



68th Commencement Ceremony
Spring Class of 2024

Friday, May 3, 2024

CFK Board of Trustees

Kevin Madok, Chair

Sheldon Suga, Vice-Chair

Daniel Leben

Michelle Maxwell

Mike Puto

Alexandria Suarez

Richard Weinstein

A Message from the CFK President

Dear Class of 2024,

When you stepped on the campus or arrived at one of the centers, you changed the world at The College of the Florida Keys. As we have changed, you too have been transformed into ambassadors for a more sustainable and brighter future. Congratulations and a heartfelt thank you for choosing CFK to be a part of your life's journey.

As you accept your diploma, consider the many sacrifices that you made to enjoy this moment. Show your appreciation for the loved ones, the community members, the mentors, and the College employees who helped you along this route. Each of you has a unique set of challenges that have tested your perseverance, grit, and dedication. Yet, you finished what you started. You have dared to dream and to make your dream a reality.

For some of you, the next step is a baccalaureate or graduate degree. I know that many of you have already been accepted into one of CFK's bachelor's degree programs or a degree program at another institution. For others, it is the beginning of or the continuation of a career. Seize every opportunity and be the best at what you do. Create opportunities for others and help them to do their best as well.

As you thank all those who made this day possible for you, please pay it forward by inspiring and supporting others to achieve a college education. Remember the importance of service to others. Our collective future is only as fruitful as the success that we individually bring to the teams to which we belong. Some of you will be sparks and some will be flames. You will shine! Just remember, you don't have to set the world on fire to produce light.

Congratulations, best of luck, and don't forget your Alma Mater.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Gueverra', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jonathan Gueverra, Ed.D.
President & CEO
The College of the Florida Keys



THE
COLLEGE
OF THE
FLORIDA KEYS

Commencement Exercises

CFK President Dr. Jonathan Gueverra, Presiding

As a courtesy to those around you, please silence all electronic devices and phones during the ceremony. Please remain in your seats and refrain from moving to take photos during the ceremony. CFK will make all photos of graduates available at no charge via cfk.edu.

PROCESSIONAL*

“High Hopes”

Written by Jake Sinclair and Jonas Jeberg

Performed by Panic! at the Disco

PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS

Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps, KWHS

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Sahara Brown

CFK Student Government Association President

WELCOME

Dr. Jonathan Gueverra

CFK President

Kevin Madok

CFK Board of Trustees Chair

STUDENT ADDRESS

Garrett Wills

Associate in Science, Marine Environmental Technology

Associate in Applied Science, Diving Business and Technology

Please stand *

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS ADDRESS

Andy Griffiths
Associate in Arts, 1979

PRESIDENT'S AWARD & KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Senator Doug Broxson
Florida Senate, District 1

STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

Lana Gaspari
CFK Vice President of Advancement

CHARGE TO THE GRADUATES

Dr. Jonathan Gueverra
CFK President

PRESENTATION OF THE SPRING CLASS OF 2024

Dr. Monekka Munroe
CFK Vice President of Academic Affairs

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES AND DIPLOMA PRESENTATION

Dr. Jonathan Gueverra
CFK President
Kevin Madok
CFK Board of Trustees Chair

PINNING OF NURSES

Dr. Aimee Jorgenson-Stough
Dean of Sciences & Nursing

PINNING OF ALUMNI

Lana Gaspari
CFK Vice President of Advancement

RECESSIONAL

“Happy”

Composed and performed by Pharrell Williams

Student Speaker

Garrett Wills

Student Speaker, Class of 2024

Associate in Science, Marine Environmental Technology

Associate in Applied Science, Diving Business Technology

Born and raised in South Florida, Garrett Wills has had a lifelong passion for marine science and the underwater world. Growing up on the warm waters of the Treasure Coast, diving, fishing, and appreciating marine life have been important facets of his upbringing. After serving in the United States Army for six years and working several jobs post-service, Garrett moved to Key West in 2022 to pursue education and training in marine science and diving. Tackling a full credit load each semester, Garrett is set to complete two associate degrees and three certificates in two years while maintaining a 3.68 grade point average. He earned associate degrees in Marine Environmental Technology and Diving Business Technology as well as certificates in the Fundamentals of Professional Diving, Professional Dive Instructor, and Professional Research Diving.

