Student speaker advises grads, ‘Trust the process’

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Freeman School student Carlos Wilson (BSM/MACCT '16) will represent the Class of 2016 at Tulane University's Unified Commencement Ceremony on May 14. (Photo by Paula Burch-Celentano)

Before Carlos Wilson (BSM/MACCT ’16) graduates from the A. B. Freeman School of Business and heads off to his dream job with PricewaterhouseCoopers in New York City, he had an item on his bucket list. He wanted to be the student speaker at Tulane University's 2016 Unified Commencement Ceremony and share his thoughts on success with his classmates.

He won that honor and now hopes his message will reach beyond the 2,000-plus graduates in their caps and gowns at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome on May 14.

A finance major graduating from the Freeman School's five-year joint Bachelor of Science in Management/Master of Accounting program, Wilson wants to tell the entire audience to relax about their future: "I knew that I needed to tell everyone: Trust the process; you'll be all right."

That message isn't just for graduation day or just for graduates. It's for their parents as well. "Heck, it's for the professors too — anyone who listens and is able to hear it, it's for you; it's really for everyone."

His Tulane career is filled with superlatives, from recognition for academic excellence, to extensive volunteer work in the community, to leadership in athletics on the Green Wave football team. He was a teaching assistant in the school of business and a French tutor for student-athletes.

Named multiple times to the conference commissioner's honor roll, the native of Grambling, Louisiana, was president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Council, a resident advisor in Housing and Residential Life, and received the prestigious Wilson Award and Torch Award in athletics.

Wilson says he won't miss Tulane or New Orleans when he leaves because "they are a part of me. They are a part of who I am today and who I will become tomorrow. The hospitality and commitment to serving my community that New Orleans taught me will follow me now and into my new community in New York. My values, character, integrity, and dedication to excellence will all follow me from the halls of Tulane to the corridors of my firm."

— Carol Schlueter