. Before joining **AEI**, was the **Louis A. Bantle Professor of Business and Government** at **Syracuse University**, where he taught economics and social entrepreneurship. Before pursuing his work in academia and public policy, he spent 12 years as a classical musician here in the **United States** and in **Spain**. He is a contributing opinion writer for **The New York Times**, and is the bestselling author of 11 books on topics which include the role of government, economic opportunity, happiness, and the morality of free enterprise. His latest book is a **New York Times** bestseller that focuses on building a fairer, happier, and more prosperous America. He has also published dozens of academic journal articles and the textbook titled "Social Entrepreneurship." He holds both a Ph.D. and a Master of Philosophy in policy analysis from the **Pardee RAND Graduate School**. He also holds an M.A. in economics from **Florida Atlantic University** and a B.A. in economics from **Thomas Edison State College**.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming to the podium a person of the highest

Whereas, Dr. Brooks frequently contributes to The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Commentary Magazine, and other publications, and is an influential voice in the arenas of social science, policy, the fine arts, and higher education; and Whereas, Jacksonville University is better from having gained from Dr. Brooks' expertise, guidance, and insights, and the University was honored to host Dr. Brooks as an admired keynote Commencement speaker.

Be It Further Resolved, that this Resolution be presented to Arthur C. Brooks on the 28th day of April 2018, in Jacksonville, Florida, and a copy of this document be

source of strength—changed my life, focused my work, and made me into the leader I always wanted to be.

Now, for those of you hoping I would forget about that homework assignment, sorry to disappoint you, but here it is. I want you to ask yourself the following questions:

First, is my heart open to risk? Am I ready to be a life entrepreneur?

Second, what is my weakness? What have I been hiding or running away from? How can I use it to connect with others—

Mamie Lue Catalina Pelaez Small. In the Brooks Rehabilitation College of Healthcare Sciences, for the Keigwin School of Nursing, the 2018 recipient of the Richard H. Malone Award as Student of the Year is Julie Lauren Kimbrough. And for the Department of Kinesiology, the Student of the Year is... Emily K. Barton. Congratulations to each of you. Your dedication and achievements inspire us all.

Please note that several other highly accomplished students graduating today were formally recognized by their respective divisions and departments in separate awards ceremonies, and their names are listed in your program on pages 6 & 7. At this time, we are excited to recognize some extraordinary graduates receiving today our most prestigious University Awards: the **President's Award for Outstanding Leadership**, the **University Award for Outstanding Service and Co-Curricular Involvement**, and the **Fred B. Noble Gold Medal for Scholarship**. When each recipient is announced, we ask that you stand and be recognized, and at the conclusion of today's ceremony, we invite the recipients of these distinguished awards to join President Cost at the podium to receive their award and take a commemorative photo.

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At this time, please welcome my esteemed colleague, Provost and Senior Vice President for University and Academic Affairs, **Dr. Donnie Horner**, to recognize our faculty.

[Dr. Gover is seated and Dr. Horner proceeds to the podium.]

Dr. Horner: Thank you Dr. Gover. Now, will our faculty please stand? This is an outstanding group of dedicated professionals who have led you well, wouldn't you agree, Class of

Dr. Horner: **Mr. President**, it is my privilege and pleasure, on behalf of the University faculties, to certify that these bachelor's degree candidates and dual degree candidates have met, or are scheduled to meet, all requirements for their respective degrees, and to present them to you for the conferring of their degrees.

[Dr. Horner is seated.]

President Cost: By the authority granted to Jacksonville University, by virtue of its charter and articles of incorporation according to the laws of the **State of Florida**, I have received the recommendations of the faculty, who in solemn session have declared you worthy of your respective degrees and have recommended the granting of such degrees.

So, by virtue of my authority, delegated by the **Board of Trustees**, I hereby confer upon each of you the bachelor's or dual master's degree from **Jacksonville University** with all the rights and privileges pertaining thereto.

Jacksonville University graduates, Class of 2018, it is now time to turn your tassels to the left-hand side and allow me to be the first to say congratulations!

Please be seated.

Will the marshals now escort our graduates by rows to the platform. Continuing a JU tradition, we invite all family members to also stand as their graduate is announced. I also

Capt. Leverette: As the Commanding Officer of the Jacksonville University **Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps** unit, it is my honor to present these officers.

Later this afternoon, they will take the oath of office, and swear their allegiance to our nation and to our constitution. At that time, they will be presented their commission from the **President of the United States**, as commissioned officers have been presented since 1775.

Their commission reads as follows:

The **President of the United States of America**, to all who shall see these, presents greeting: know ye that, reposing special trust and confidence in the patriotism, valor, fidelity, and abilities of so named officer, I do appoint him/her an **Ensign** in the **United States Navy** or **Second Lieutenant** in the **United States Marine Corps** to rank as such from the 28th day of April, two thousand and eighteen.

This officer will therefore, carefully and diligently discharge the duties of the office to which appointed by doing and performing all manner of things thereunto belonging.

And, I do strictly charge and require those officers and other personnel of lesser rank to render such obedience as is due an officer of this grade and position.

And, this officer is to observe and follow such orders and directions from time to time, as may be given by the **President of the United States of America** or other superior officers, acting in accordance with the laws of the **United States of America**.

This commission is to continue in force during the pleasure of the **President of the United States of America** under the provisions of those public laws relating to officers of the armed forces of the **United States of America** and the component thereof in which this appointment is made.

Done at the city of **Washington**, this 28th day of April in the Year of our Lord, two thousand and eighteen, and of the independence of the **United States of America**, the two hundred and forty-second (242nd) by President Donald John Trump.

Graduates, congratulations and Godspeed!

[Misha marches out with Commissioned Officers & then makes her way back around for Senior Gift presentation. Capt. Leverette is seated & President Cost returns to podium]

President Cost: Thank you, **Captain Leverette**, and congratulations to our exemplary

Acknowledging that investment from the Class of 2018, is **Misha Chalkley**, immediate past president of the JU

me immediately following the ceremony at the podium to receive your awards, then we will walk over together and take pictures at the Dolphin statues.

At this time, we welcome back **The RiverTones** to lead us in the **Jacksonville University Alma Mater**. You can find the words on page 3 of your program. We invite you to please stand and remain standing for the benediction following the Alma Mater.

[President Cost returns to his seat & remains standing.]

The RiverTones: On the banks of the wide St. Johns stands our alma mater dear, where by striving and through our friendships, we find a pathway clear. It's the place where our thoughts return as through this busy world we roam, for our memories will always lead us back to our college home.

[On conclusion of the Alma Mater, The RiverTones depart, & all remain standing. Tim Cost returns to the podium.]

President Cost: Thank you to The RiverTones for that beautiful rendition of our Alma Mater.

[Audrey Moran proceeds to podium]

And now, we welcome back **Audrey Moran** to conclude our ceremony by offering the benediction. Audrey?

[President Cost steps aside & remains standing, & Audrey Moran to the podium.]

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