Throughout his time at CFK, Garrett worked full-time and volunteered in several student clubs and veteran organizations. He was a member of CFK's Coral Restoration Club, working alongside the Coral Restoration Foundation and MOTE Marine Laboratory to study and improve the health of the coral reef. He also served as the President of the CFK Scuba Club. Garrett spends time helping fellow veterans and service members through Combat Wounded Veterans, Veteran Outdoor Alliance, and Task Force Dagger, exploring water-based therapy and studies to help improve the lives of disabled veterans and their families.

Garrett plans to continue his education with a Bachelor of Science in Marine Resource Management at CFK and a graduate degree in Marine Biology.

Distinguished Alumnus Speaker

Andy Griffiths

Associate in Arts, 1979

Andy Griffiths is a current member of the Monroe County School Board. He was first elected in 1992 making him the longest serving elected official in Monroe County.

Griffiths graduated from The College of the Florida Keys in 1979 and soon after obtained his Captain's License to run a fishing charter business. While growing his enterprise, he commuted from Key West to Miami on a weekly basis to complete a Bachelor of Arts at Florida International University. He eventually grew the operations to include six 43-foot charter boats that ran overnight trips to the Dry Tortugas. In 2006, he sold the space that housed his fleet along with the boats, which he sold to his captains, but continued to work in rental property.

Griffiths has served on the boards of the Florida Keys Children's Shelter, Keys Federal Credit Union, United Way of the Florida Keys, United Way of Florida, Rotary Club of Key West, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, and the Florida School Board Association. He has also served as President of the Key West Jaycees, The United Way of the Florida Keys, The United Way of Florida, The Monroe County School Board, and the Florida School Board Association.

The avid fisherman and education advocate values generating public interest and accessibility for his pursuits. He is a major donor to the Take Stock in Children Program and the Key West Community Sailing Center.

The proud father of two daughters resides in Key West.

President's Award Recipient and Keynote Speaker

Senator Doug Broxson *Florida Senate, District 1*

Senator Doug Broxson serves as a Republican member of the Florida Senate, representing District 1, which includes Escambia, Santa Rosa counties, and part of Okaloosa County. Elected to the Senate in 2016 and subsequently reelected, Senator Broxson's legislative focus spans various key areas such as appropriations, banking and insurance, and education, demonstrating leadership through his roles in several committees.

Before his tenure in the Senate, Broxson served in the Florida House of Representatives from 2010 to 2016, bringing a wealth of experience in state governance. His professional background includes work in the insurance and real estate sectors. A resident of Pensacola, Florida, he is actively involved in community service through affiliations like the Rotary Club. Broxson holds a bachelor's degree from Evangel University and enjoys fishing, golfing, and hiking in his leisure time.

The Academic Processional

The academic processional officially precludes the Commencement ceremonies on college and university campuses and is one of the oldest and most colorful customs.

The traditions surrounding academic ceremonies, such as Commencement, are rooted in the customs of the Middle Ages when universities were first formed. Gowns and mortar boards, or caps, were a common form of dress during that era. Today, graduates wear colorful academic apparel, signifying their alma maters and highest degrees received.

ACADEMIC REGALIA

Graduation gowns of associates, bachelors, and masters are usually without trimmings of any sort, whereas those of doctors are faced down the front with velvet and adorned with three velvet bars on the sleeves. College president gowns have four velvet bars.

Attached to a button atop the **mortarboard** is a **tassel**, worn on the right side until degrees are conferred.

The **hood** is a triangular fold of cloth worn over the back of the gown. The colors of the face denote the wearer's degree and the colors of the lining are those of the college or university that granted the degree. The length of the hood is correspondingly longer with each higher degree.

