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USF's 38th commencement set

The 38th commencement of the University of South Florida is scheduled for Dec. 15 at 1 p.m. in the Sun Dome.

During the ceremony, honorary degrees will be awarded to Mary Hatwood Futrell, James Michener and William Reece Smith.

Futrell, a noted social justice advocate, is being recognized as a leader of organized educators and as an advocate for the teaching profession.

Futrell has been actively involved in the Education Commission of the States, National Assessment of Educational Progress and the National Select Committee on Education of Black Youth.

The honorary degree from USF will not be Futrell's first. She has received an honorary degree from Virginia State University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in business education and from George Washington University, where she earned her master's degree in business education.

"I am deeply honored to receive an honorary degree from USF. I am committed to quality education and to giving children the best education our country can afford," Futrell said.

Futrell's accomplishments have been recognized by several publica-tions and organizations, earning her a number of honors and awards. In 1984 Ebony magazine named her the Outstanding U.S. Black Businesswoman and Professional Person. That same year, Ladies Home Journal Magazine listed her as one of the top 100 women in America.

Futrell has received many honors, including the President's Award of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, National Education Association Friend of Education Award and the Labor Award for Trade Union Leadership.

James Michener has been a major voice in American literature for almost five decades. He published his first major novel in 1947, "Tales of the South Pacific," which won a Pulitzer Prize in 1948, one of the highest achievements for an American writer. In various popular forms, in a film and on stage, "South Pacific" has become an American classic.

That work was followed by a succession of thoroughly researched novels that provide a comparative study of human nature through generations and across cultures, such as "Hawaii, " "Caravans," "The Source," "Centennial," "Chesapeake, "Alaska" and "Caribbean."

While producing quality novels, Michener has involved himself in programs for aspiring writers at colleges and universities, among them Eckerd College, the University of Miami and the University of Texas. He has been awarded numerous honorary degrees, as well as receiving the Navy Gold Cross and the Medal of Freedom.

Michener now lives in St. Peters-burg, and is a member of the Academy of Senior Professionals at Eckerd College. The academy is an organization of retired and semi-retired senior citizens sharing some of their experiences with the students at Eckerd.

William Reece Smith served as interim president of USF from 1976-77. He has served as president of the Hillsborough County Bar Association, the Florida Bar Association, the American Bar Association and the International Bar Association. He is the only American attorney to preside over bar associations at all of these levels.

A Rhodes Scholar, he has also served on numerous community committees and boards, including the State of Florida Human Rights Advocacy Committee, Florida Council of 100 Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, the Florida Orchestra Task Force; and the Council of Advisors at USF.

Smith has received many awards and honors, and recently received the American Bar Association's highest recognition, the ABA Gold Medal. He has also been awarded honorary degrees from eight colleges and universities, including an L.L.D. from the University of South Florida in 1973.

Briefly

Operation Santa Claus under way

St. Nicholas and his elves have teamed up with the USF Ambassadors for the upcoming Christmas season.

The Ambassadors are hosting "Operation Santa Claus" to help 260 orthopedically disabled children from Shriners Hospital and 40 underprivileged children from Faith Children's Home.

The site of "Operation Santas Claus" is the lobby of USF's main library. One thousand Christmas tags are placed on a Christmas tree and faculty, staff, and students are asked to select a tag containing the child's name and age from the tree.

A list of gift suggestions are printed on the back of the tag.

Each person who selects a tag is asked to purchase a gift for the child, wrap the gift, and bring it to the library to place under the tree.

Immediately before Christmas the two charities will take the gifts from the library and distribute them to each of the children.

Extension Library serves remote classrooms

The SUS Extension Library Provides library services to off-campus and continuing education programs of the nine state universities. The Extension Library sends course-related materials to off-campus sites for SUS programs, such as PACE, FEEDS, and the Bachelor of Independent Study Program, as well as other courses taught in campus classrooms from USF Tampa campus.

Bibliographies can be submitted now in advance of the spring semester. Materials not owned by the library will be purchased in support of off-campus courses.

For more information about the services of the Extension Library, contact Virginia S. Hennon, Director, ext. 4494. The library's campus mailing address is PPA 000.

Faculty are encouraged to visit the facility at 4105 East Fowler Avenue, Tampa 33617. An open house is scheduled for Jan. 18 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Tom Mieczkowski just says "Whoa" to drugs

Tom Mieczkowski is a nationally recognized criminologist at USF St. Petersburg. To put Mieczkowski (pronounced MITCH-COW-SKI) says crack cocaine use is waning in America, not rising. He sees the form of regulating drugs is self-control, not drug laws. And he thinks that portraying drugs as public enemy number one is a smoke screen for other unsolved pressing issues.

Mieczkowski has no stranger to the controversy. In the '90s and the early '80s he was working the streets of Detroit, speaking the drug lingos of hard-core heroin addicts, visiting crack houses and shoozing with drug dealers street gangs and mobsters.

His first-hand experience with drugs, however, comes from hard-core research, not hard-core drug abuse. Far from being a user himself, Mieczkowski is a nationally respected criminologist at USF St. Petersburg. The Gus A. Stavros Center for Free Enterprise and Economic Education was funded by $280,000 in private donations and a $235,000 grant.

The center's mission is to in-structure kindergarten through 12th-grade teachers on how to teach pupils all aspects of national and worldwide economics.

"What we're trying to do is aid the teachers in helping their students to understand this broad area of economic education. The new facility will enable us to do that in a much more effective manner," Puglisi said.

Harrison Furniture & Interiors donates resources to Gus A. Stavros Center

Mieczkowski has some clout when it comes to putting drugs into perspective. He is chairman of the National Association of State University and (NASU) drug policy committee, Mieczkowski has chosen a panel that includes Mieczkowski is a nationally recognized criminologist at USF St. Petersburg. The Gus A. Stavros Center for Free Enterprise and Economic Education was funded by $280,000 in private donations and a $235,000 grant.

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