INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

An inspiring look at the 2012 Graduation Ceremony held in sunny, Southern California at the Long Beach Terrace Theater and Performing Arts Center
The Terrace Theatre in Long Beach, CA was packed to the rafters on August 11, 2012 with TUI Board of Trustees, faculty, administrators, family and friends, all celebrating the awarding of degrees to over 400 graduates - our biggest commencement ever!

In the morning, we honored 16 students with their doctoral hoods, which signified the conferring of the Ph.D. The doctoral graduates joined masters and baccalaureate recipients in the afternoon for a commencement that was stirring, inspiring, joyful and fun.

As always, we opened with the presenting of the colors and the national anthem. We also paused to honor Trident students and faculty members who had passed away in the last 12 months.

Our speakers inspired us to think about leadership as providing training, setting high expectations, holding people accountable, and offering patience, support and love. The messages were especially poignant as they were offered by two exceptional leaders: CSM William (Joe) Gainey (retired) and Lt. General Thomas Metz (retired).

My favorite part of the commencement was the awarding of degrees where I had the opportunity to speak briefly to each student, shake a hand, and offer each a Trident Presidential coin. Each student’s expression showed joy and a sense of satisfaction. And each student had a cheering section in the auditorium who shared the moment.

Commencement is always the best day in an academic year, and this was a particularly grand one.

Again, I offer my congratulations to each of you, and please stay connected to your Trident family.

Lucille Sansing, Ph.D.
President/CEO
Editor’s Note

Before introducing this special edition of *The TUI Network*, I would like to take the time to thank Dr. Gregory Herbert (Lt.Col. USAF ret.) for his time as Founding Editor of *The TUI Network*. Dr. Herbert took over a newsletter and helped turn it into this fantastic vehicle for celebration of Trident’s success and we are all grateful.

When I travel, my favorite thing to say is, “the only good degree is a done degree.” At graduation, we celebrate not only the academic learning, and outstanding education our students receive, but we have the chance to honor the achievement of a degree well done. This is commencement, and as our fabulous students commence the next chapter of their life with a degree now firmly in hand, they go forward equipped with the knowledge and skills they developed along the way.

This year’s graduation saw a sell-out crowd at the Long Beach Terrace Theatre and the joint was jumping! Our keynote speakers were fascinating and fun. Our graduates and their families were proud and excited. Faculty, staff, students and their families came together from around the world to rejoice in the hard work and team effort it took to get that degree done. Read on in this special edition of the Trident Network dedicated to graduation and see for yourself; what a time it was!!

Steven J. Gold, Ph.D.
Vice President of Student Experience and Retention

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It is an honor and a privilege to salute Trident University International’s 2012 graduates and current students. TUI’s Board of Trustees is comprised of military and civilian men and women who bring many years of experience in educational leadership and business acumen to the university.

It is our responsibility to provide oversight and guidance to the President/CEO and senior leadership of TUI. We carry out that commitment by meeting face-to-face four times a year to review and approve policies, strategic plans, annual budgets, and address faculty and student issues. As a part of the Board process, we have several smaller committees that meet on specific issues such as academic affairs and auditing the financial operations.

We are committed to ensuring that the Trident University International faculty and staff provide a quality educational experience for all students. “And we continue to take the necessary steps to give every Trident student the chance to excel, and become one of our successful graduates.

Karen J. Viechnicki, Ph.D.
Chair, Board of Trustees
“This year’s graduation ceremony highlighted leadership and really focused on the fact that so many of our students are leaders and have their own realm of influence. I had an opportunity to speak with many of our graduates after the ceremony and witnessed, first hand, how proud and pleased they were that we acknowledged them as leaders. While they were thanking me and other faculty for the experiences they’ve had at Trident, I realized how grateful I am to them and how honored I feel to serve our students... who are tremendous leaders. Thank you, to all our Trident graduates of 2012, for your leadership and service to this country, and within your field of study.”

**Dr. Holly Orozco**, Dean, College of Health Sciences and College of Education

“Graduation is probably my favorite day of the year. It is a culmination of so much hard work and the emotion is overwhelming. I am very fortunate to be on the platform and thoroughly enjoy watching our students march across the stage from the best seat in the house. The families of our graduates are amazing. Many of them have sacrificed a great deal to make this day a reality. Thank you so much for coming to celebrate this amazing life event.”