The **colors** of the wide velvet borders extending down the front of the doctoral gown, the velvet bars on the sleeves and the borders of most hoods, represent the scholarly field of the wearer:

Blue Violet Architecture

Light Blue Education

Crimson Communication

Apricot Nursing

White Arts, Letters and Humanities

Orange Engineering

Purple Law

Dark Blue Philosophy

Drab Business

Brown Fine Arts

Lemon Library

Gold Science

PRESIDENTIAL REGALIA

The **Presidential Medallion** and **Chains of Office** comprise the large metal necklace worn by a college's president as part of official ceremonial regalia. Both are ancient symbols of authority and important expressions that honor the history and traditions of higher education.

CEREMONIAL ACADEMIC MACE

The **Ceremonial Academic Mace** is an institutional symbol of strength and authority. CFK's official mace was created in 2022 by a committee comprised of faculty and staff in collaboration with artists from the College and the community. Carefully crafted to reflect CFK's unique values and personality, the design represents a legacy of academic excellence, student achievement, and commitment to the Keys community.

The CFK Mace combines art mediums, consisting of pewter, wood, and glass. The Mace's shaft is embellished with palm trees. The fronds are carved into Cuban Mahogany and the trunk is made from a Sapodilla tree that once grew on the Key West Campus. Pewter coins depicting the College's seal and colorful tassels representing each academic and career training program encircle the mace. Above the coins is a pewter Tuga, the College's mascot and symbol of strength and perseverance. The top is adorned with an orange and blue blown glass sphere inspired by the sun and ocean of the Florida Keys.

The College recognizes and thanks the artists who brought the mace to life: metal artist Reen Stanhouse, wood artists Stephen Hatchett (mace) and Lieutenant David Black (stand), and blown glass artist Wes Hunting.

Bachelor's Degree Graduates

Joyanne Ruth Ashe

*Bachelor of Applied Science, Supervision and Management
Associate in Arts*

Ericka Nichole Augst

*Bachelor of Science, Marine Resource Management
Associate in Science, Marine Environmental Technology
Certificate, Fundamentals of Professional Diving
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society*

Sara Rose Cagle †

*Bachelor of Science, Marine Resource Management
Certificate, Professional Research Diving*

Jennifer A. Canterbury

*Bachelor of Applied Science, Supervision and Management
Associate in Science, Business Administration
Certificate, Business Operations
Certificate, Business Specialist
Certificate, Entrepreneurship*

Tristan Michael Clute

*Bachelor of Science, Marine Resource Management
Associate in Arts
Associate in Science, Marine Environmental Technology
Certificate, Professional Research Diving*

Savannah Leann Deis

Bachelor of Applied Science, Supervision and Management
Associate in Science, Business Administration
Veterans Club

Benjamin Elmore

Bachelor of Applied Science, Supervision and Management
Associate in Science, Criminal Justice Technology
Certificate, Law Enforcement Officer
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

Brittany Elizabeth Elston

Bachelor of Applied Science, Supervision and Management
Associate in Science, Business Administration

Zachary Michael Fox

Bachelor of Science, Marine Resource Management
Associate in Applied Science, Diving Business and Technology
Certificate, Fundamentals of Professional Diving
Certificate, Professional Dive Instructor

Calvin Michael Furtado

Bachelor of Applied Science, Supervision and Management
Certificate, Business Operations
Certificate, Business Specialist
Certificate, Entrepreneurship
Creative Writing Club
Geeks and Gamers Club

