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1992 faculty award winners chosen

USF’s Fall 1992 Honors Convocation faculty award winners were recently announced by President Francis T. Berkowitz and Provost Gerry G. Meisel.

Hans Juergensen

The Theodore and Venette Askounes-Ashford Distinguished Scholar Award, which is reflective of a faculty member’s national and scholarly visibility, will go to Mourad E. H. Ismaiel, Mathematics. Ismaiel is a leading expert and respected scholar in the field of special functions, and has brought world-wide recognition to USF. He draws many other scholars to the university to work on various research projects.

Victor Drapela

Rosemary Lagace, business, has been chosen for the Alumni Professor Award. The award goes to the USF professor with less than five years of employment who has excelled in the most in three areas of performance. Lagace came to USF in 1989 and has made contributions in the areas of teaching, research, and service.

Marvin T. Williams, biochemistry, won the Distinguished Service Award. Williams has taught at USF for 14 years and in 1980 began the Minority High School Student Research Apprentice Program, a program which encourages minorities to pursue careers in science and medical research.

Mark Amen, Government and International Affairs, won the Town & Country Community Service Award. (See story, page 7). Amen has been actively involved with the Tampa AIDS Network (TAN) since 1988, and was elected president of its Board of Directors in June of 1991. He has also worked tirelessly with the Hillsborough County School System to implement the Dual Enrollment Program.

Seven individuals will be receiving the designation of Emeritus Professor, which reflects the faculty member’s substantial contribution to the University and substantive contributions to his standing in the professional and other external communities. These include Henry A. Azar, Pathology and Lab Medicine; Shirley Chu, Electrical Engineering; Ting L. Chu, Electrical Engineering; Victor J. Drapela, Psychology and Social Foundations; Hans Juergensen, Humanities; John Timothy Reilly, Criminal Justice; and T.W. Graham Solomon, Chemistry.

"It truly was an embarrassment of riches," said Georg Kleine, Chair of the Honorary Awards and Commencement Committee, of this year’s selection process. "The number of nominations was high and the merits were outstanding, which made it very difficult for us to narrow our choices to just one individual..."

The awards will be presented by Berkowitz and Meisel at the 1992 Honors Convocation on Oct. 16.

By Jennifer Haver

Ting Chu

Briefly

Tampa campus gets more signs

USF Parking Services Department announced that the next phase of signage for the campus will be installed during the summer months.

The university’s signage program has been an ongoing project for several years, with the first phase of signs being the large green informational/directional signs installed at campus entrances. This signage program has been budgeted over the last three years and is now reaching the secondary and tertiary phases.

The secondary directional signage will complement the existing signage to direct motorists to specific buildings and colleges of the campus. This phase will also include building identification signage, which will be readily viewable by the motorist who is searching for a destination.

Decision on football delayed

A final decision on the issue of starting a football team at USF will not be made until next year, USF President Francis T. Berkowitz recently announced.

Berkowitz had hoped to make a decision in May, but agreed with members of the USF Athletics Council that there are too many unanswered questions for a decision to be made now.

A task force set up to study the feasibility of football at USF deferred its final report in March, concluding that football is indeed possible at USF.

The University is now gauging constituency reaction to the issue through open forums and surveys.

Harold W. (Bill) Heller, dean of the college of education and allied professions at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNCC), has been appointed dean and executive officer of the University of South Florida St. Petersburg, Provost Gerry G. Meisel announced today. He is expected to begin his new duties Oct. 1.

"Bill Heller was clearly the best candidate for this job," Meisel said. "He has excellent credentials and communications skills and has the overwhelming support of the campus community..."

Heller, whose early training and teaching focused exclusively on the special education of the mentally and physically disabled, also will be a professor of special education at USF St. Petersburg. Meisel said. He replaces Winston Bridges, interim dean since July 1990. Bridges will continue to serve as coordinator of education when Heller arrives in October.

"The committee found Dr. Heller to have excellent leadership skills, based on our interaction with him and conversations with people about him," said Nancy McNichol, professor of business administration at USF St. Petersburg and chair of the search committee. T. Berkowitz, dean at UNCC since 1979, will leave a college where he supervised 117 faculty and 3,000 undergraduate and graduate students. The college of education and allied affairs at UNCC was selected in 1990 from among 70 nominees to receive one of the 11 Christa McAuliffe "Showcase for Excellence" awards given by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

The college received the award for its program designed to prepare educators as teachers for all children. Heller also served during the 1976 as associate dean and professor of graduate studies and research in the college of education and as chairman of special education at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. From 1973 to 1977 he took a leave of absence to be superintendent of Byrce Hospital, a state institution for the mentally ill in Tuscaloosa.

From 1966 to 1971 he worked for the U.S. Office of Education as a specialist and branch chief of programs for the mentally retarded and as a division director for the Bureau of Education for the Handicapped.

Before that he taught at Indiana University St. Petersburg and at DeKalb, Ill., public schools as a special education instructor.

Heller earned his bachelor's degree in elementary education and special education from Southern Illinois University, his master's in guidance and counseling from Northern Illinois University and his doctorate in special education from the University of Northern Colorado.