**Dr. Scott Amundsen**, Interim Associate Provost

“I loved our recent commencement! It was the best day of the year for Trident. Unlike most commencements at other universities, nobody left early. After that wonderful minute where each graduate was the star of the show during their walk across the stage and down the stairs, their parents, children and friends stayed in the theater to see the other graduates have their special moment. The view from the stage was phenomenal! I’m so proud of our strong student diversity among an impressive group of bachelors, masters and Ph.D. students. I congratulate our graduates and am I’m really looking forward to next year’s commencement!”

**Dr. Michael Mahoney**, Provost and Executive VP

“Sitting on stage looking out at the individuals in the audience, I was impressed with the number of graduates who took the time out of their busy lives to travel to southern California to walk across the stage and shake the President’s hand. All the hard work, the long hours of studying, the writing and rewriting of assignments culminated in this one special moment that was very well deserved. Walking at graduation signifies desire, persistence, and sacrifice; desire for something better, persistence to not give up because something is difficult, and sacrifice in the present for a better tomorrow. The graduates and their families went through this journey together and should be proud of this wonderful achievement. It was a distinct pleasure to see all the students in person who we only get to meet virtually throughout their educational journey, to finally meet them and celebrate with their families was a great experience.”

**Dr. Gregory Herbert**, Interim Dean, Colleges of Business Administration and Information Systems
Graduates and their families, faculty, staff, and all in attendance, enjoyed a special time of incredible good humor and serious reflection when Command Sergeant Major (r) William J. (Joe) Gainey took the stage as the student speaker for Trident's graduation ceremony. "Uncle Joe" had the room in the palm of his hand sharing perspicacious thoughts on leadership and putting his personal motto into action - "pride is contagious." Everyone caught the fever.

As the first Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, CSM Gainey served in almost every leadership capacity as he moved up the enlisted ranks in the army, earning numerous awards for valor and leadership. At this time, Joe Gainey serves on the Board of Trustees for Trident University, while graduating at the 2012 ceremony with a Masters in Education to compliment the Bachelors in Business Administration he already earned from Trident.

CSM Gainey explained leadership in terms of what he calls "RAAA." "R, or responsibility," he explained, "is the easy part; we can give someone the responsibility to get a leadership job done." Much harder is the first A, giving them the "authority" to lead. This elicited a roar of approval from the audience. The second A, "accountability," is of equal importance as a good leader holds people accountable for getting the job done and does not allow leaders to blame subordinates. "If your people fail," CSM Gainey said, "then you did not train them right." The third A symbolizes "assist." "Good leaders know how to help their junior leaders stand up when they fall and then step out of their way so they can continue." The message of responsibility, authority, accountability and assistance struck a deep chord with all in attendance. And while "Jolly the Shriner Clown," Joe's alter ego, can bind people to their seats with a highly idiosyncratic humor, everyone left as a better leader for having heard the wisdom in his words.

By Dr. Steven Gold
“When people see you as good to them they see you as good for them.”

Retired Lt. Gen. Thomas F. Metz

Trident University was honored to have as our keynote speaker retired Lt. Gen. Thomas F. Metz, formerly the Deputy Commanding General of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, and previously III Corps Commander at Ft. Hood. LTG Metz comes to Trident with a truly distinguished military career. A graduate of West Point, who later returned to the U.S. Military Academy as a professor, he had an extremely distinguished combat career as a real-life American hero. Tom Metz is a member of Trident University’s Board of Trustees.

In his speech on leadership, LTG Metz went in a direction few would expect from a Ranger Qualified Combat Soldier and Senior Paratrooper. The two main pillars of leadership, he said, are “patience” and “kindness.” He admitted that they sounded like "wimpy" words coming from a general, but very quickly everyone could see the strength in his words.