Dariel Rody Gonzalez

Bachelor of Applied Science, Supervision and Management

Associate in Arts

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

Leah Johnson

Bachelor of Science, Marine Resource Management

Associate in Science, Marine Environmental Technology

Melissa Mott

Bachelor of Science, Nursing

Associate in Arts

Associate in Science, Nursing

Katarzyna Ewa Pluciennik

Bachelor of Applied Science, Supervision and Management

Associate in Arts

Thalia Portal

Bachelor of Applied Science, Supervision and Management

Associate in Arts

Olga B. Rodriguez

Bachelor of Science, Nursing

Associate in Arts

Associate in Science, Nursing

Samira Oriana Sam

Bachelor of Applied Science, Supervision and Management

Associate in Arts

DEAN'S LIST †

PRESIDENT'S LIST *

Cassandra Rena Schry

*Bachelor of Science, Marine Resource Management
Associate in Science, Marine Environmental Technology
Applied Technical Diploma, Emergency Medical Technician
Veterans Club*

Holly Elyse Delvin White

*Bachelor of Science, Marine Resource Management
Associate in Applied Science, Diving Business and Technology
Associate in Science, Marine Environmental Technology
Certificate, Professional Dive Instructor
Certificate, Professional Research Diving*

Johnathan Dylan Zicconi

*Bachelor of Science, Marine Resource Management
Associate in Applied Science, Diving Business and Technology
Certificate, Fundamentals of Professional Diving
Certificate, Professional Dive Instructor*

Associate Degree & Certificate Graduates

Makayla Tamia Allen

Certificate, Guest Services Specialist
Certificate of Completion, Project ACCESS
Special Olympics Club

Ioana Beatrice Amuza

Associate in Science, Nursing
Student Nurses Association

Jasmine Elise Arellano

Associate in Arts
Associate in Science, Criminal Justice Technology

Angeline Sofia Arevalo

Associate in Science, Marine Environmental Technology

Margaret Ava Bergeron

Associate in Arts
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

Maxwell William Berthold

Associate in Arts

Colby Winston Bingham-Brasher

Associate in Science, Nursing
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society
Student Nurses Association

Dante Alonzo Black Jr.

*Associate in Applied Science, Marine Engineering, Management and Seamanship
Certificate, Entrepreneurship
Special Olympics Club*

Katrina Blackburn

*Associate in Applied Science, Diving Business and Technology
Certificate, Fundamentals of Professional Diving
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society*

Tara Lynn Blaise

Associate in Arts

Brian Brantley

*Associate in Science, Marine Environmental Technology
Associate in Applied Science, Diving Business and Technology
Certificate, Fundamentals of Professional Diving
Certificate, Professional Research Diving*

Brian Keith Buckner

Associate in Arts

*Associate in Science, Criminal Justice Technology
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society
Student Government Association
Veterans Club
Outcasts for Christ*

Nina Stuart Burgess

*Associate in Science, Nursing
Student Nurses Association*

Ryan Joseph Bushnell*

Associate in Applied Science, Marine Engineering, Management and Seamanship

Emma Mckenzie Carter*

Associate in Arts

Mud Pi Club

Creative Expressions Club

Marisol Isabel Chavala

Associate in Science, Nursing

Jean-Robert Cineus

Certificate, Entrepreneurship

Kylie Breann Cochrane

Associate in Science, Nursing

Student Nurses Association

Fresnaline Compere

Associate in Arts

Zachary James Connelly

Associate in Arts

Onika Tamica Cox

Associate in Science, Nursing

Tanner Murphy Deal

Associate in Applied Science, Marine Engineering, Management and Seamanship

Elimar Darihan Delgado

Associate in Science, Nursing

DEAN'S LIST †

PRESIDENT'S LIST *

Alden Christine Denard

Associate in Science, Marine Environmental Technology
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

Andrew Edward Diaz

Certificate, Chef's Apprentice
Certificate, Culinary Arts Management
Certificate of Completion, Project ACCESS
Cookin' Tugas Culinary Club
Special Olympics Club

Alethia Zoe Dryer

Associate in Arts
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society
Sailing Club

