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'burg Blogs : 2012 : 05 : 06 : Record numbers

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'burg Blogs » **Record numbers**

Posted [May 6, 2012](#) at 9:49 am by [Andy Fairbanks '12](#)



Dr. Mormino

I was among a record number of students to graduate the Florida Studies Program on May 6. We knew that Professor Gary Mormino, co-founder of the program, would be the “hooding assistant” on stage along with Arts & Sciences Dean Frank Biafora.

Being the last spring commencement ceremony before Mormino’s retirement, one of my classmates suggested we each hand “Father Gary” some newspaper clippings as homage to his endearing ritual of giving them to us at every opportunity.

As luck would have it, I was the first graduate called on stage. Mormino was beaming. He looked surprised when I handed him my clipping, but he played it off with a smile as I told him, “I think you’ll enjoy reading it.” The other eight FSP grads followed suit.

One of my classmates at the end of our gang shared her amusement that the ever-cool Mormino pulled up his gown to stash the fistful of clippings in a pocket so he could have both hands free to place hoods around the shoulders of the rest of the college's grads.

About the blogger



I just graduated (May 2012) with an MLA from the Florida Studies Program. Perhaps I'm biased, but I think it's the most interesting graduate program in the state. My thesis is titled "The Good, the Bad, and the Garbage: The Making of Modern Florida Solid Waste Policy." Before I commit to a job or further study, I am taking a gap year to explore places around the world that have long captivated my imagination.