University of South Carolina

Commencement Exercises

August 8, 2015
Colonial Life Arena
Order of Exercises

PRESIDING
Dr. Harris Pastides
President

PRELUDE
The USC Commencement Orchestra

PROCESSIONS
The University Mace
The University Faculties
The University Officials and Guests
The University Deans
The Board of Trustees and Distinguished Guests
The President

NATIONAL ANTHEM
Ms. Erika Lynn Bryant
Baccalaureate Degree Candidate in Music, School of Music

INVOCATION
The Reverend Frank W. Anderson
Lutheran Campus Ministry

OPENING REMARKS
The President

CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREE
The President
Dr. Helen I. Doerpinghaus
Interim Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Provost
The Honorable Amy E. Stone
Secretary of the Board of Trustees
HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT
Ronald Alvin DeVore
*Insightful Mathematician, Acclaimed Researcher, and Distinguished Educator*

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS
Jean Hoefer Toal
*Successful Lawyer, Renowned Trailblazer, and Respected Chief Justice*

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES
The Interim Provost

CONFERRING OF DEGREES IN COURSE
The President

ALUMNI WELCOME
Ms. Paula Harper Bethea
*President, Carolina Alumni Association*

BENEDICTION
Mr. Anderson

ALMA MATER
Ms. Bryant

RECESSIONAL
The USC Commencement Orchestra
CITATION FOR THE HONORARY DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF SCIENCE
RONALD ALVIN DEVORE

Ronald Alvin DeVore, the former director of the Industrial Mathematics Institute at the University of South Carolina who is credited with expanding the academic reputation of the university's Department of Mathematics over three decades, was born May 14, 1941, in Detroit, Michigan. After receiving a bachelor of science degree in mathematics from Eastern Michigan University in 1964, he earned a doctor of philosophy in mathematics from Ohio State University in 1967.

He began his teaching career at Oakland University in 1968, and joined the mathematics faculty at the University of South Carolina in 1977, serving as the Robert L. Sumwalt Professor of Mathematics from 1986 to 2005. He founded and directed the Industrial Mathematics Institute from 1999 to 2005. During his 28 years at the university, Mr. DeVore played an instrumental role in converting the mathematics department from one with no external research support to one of the top 10 funded programs in the United States. This was accomplished largely through his efforts in encouraging younger faculty to develop research programs and compete for external research awards.

After retiring from Carolina in 2005, Mr. DeVore was a visiting faculty member at Rice University, the Courant Institute at New York University and the Fondation Sciences Mathématiques de Paris. Since 2008, he has been the Walter E. Koss Professor at Texas A&M University and was named Distinguished Professor at that institution in 2010.

He has been active in development of many areas of applied mathematics such as numerical analysis of partial differential equations, machine learning algorithms, approximation of functions, wavelet transforms and statistics. His work has influenced such diverse fields as digital imaging and signal processing, autonomous navigation of robotic vehicles, target identification and tracking, medical imaging and automatic numeric control of dynamic equations used in simulation and analysis of physical processes.

Mr. DeVore has garnered numerous awards, including an Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship in 1975-76, the Journal of Complexity Outstanding Paper Award in 2000, the Bulgarian Gold Medal of Science in 2001, the Humboldt Prize in 2002, the ICS Hot Paper Award in 2003 and the SPIE Wavelet Pioneer Award in 2007. He was a plenary lecturer at the International Congress of Mathematicians in 2006, a capstone achievement in the field of pure and applied mathematics.

In 2001 he became a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and in 2007 he became a member of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. In 2012 he became a fellow of the American Mathematical Society.

Mr. DeVore and his wife, Jana, have been married 56 years and have two children, six grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. They are avid Gamecock football and basketball fans.

For his seminal work in the field of applied mathematics; for his dedication to mathematics research and professional development of fellow mathematics faculty; and for his commitment to the ideals of higher education; the University of South Carolina, with the approval of its Board of Trustees, now presents Ronald Alvin DeVore for the honorary degree of Doctor of Science.