Karis Anastasia Dryer

Associate in Arts
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

Shania Dineen Duarte-Vera

Associate in Arts
Student Government Association

Gloria Meagan Eades

Associate in Science, Nursing

Sierra Lexyn Earnhardt*

Associate in Arts

Jose Erreguin

Certificate of Completion, Project ACCESS

DEAN'S LIST †
PRESIDENT'S LIST *

Angela Carolina Ewing

*Associate in Arts
Certificate, Entrepreneurship*

Abigail Rose Fields*

Associate in Arts

John K. Fignole

Associate in Science, Nursing

Jaimie Nicole Fisher

Associate in Arts

Michael R. Flick

Associate in Applied Science, Marine Engineering, Management and Seamanship

Olivia Elizabeth Gibson

Associate in Arts

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

Angelica Gail Gray

Associate in Science, Business Administration

Chloe Maiko Gunther

Associate in Arts

Jean Esaie Henriseme

*Certificate, Entrepreneurship
Certificate, Plumbing Apprenticeship*

Julissa Herrada

Associate in Science, Nursing
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

John William Hobbs

Certificate, Tropical Ornamental Mariculture Technician
Certificate of Completion, Project ACCESS
Special Olympics Club

Emilee Hough

Associate in Arts

Faraji Hanisi James

Associate in Applied Science, Marine Engineering, Management and Seamanship

Richard Jerome

Associate in Science, Nursing

Brenda Jacqueline Kabrit

Associate in Science, Nursing

Nicholas Anthony Bozon Valenti Kennedy

Associate in Arts

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

Rosey Marie Kennedy

Associate in Arts

Benjamin John King*

Certificate, Professional Research Diving

Ashley Ann Kloostra

Associate in Science, Marine Environmental Technology

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

Eric E. Lahti*

DEAN'S LIST † *Certificate, Fundamentals of Professional Diving*
PRESIDENT'S LIST *

Jessi Lalanne
Certificate of Completion, Project ACCESS

Malinda Jeanne Lebo
Associate in Arts

Conner M. Levin
Associate in Applied Science, Marine Engineering, Management and Seamanship

Kyle Patrick Long
Associate in Applied Science, Marine Engineering, Management and Seamanship

Lovens M. Stanley Louis
Associate in Arts

Milan Luciano †
Associate in Applied Science, Marine Engineering, Management and Seamanship

Jayda Lee Lugo
Associate in Arts

Yaritza Luna
Associate in Science, Nursing

Max Emilio Luppino
Associate in Applied Science, Marine Engineering, Management and Seamanship

Jordan Mariah Lydamore
Associate in Arts

Madison Paige Magness
Associate in Science, Business Administration

Associate in Applied Science, Marine Engineering, Management and Seamanship

DEAN'S LIST †

PRESIDENT'S LIST *

Derrick Alexander Medina

Associate in Arts

Certificate, Business Operations

Certificate, Entrepreneurship

Certificate of Completion, Project ACCESS

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

Geeks and Gamers Club

Special Olympics Club

Tiffany Monique Mitchell

Associate in Science, Nursing

Student Nurses Association

Landon Edward Oliver

Associate in Science, Culinary Management

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

Cookin' Tugas Culinary Club

Zergio Ornelas

Certificate of Completion, Project ACCESS

Cheryl Ann Mohanie Persaud

Associate in Science, Nursing

Jack Alexander Petterson

Associate in Arts

Michael A. Prezioso

Associate in Science, Hospitality and Ecotourism Management

Kason W. Ray

Certificate of Completion, Project ACCESS
Special Olympics Club

William Payton Reese

Associate in Science, Marine Environmental Technology

Jayden De'Aussie Robbins

Associate in Arts

Emily Faye Roberts

Associate in Arts

Jered Jay Rosberg

Associate in Science, Marine Environmental Technology

Outcasts for Christ

Veterans Club

Kara Corine Rowe

Associate in Science, Nursing

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

Christopher John Saunders

Associate in Arts

Monet Gwendolyn Saunders

Associate in Science, Hospitality and Ecotourism Management

Certificate, Guest Services Specialist

Certificate, Room Division Operations

Certificate, Room Division Specialist

Jonah F. Schafstall

*Certificate, Guest Services Specialist
Certificate of Completion, Project ACCESS*

