

Nancy Mace Speaks as Part of the Leadership Speaker Series

On September 16, Nancy Mace, the first female to graduate from the South Carolina Corps of Cadets, was on campus as a speaker of the CSC's Leadership Speaker Series. After a brief introduction, Mace began to explain how she became the woman she is today. Much of her story is attributed to experience, both good and bad, and the examples leaders set before her.

Nancy Mace grew up in Goose Creek, SC with a military father and mother who was a school teacher. She considers herself a "product of environment," that is to say, watching her parents high work ethic set the example for her to emulate. This high work ethic played a crucial role after she dropped out of high school. Her parents said she was "on her own," and so she got a job at Waffle House. Realizing Waffle House was not the career she wanted, she took the work ethics she had learned from her parents. She sought to get her diploma at night from Trident Technical College and added a second job as a secretary. After reorganizing her life, Nancy Mace chose to follow in her father's footsteps and attend The Citadel.

Entering the gates in 1996, Mace wanted to be challenged, and challenged she was during what used to be called "Hell Week." This week was meant to break down the cadets and even bring them to tears. Mace nearly reached this point when she found herself lost in a dark room, but then came a cadet who saw her potential. He made her promise that she would graduate and was present as she finally received her degree. This cadet was another example in her life - an example of perseverance.

Nancy contributes who she is now to her past experiences, her parents, her life choices, and that one cadet who found her when she was lost. These experiences gave her the strength to obtain a corporate job and then eventually to create her own technology and consulting firm, The Mace Group, and the desire to help set the example for others by running for U.S. Senate.



Nancy Mace speaks at the School of Business.



MBA and EUG students listen to Nancy Mace during her presentation.