Metz explained how patience allows us to withstand provocation, remain positive and even tempered, not allowing the passions of the moment to dictate reactions and strategy. "Patience," he told us, "is the key to creating positive results such that we are not satisfied with merely avoiding the negative. Anger over wrongful action will spawn new wrongs of its own." "Patience LTG Metz says, stops problems in their tracks, slows your anger, and keeps you in control. Patience allows the leader’s followers to be human such that we apply tough love only when it is truly appropriate." The second pillar of good leadership is kindness. Exhibiting consideration, benevolence, and a general kind countenance allows one to receive and accept wise counsel. The kind leader listens and meets the needs of subordinates. Kindness creates willingness, and an aspiration to be agreeable, compromise, and work to get a buy in from all involved creating room for initiative.

“When people see you as good to them, they see you as good for them,” we were told. Metz says that a good leader drives to maximize the positive rather than create negativity through criticism. Metz summed up, “patience avoids a problem while kindness creates opportunities.” These are not wimpy words; they are the words of wisdom developed over a four decade career as a great military leader. Perhaps only someone with LTG Tom Metz’s combat leadership credentials could make that case in such a compelling manner.

By Dr. Steven Gold
"Trident offered me an opportunity to continue working full time while pursuing my goal of achieving a Ph.D."

Dr. Brian Kent,
Captain, U.S. Army (ret)
Fayetteville, North Carolina
Ph.D. Business Administration
Dr. Brian Kent, Ph.D. Business Administration, leads the way to the hooding ceremony. Proud Ph.D. candidates follow anxious to receive the traditional hooding which signifies their achievement into the ranks of a Doctor.
"THE TRIDENT EXPERIENCE has taught me that whatever I want to do, I can achieve it regardless of how old or late in career, it's never too late to meet your dreams."

Dr. Dolores Gordon
Ph.D. Educational Leadership
"There is a lot of flexibility in the university, because you can study in the confines of your own home anytime and you save time driving too."

**Dr. Cherry Helen**  
Ph.D. Business Administration

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"I wanted to find a degree program that would fit into my demanding schedule with the military. Trident was always there when I needed them to help me on my journey."

**Dr. Pamela Wilson**  
CSM U.S. Army  
Ph.D. Educational Leadership
Faculty looks forward every year to the pre-graduation hooding ceremony for the doctoral graduates. A Ph.D. is a “terminal” degree or the highest degree one can earn in that field. Students came forward to be “hooded” or have their doctoral hood placed on their shoulders by their dissertation advisor.

The hooding is an ancient tradition that dates back hundreds of years of European University tradition. In previous years, Trident has included the hooding as part of their regular graduation but with the number of doctoral graduates increasing, the hooding ceremony has become its own special event. This
year 14 Ph.D. students participated in the hooding ceremony, which was a tremendous honor and priceless moment. Many of them were able to meet their professors face to face for the first time, and engage fellow classmates, who came from around the world, to participate in this monumental day.

Trident encourages all students to participate in this doctoral ceremony and receive their due honor. Be proud Tridents and stand tall!

By Arthur Duran
Trident University employed the help of over 70 staff volunteers working to make the commencement ceremony a joyous event for our graduates and their guests. As staff members who work closely with students every day, our volunteers are always proud to see students reach their goals. The Graduation Committee started planning for this event as soon as last year’s graduation was completed, surveying attendees and looking for ways to improve the graduation experience. Everyone was very pleased with the success of this year’s graduation and we look forward to another spectacular event in 2013. Our thanks to all of the hardworking staff, faculty and employees of the Long Beach City Terrace Theater and Performing Arts Center for coming together to create a thrilling and happy occasion.

By Arthur Duran

Pictured Staff Volunteers:

Top left: Back row left to right; Julie Ung (Finance), Jessica Ly (Finance). Sitting left to right; Polette Bridgers (Bursars), Maria Navarro (Registrar), Robert Givenrod (Admissions).

Middle: Left to right; Monika Laivnieks (Marketing), Rosemary Byrd (Financial Aid).

Bottom: Left to right; Katherine Azarraga (Admissions), Christina Hoang (Admissions), Michael Masters (Advisement).
"It was exciting to meet our TUI graduates, their families, and be a part of this momentous accomplishment."

**Anne Delfin-Schnirch**
Associate Registrar

**Nirmala Sharma**
Registrar

"It was a great opportunity to share this special moment with our graduating students."

**Sandy You**
Student Services Specialist

Staff members sisters Nancy and Sandy You happy to work on Graduation Day

Anne Delfin-Schnirch and Nirmala Sharma directing volunteers

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