

Class of 2014

ACADEMIC PROCESSION	Brass Consortium Quintet
WELCOME	Alfred Tatum Interim Dean, College of Education
NATIONAL ANTHEM	Kelly Longmire
GREETINGS AND REMARKS	Paula Allen-Meares Chancellor of the University of Illinois at Chicago
INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER	Alfred Tatum
COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER	Barrington Irving Touch the Sky
RECOGNITION OF FACULTY HONORS	Alfred Tatum
PRESENTATION OF DOCTORAL DEAN'S MERIT AWARD	Alfred Tatum
Doctoral Dean's Merit Award Recipient	Florence Manning
PRESENTATION OF PhD CANDIDATES (see list on page 21)	Alfred Tatum
	Laura Lee Junker Associate Dean, Graduate College
PhD DEGREE CONFERRAL	Paula Allen-Meares
PRESENTATION OF EdD CANDIDATES (see list on page 22)	Alfred Tatum
	Laura Lee Junker
EdD DEGREE CONFERRAL	Paula Allen-Meares
HOODING AND PRESENTATION OF DOCTORAL GRADUATES	Joshua Radinsky Associate Professor, Curriculum and Instruction
	College of Education Faculty

PRESENTATION OF MEd DEAN’S MERIT AWARD Alfred Tatum

MEd Dean’s Merit Award Recipient Marcos Hernandez

PRESENTATION OF MEd CANDIDATES (see list on page 21) Alfred Tatum

Laura Lee Junker

MEd DEGREE CONFERRAL Paula Allen-Meares

PRESENTATION OF MEd GRADUATES Daniel Maggin
 Assistant Professor, Special Education

Andrea Evans
 Associate Professor, Educational Policy Studies

PRESENTATION OF BA DEAN’S MERIT AWARD Alfred Tatum

BA Dean’s Merit Award Recipient Tremell Goins, Jr.

PRESENTATION OF BA CANDIDATES (see list on page 22) Alfred Tatum

BA DEGREE CONFERRAL Paula Allen-Meares

PRESENTATION OF BA DIPLOMAS Eleni Katsarou
 Clinical Full Professor, Curriculum and Instruction

ALUMNI WELCOME Pamela Konkol
 College of Education Alumni Association

SONG, “YOU RAISE ME UP” Kelly Longmire

CLOSING REMARKS Alfred Tatum

RECESSIONAL **Brass Consortium Quintet**
Audience is requested to remain seated until the academic recession is completed.

PLATFORM PARTY **Paula Allen-Meares**
Alfred Tatum
Laura Lee Junker
Barrington Irving
Daniel Maggin
Andrea Evans
Joshua Radinsky
Eleni Katsarou
Pamela Konkol
Celina Sima
Joyce Eisen
Florence Manning
Marcos Hernandez
Tremell Goins, Jr.

MARSHALS **Rose Becerra**
Eboni Caridine
Jennifer DeLago
Marietta Giovannelli
Alisha Patterson
Ana Valenta
Elise Wilson

MUSICIANS **Kelly Longmire**
Soloist

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER**Barrington Irving**

Pilot and Educator

"Kids want to be challenged, but today too many are bored and uninspired. I want to use aviation to excite and empower a new generation to become scientists, engineers, and explorers."

Barrington Irving is very good at rising above obstacles. Literally. Raised in Miami's inner city, surrounded by crime, poverty, and failing schools, he beat the odds to become the youngest person and only African American ever to fly solo around the world. He built a plane himself, made his historic flight, graduated magna cum laude from an aeronautical science program, and founded a dynamic educational nonprofit. Then he turned 28.

His message for kids: "The only thing that separates you from CEOs in corner offices or scientists in labs is determination, hard work, and a passion for what you want to achieve. The only person who can stop you from doing something great is you. Even if no one believes in your dream, you have to pursue it." The secret, he believes, is having a dream in the first place, and that starts with powerful learning experiences that inspire kids to pursue careers—particularly in science, technology, engineering, and math.

The moment of inspiration for Irving came at age 15 while working in his parent's bookstore. One of their customers, a Jamaican born professional pilot, asked Irving if he'd ever thought about becoming a pilot. "I told him I didn't think I was smart enough; but the next day he gave me the chance to sit in the cockpit of the commercial airplane he flew, and just like that I was hooked. There are probably millions of kids out there like me who find science and exploration amazing, but lack the confidence or opportunity to take the next step."

To follow his dream, Irving turned down a full football scholarship to the University of Florida. He washed airplanes to earn money for flight school and increased his flying skills by practicing at home on a forty-dollar flight simulator video game.

Then another dream took hold: flying solo around the world. He faced more than 50 rejections for sponsorship before convincing several manufacturers to donate individual aircraft components. He orchestrated the assembly of the plane from the donated parts and took off with no weather radar, no de-icing system, and just thirty dollars in his pocket. "I like to do things people say I can't do."

After 97 days, 26 stops, and dozens of thunderstorms, monsoons, snowstorms, and sandstorms, he touched down to a roaring crowd in Miami. "Stepping from the plane, it wasn't all the fanfare that changed my life. It was seeing so many young people watching and listening. I had no money, but I was determined to give back with my time, knowledge, and experience." He has been doing it ever since.

Irving's nonprofit, Experience Aviation, aims to boost the numbers of youth in aviation and other science and math related careers. Middle and high school students attend summer and after-school programs tackling hands-on robotics projects, flight simulator challenges, and field trips to major industries and corporations. In his "Build and Soar" program, 60 students from failing schools built an airplane from scratch in just ten weeks and then watched Irving pilot it into the clouds. "We want to create a one-of-a-kind opportunity for students to take ownership and accomplish something amazing," he notes. "Meaningful, real-world learning experiences fire up the neurons in kids' minds. If you don't do that, you've lost them. Purposeful, inspiring activities increase the chance they'll stay on that learning and career path. We've had one young lady receive a full scholarship to Duke University as a math major and several young men are now pilots, engineers, and aircraft mechanics."

"It's great to reach a few hundred kids every year," he says, "but I also wanted to find a way to inspire on a larger scale." How about millions of kids? Irving's next endeavor will transform a jet into a flying classroom that will circle the globe in three two-month trips, sharing science, technology, engineering, math, geography, culture, and history. "This isn't just an aircraft; it's an exploration vehicle for learning that will teach millions of kids in ways they've never been taught before—making them part of the expedition and research." The web-based experience will make it easy for kids to participate at home and school, voting on everything from where Irving should make a fuel stop to what local food he should sample.

Among Barrington's many accolades is a 2007 Congressional Resolution acknowledging his historic achievement and his pioneering work in the field of aviation education. A magna cum laude graduate of Florida Memorial University, he is also the recipient of the highest honor given by the Florida State Senate, the Medallion of Excellence.