

Tarleton State University

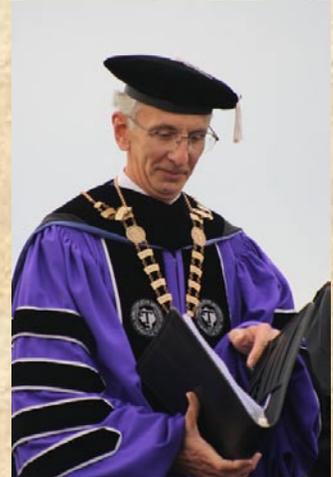
Undergraduate Commencement

May 15, 2010



*Excerpts from remarks by
President F. Dominic Dottavio...*

Welcome to the 190th commencement of Tarleton State University. This is a magnificent evening for the university as these graduates join the ranks of distinguished Tarleton alumni.



To open this ceremony, the colors will be presented by the Texan Battalion Color Guard. The National Anthem will be sung by May 2010 graduating class members, Ashley Clawson, Isaac



Ristow and, Deanna Smith. They will be accompanied by the Tarleton Wind Ensemble. Following the national anthem, the invocation will be given by Ms. Kevela Kirby, a member of this graduating class and psychology major from Kerens, Texas.

This is a day of great pride for family, friends and, especially, you, our graduates. You have come a long way since Texan Tour, Duck Camp,



and your candle lighting ceremony.



When you came to Tarleton four or more years ago, you and the world around you were changing. Facebook and Twitter were new, and no one had Wii Games or an i-Phone – yet. There was no Kindle, no i-Pad, no Hot Tub Time Machine.



A lot has happened on the campus since you arrived: the new Dining Hall opened; the Thompson Student Center was renovated. And construction fences for the Central Loop (Big Dig) make a walk across campus nearly impossible.



Most important, of course: You have been changed and challenged by faculty who believe in you, staff who care about you, and classmates who will be your lifelong friends. Because this day celebrates your very bright future, many people feel it is necessary to give you advice.

I recently asked members of the Tarleton family to share their advice for this graduating class via Tweet, Facebook, and e-mail. In the days and weeks ahead, you can be inspired by reading their words on the Tarleton website and Alumni Facebook page.



Here are just a few of my favorites: Be resilient. Bounce back. Make things happen. When you know better, do better.



And, here is an interesting bit of advice: “A college education doesn’t make you smart.” I am sure you and whoever helped pay your tuition is glad to hear that!



But, take heart, the advice continues: “A college education doesn’t make you smart, it is knowing how to use the knowledge you have that counts.”

A professor wrote this: “All those As and Bs you got in school are worthless unless you do something good with the knowledge you gained.” So, I encourage you: Do something good with your education.

This class understands this well. You have done good deeds by participating in the Tarleton Round-Up, Toys for Tots, Layers of Hope, Fantastic Field Day, and many other service activities.



Tanner Morgan and other members of the Tarleton Bass Fishing Club took children from the Stephenville Foster's Home for a day of fishing and fun. I'm sure the day was as much fun for the college "kids" as for the little ones. Tanner and the Bass Club had an outstanding year, and Tarleton was named one of the top bass fishing colleges in the nation.



In March, Tarleton earned the highest federal recognition a university can receive for volunteering, service learning, and civic engagement. The university was named to the President's Higher Education



Community Service Honor Roll. I congratulate all members of the Tarleton family for doing something good with their education.

Other pieces of advice for graduates included: "Never stop learning." And "Never give up."

A professor recommended, quote: "Be high on competence and confidence will follow." It is competence that earned you your degrees. And it is competence that earned some members of this class singular honors.



Casey Bell of Lombard, Illinois, is the Top Student in our outstanding Military Science Department. At the 29-day summer course known as Operation Warrior Forge at Fort Lewis, Washington, Casey was named Top Cadet among 441 Army ROTC students. In a few minutes, he will join his ROTC classmates in receiving his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army.

Many people offered advice about gratitude. "Remember where you came from and who traveled the road with you, offering assistance at every turn."



For the past year, Susie Fagan has been offering assistance to me as an assistant in the President's Office. The road she traveled to get here may have only been a short walk across campus. But her journey was a long one, starting in 1975 when she took her first class at Tarleton. Thirty five years and 14 grandchildren later, Susie will be receiving her Bachelor of Applied Science from the College of Business this evening.



Many of those who offered assistance at every turn are with us today – family, friends, and loved ones who share this achievement.

Will all the families and friends with a graduate here today please stand so our graduates can thank you for helping to bring them to this day?



Individuals on the platform with me this evening include vice presidents, deans, faculty and staff who have provided counseling and comfort, advice and encouragement to our students. They have helped our students to grow beyond what they knew when they first came to Tarleton. Would the members of the platform group please stand. And would all of you please join me in recognizing these dedicated leaders and ALL the faculty and staff they represent for their service to Tarleton.



