

## Kerchiefs and mortarboards

May 18, 2013 6:15 AM Photos by Paula Burch-Celentano  
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Candidates for graduation celebrate in a very New Orleans fashion at the beginning of the [Tulane University Unified Commencement Ceremony](#) on Saturday (May 18).



His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama and Tulane President Scott Cowen sit together on the platform during the ceremony.



Graduate Nicholas Stathopoulos lends his baritone voice to a stirring rendition of the National Anthem.





Bandleader Michael White takes a solo. His Original Liberty Jazz Band is the "house band" for the Tulane commencement ceremony.



Class of 2013 speaker Jonathan Santoro delivers his remarks. Santoro, who holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Tulane, graduated from the School of Medicine on Saturday.



Natasha Trethewey, Allen Toussaint and Mac "Dr. John" Rebennack await receiving honorary degrees at the ceremony. Pulitzer-Prize winner Trethewey is the 19th U.S. Poet Laureate; Toussaint and Rebennack are icons of New Orleans music.