Justin Michael Scharaldi

*Associate in Applied Science, Marine Engineering, Management and Seamanship
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society*

Christopher D. Shea

Associate in Applied Science, Diving Business and Technology

Marielle Renee Singleton

*Associate in Science, Nursing
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society
Student Nurses Association*

Kevin Stephenson

Associate in Applied Science, Marine Engineering, Management and Seamanship

Mai Vang †

Associate in Arts

Lauren Brooke Walterson *

*Associate in Arts
Certificate, Entrepreneurship
Creative Expressions Club
Swim Team*

Alastair Jon Weller

Certificate, Marine Technology

Mason Virginia Whiteside

Associate in Arts

DEAN'S LIST †
PRESIDENT'S LIST *

Matthew Hunter Wigand

Associate in Science, Nursing

Robert Wilkins

Associate in Science, Business Administration

Garrett J. Wills

Associate in Science, Marine Environmental Technology

Associate in Applied Science, Diving Business and Technology

Certificate, Fundamentals of Professional Diving

Certificate, Professional Dive Instructor

Certificate, Professional Research Diving

Cami Renee Wrinn †

Associate in Arts

DEAN'S LIST †

PRESIDENT'S LIST *

CFK Student Clubs

Aquaculture Society works to further national aquaculture societies outreach, providing benefits, activities, and news to students at CFK. This club provides increased opportunity for students to organize and participate in activities that relate to aquaculture on a local scale.

Cookin' Tugas Culinary Club provides students with a passion for culinary arts and management to develop cooking and catering skills. Club members explore the amazing world of food and participate in activities to share their culinary talents with the community.

Creative Expressions Club is a place where CFK students can come together and appreciate the joys of writing, drawing, and other creative endeavors. The Club's purpose is to create and support a community of writers and artists on campus and to share creativity throughout the community.

Geeks and Gamers Club serves as a place for technologically driven students to discuss topics related to gaming, film and TV, as well as partake in book reviews, board games and competitions.

Mud Pi Club is a student-based, extracurricular organization dedicated to advancing ceramic arts at CFK and surrounding communities. The purpose of the club is to expand the awareness of the ceramic arts and to support personal growth through self-expression in clay.

Outcasts for Christ strives to restore prudence, morality, fortitude and temperance on campus and in the community.

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society is an international honor society that recognizes academic achievement of college students and to provide opportunities for them to grow as scholars and leaders. CFK's Rho Epsilon chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society is open to students who have completed at least 12 credits of coursework and have a GPA of 3.25 or higher.

CFK Student Clubs

Sailing Club offers beginners, intermediate and advanced sailing skills that boosts students' knowledge and confidence on the water. Club members participate and demonstrate boat safety, boat handling, marine engineering and navigation both on and offshore.

Scuba Club seeks to unite CFK students through passion for the underwater world and to build connections within the environment. The club educates and builds awareness of the importance of these ecosystems through scuba diving events, community service, outreach efforts, and other fun activities.

Special Olympics Club supports Special Olympics as athletes, cheerleaders and friends. The club celebrates differences and inclusivity and spreads knowledge about interacting with individuals with disabilities.

Student Government Association is the official representative body that serves as the liaison between the student body and the administration. The SGA is responsible for advocating for student interests, providing a platform for students to voice their concerns, and allocating funding for student activities and initiatives.

Student Nurses Association is a local chapter of the National Student Nurses Association. The mission of the CFK chapter is to support health and wellness through education, advocacy, and community activities.

Swim Team, comprised of men and women athletes, competes in regular season against other Florida colleges and colleges from around the country in national meets. CFK is a member of NJCAA, which allows the College's athletes to participate in a variety of activities that promote personal growth, effective teamwork, and academic excellence.



THE
COLLEGE
OF THE
FLORIDA KEYS

Share your graduation experience

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