Since 1917, Tarleton has been a proud part of The Texas A&M University System. To bring greetings to our graduates on behalf of the other ten universities, seven agencies, and the health sciences center that comprise the System, we are joined by Mr. Vergel Gay, Jr., Chief Facilities Planning and Construction officer for the A&M System.

Over the years, sons and daughters of Tarleton have brought honor to this university through exemplary service to our nation, ensuring our freedom and the opportunity for all to pursue education. Tarleton has a long and proud association with the R-O-T-C Program. Today, eight graduates will be commissioned as officers in the United States Army:



- Megan Attwood from Yelm, Washington,
- Justin Becker, from Marble Falls, Texas
- Casey Bell, from Lombard, Illinois
- Michael Corn, from Colleyville, Texas
- James Elkins, from Wasilla, Alaska
- Andrew Gilker, from Los Angeles, California,
- George Harrivel, from Pflugerville, Texas, and
- James Johnson II, from Dublin, Texas.





The oath of office is administered by Lieutenant Colonel Pierce, Professor of Military Science. Please join me in offering congratulations to the newest Second Lieutenants in the U. S. Army. We thank you for your dedication and service to our country.

Graduates, today we honor you for your contributions to Tarleton – in the classroom and beyond. By your presence on the campus and your many good works, you have made Tarleton a better place. This ceremony is for you and about you. For that reason, a member of the graduating class is invited to address the commencement audience.



Today's student speaker is Mr. Craig Lenard from Kerrville, Texas. Craig is the outstanding graduate from the Department of Agricultural Services and Development. He has been recognized as a Distinguished Student for four years, and he is a member of Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society and Collegiate FFA. Throughout his college career, Craig has managed and operated a welding business while maintaining a 3.75 grade point average. His short term goals are to attend graduate school at Tarleton and to teach high school. His really short term goal is to get married on June 12 to Ashley Maxwell, a current Tarleton student who will graduate in December. Welcome Craig Lenard.

At the heart of a Tarleton education is our distinguished faculty. Their scholarly work enriches our classrooms, challenges our students, and defines our excellence. The faculty have been partners with these graduates, both as teachers and mentors. Like your family and friends, our faculty members take great pride in this day. They have devoted their professional careers to encouraging you to lead, serve and succeed in your careers and your communities.



Now we come to the most important part of the ceremony: the presentation of your degrees. Provost Peer and College Deans will present and recommend the candidates for graduation. Graduates, by the authority vested in me as President of Tarleton State University, I confer the Doctoral, Master's, Bachelor's and Associate's degree upon those of you who have successfully met all requirements associated with those degrees. You now

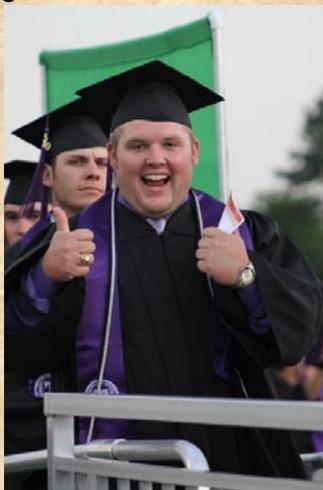
hold all honors, rights, and privileges belonging thereto. I charge you as educated men and women of the world to use your education in the service of others.



All those receiving a bachelor's degree please rise. The tassels on the caps of undergraduates are worn on the right side until they receive the bachelor's degree. A time-honored tradition at graduation ceremonies involves the symbolic movement of your tassel

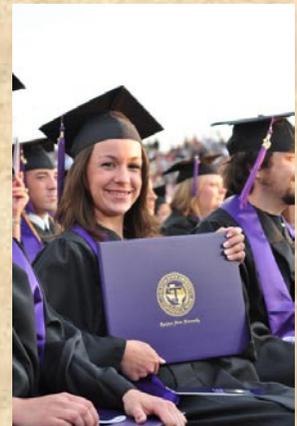


from the right to the left side. Those of you, who have just received the bachelor's degree, move your tassels now. And, for those graduates who wear a Tarleton class ring, now is the time to turn your rings so that the world will know you are a Tarleton grad.



Congratulations, alumni!

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in thanking the members of the Tarleton Wind Ensemble, under the direction of Mr. Greg Ball, for adding so much to this occasion.



Congratulations Graduates, it has been my great honor to present you with your diplomas. Now, I look forward to seeing you often as active, engaged Tarleton alumni. I encourage you to give back and come back. You

have my best personal wishes as you begin a new chapter in your life. As you leave, I ask you to please remember: the Gates of Tarleton are always open to you!

To close today's ceremony, I ask you to please rise for the singing of the Color Song, led by Ms. Clawson, Mr. Ristow, and Ms. Smith. I encourage the audience to sing along.



Thank you for being a part of this special day.



*Photos provided by Tarleton staff
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