







St. Pé awarded honorary degree

By leigh coleman - sun herald



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BILOXI — In addition to more than 250 students who graduated on Saturday, the University of Southern Mississippi-Gulf Coast feted Coast businessman and community leader Jerry St. Pe' who is now one of only five to ever receive an honorary degree from USM.

The university awarded an honorary doctor of humane letters degree to St. Pé.

St.Pe' was presented the degree at commencement held at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum.



leigh coleman Southern Miss Gulf Coast awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree to coast businessman and community leader Jerry St. Pé.

Southern Miss has awarded only four other honorary degrees: Healthcare executive David Fine in 2007, Mississippi politician Evelyn Gandy in 2001, the Rev. Will Davis Campbell in 1999, and benefactress Oseola McCarty in 1998.

"I am overwhelmed to receive this honor today," said St. Pe'. "It is humbling to have this recognition from the university."

St. Pé, a resident of Pascagoula, is former president of Ingalls Shipbuilding and retired executive vice president of Litton Industries. He is chairman of the Mississippi Gaming Commission and served as vice chairman of Gov. Haley Barbour's Commission on Recovery, Rebuilding and Renewal to develop plans and public policy for recovery from Hurricane Katrina.

He joined the public relations staff at Ingalls in 1961, became president in 1985 and was elected a corporate vice president of Litton Industries. In 1998,

he was named corporate executive vice president of Litton Industries with overall responsibility for the company's shipbuilding operations, a \$2 billion enterprise with 18,000 employees in Mississippi and Louisiana. He retired in October 2001.

As one of the founders of the Jackson County Economic Development Foundation, St. Pé now serves as a member of the organization's board of directors. He also serves on the boards of directors for the Southern Company, Merchants and Marine Bank, and Signal International.

"Jerry St. Pé has been a vital force in developing, building and rebuilding his community on the Gulf Coast," said Southern Miss President Martha Saunders.