

TORCHBEARER 100 – MONDAY, MARCH 9TH, 2020
WESTCOTT BUILDING - RUBY DIAMOND AUDITORIUM
Student Body President Evan Steinberg

Hello and good evening, It is truly an honor to be here. My name is Evan Steinberg and I have the honor of representing over 42,000 students through serving as the current Student Body President at Florida State University for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Tonight we celebrate the impact you all have created at Florida State University. Congratulations. For tonight is a night of celebration. Congratulations on becoming a member of the inaugural class of Torchbearer's 100. Please give yourselves a round of applause. It is truly an honor to be inducted alongside 99 of my outstanding peers.

Vires, Artes, and Mores. Often times within the realm of student leadership, we are asked with what Torch do you represent. I can guarantee many of our students have pondered this question during interviews. Do you identify with the Strength of Vires and the Unconquered Spirit? Do you identify with the Knowledge and Skill of Artes acting as an illuminator of knowledge. Do you identify with the Character and Tradition of Mores by Upholding the Garnet and Gold and supporting our many great traditions.

At this pivotal point in time, as you reflect on the journey that has led you to this point in time – attempting to answer that ever so fateful question. Through the ebbs and flows, through the trials and triumph, take a moment to reflect..... to reflect on your unique journey high over towering pines. Upon reflection, What exemplifies the life of a student at Florida State University? What exemplifies your experience. What has led you to become one of Florida State University's Torchbearers.

Although the obvious definition of a Torchbearer is quite simply put a person who carries a ceremonial torch. An alternative definition is a person who leads or inspires others in working toward a valued goal. However, the question still remains. What Torch do you bear? Vires, Artes, or Mores.

A Torchbearer shatters that narrative. A Torchbearer represents the Strength of Vires and the Unconquered Spirit, the Knowledge and Skill of Artes acting as an illuminator of knowledge and the Character and Tradition of Mores by Upholding the Garnet and Gold and supporting our many great traditions. Tonight you become a Florida State University Torchbearer.

Your impact on and off our campus has exceed the blaze and illumination of our Torches. Your legacy has exceed our student body and impacted the Past, Present, and Future of Florida State University. Your contributions have been ingrained into the history of Florida State University. You have provided our institution with the life to keep our Torches burning. We are Torchbearers in the truest sense of the word.

The origin of Florida State University's seal symbolizes the fire given to humankind by Prometheus. Symbolizing humankind's elevation in order to bestow knowledge from generation to generation – acting as an illuminator for knowledge. Take a moment. Look around. Every student here has had a unique path, and all of us have unique experiences that have created the foundation of our time here. Leaders and Achievers. Movers and Shakers. Mobilizers and Doers. In this room rests a wide array of devotion because of Florida State University and to Florida State University.

Similar to how our Torches are reliant on one another, to extinguish one is to extinguish them all. Our students are reliant on each other. All of you are woven into the fabric of Florida State University. Your contributions may only be seen and felt within various corners of campus, but they have elevated our entire institution. Our fiber is dependent on the interconnectedness of our students. The magnitude of impact across campus extends to every corner of campus. Now is the time to continue to give back to the next generation. The Torches illuminate as far as the eye can see. Your impact and mentorship can do the same. This is a pivotal point in your journey as a student leader. Continue to guide and mentor your peers, continue to uphold the Torches by elevating others alike Prometheus.

Our institution enables students to learn, to grow, to continually live up to our values, portraying Vires, Artes, and Mores; Strength, Skill, and Character. There is a notable quote mounted above the doors to Dodd Hall. "The half of knowledge, is to know where to find knowledge." I challenge you to open doors for our fellow Seminoles, and support them through opportunity and encouragement. To act upon the quote engrained above the doors to Dodd Hall and to be an illuminator of knowledge. Acting as a Torchbearer, and portraying Vires, Artes, and Mores to all those who enter through the gates to our beloved institution, Florida State University. Congratulations.