

# The University of Toledo



2801 W. Bancroft Street  
Toledo, Ohio 43606

Office of Public Information  
(419) 537-2675

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FROM: Marty Clark

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Actor Jamie Farr, best known as Corporal Klinger on the CBS television series "M\*A\*S\*H," will address The University of Toledo's 20th annual Honors Day Convocation at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, May 18, in Centennial Hall and will receive an honorary doctor of performing arts degree voted by the University's Board of Trustees.

UT President Glen R. Driscoll will confer the degree on Mr. Farr, honoring his achievements as a professional actor during the past 30 years and his widely known affection and loyalty for his hometown, Toledo.

The free, public Honors Day Convocation is sponsored by the University's chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, national scholastic honor society, and is intended to recognize the academic achievements of the University's graduate and undergraduate students. Participants will include initiates of some 30 professional and general honor societies which have chapters at UT as well as individual students of academic distinction.

University classes will be suspended at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 18, to enable faculty and students to attend the Honors Day Convocation, and will resume at 1 p.m.

While a student at Toledo's Woodward High School, Mr. Farr served as class president for three years, as feature editor of the school paper, president of the radio club, manager of the football and basketball teams, played varsity tennis, and wrote and acted in variety shows with Woodward's drama society.

Never in doubt about his career goal, Mr. Farr enrolled at the Pasadena Playhouse after graduating from Woodward and earned a bachelor of arts degree in film from Columbia College in Los Angeles.

While a student at the Pasadena Playhouse, he landed a screen test at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and won a role as Santini, a mentally retarded student, in "The Blackboard Jungle." The film, a story of tension between teachers and students in a tough, inner-city high school, became a landmark film statement on education in America.

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His career, supported by jobs as a delivery man for a lithograph company, a post office clerk, an army surplus store clerk, an airline reservations clerk, and work at a chinchilla ranch, was interrupted in the late 1950s by a two-year period of service in the Army. He is the only member of the "M\*A\*S\*H" cast to have actually served in Korea.

Back in Los Angeles after his discharge, Mr. Farr continued to seek work in films. While he is now famous for his 11 seasons on "M\*A\*S\*H," an acting assignment which began with a temporary one-day job in an early episode of the series' first season, his film credits include roles in a number of other successful feature length films. Among them are "The Greatest Story Ever Told," "No Time For Sergeants," "Who's Minding The Mint?" "With Six You Get Egg Roll," and "Cannonball Run."

His stage experience has included roles in "Mr. Roberts," "Stalag 17," "The Last Mile," "Send Me No Flowers," "Oklahoma," and "Chapter Two."

In the late 1950s, Mr. Farr became a regular on "The Red Skelton Show" and later performed with comedian Harvey Korman on "The Danny Kaye Show." In 1971, he joined Huntz Hall in the "Chicago Teddy Bears" television series.

In the mid-1970s he developed a night club comedy act and in his initial booking at the Boston Playboy Club, he sold out the house in the first week and became the only performer in the club's history to be held over for a second week, also a sellout.

More recently on the dinner theater circuit, Mr. Farr broke attendance records at Stage West in Edmonton, Canada, with an engagement which sold out 10 weeks in advance of its opening.

The only son of Lebanese grocer and meat cutter Samuel Farah and his wife, Jamelia, Mr. Farr is married to the former Joy Ann Richards. They are the parents of a son, Jonas, and a daughter, Yvonne. His older sister, Yvonne Tibsharaeny, now lives in Mesa, Ariz., and his uncle, Robert J. Abodeely, is a resident of south Toledo.