Co llege of So cial Science s, Mathematics, and Educatio n/Jack Geller

Geller Commencement Address

President Vaughn, members of the Board of Trustees, Family Members, and of course, the

graduating class of 2021. As Dean of the College of Social Sciences, Mathematics and Education,

I want to offer my sincerest congratulations. I have often no ted that Graduati on Day is the best

day of the year. A nd today is certainly no exception!

But before we rejoice in your accomplishments, allow me to recognize your biggest

cheerleaders: your parents, siblings, grandparents, and friends. The truth is that none of us go

through this alone. For many of you it may feel like your time here at UT just flew by. But let’s

not forget those times when things got tough and stressful, or during times of uncertainty. And

who was always there in your corner, always ready to pick you up when you needed it? … your

cheerleaders. So family members, please know that this day is for you as well.

Graduates, earning a college degree has always been challenging, but let’s be honest, this year

enter our honors program. So, it is really any surprise that your average graduating GPA today is

as high as it is? As I said, I knew you had the right stuff.

Graduates, beginning today, you now take your place as an important part of that evolution and

legacy of the University of Tampa. I sincerely hope you believe that during your time here, the

University has changed yo u; because I can assure you, that you have changed the University.

Over the past year what many of us thought might be impossible, became possible. We showed

each other new ways to communicate and connect; to teach and learn; and to meaningfully

engage. Take those lessons with you, so in the future when you face challenges, you have the

confidence and the tools to keep moving forward and find success.

I also want to say a few wtu succemt,u Slaceninct,u St,u rc…v 1!…i u Seginct,u Snct,udthh’ S,ch ss.