12-11-1998


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USF named to new Research 1 category within state system

Florida's Board of Regents recently approved a new classification system for the 10-institution State University System that gives USF a "Research I" designation emphasizing its research, graduate programs and enrollment.

USF is joined in that category by the University of Florida and Florida State University. The remaining seven institutions are divided among classifications of Research II, Comprehensive and Comprehensive/Doctoral.

"USF has arrived, and everybody knows it," said USF President Betty Castor. "For years, USF has been a research powerhouse with excellent graduate research programs in many disciplines. Now that our strength has been recognized, this new awareness will help us become even stronger.

USF's growth as a research university has been particularly dramatic over the past 10 years. In 1989-90, the university had 460 research proposals submitted for faculty, resulting in roughly $18.5 million in contracts and grants, almost $30 million more than the university's previous best year. That total included more than $41 million in direct federal awards.

In 1988-89, research funding was just under $56 million, less than half the current total.

Graduate enrollment, likewise, has also grown dramatically. In 1989, more than 4,600 students were enrolled in master's, doctoral and professional specialty programs. Some 6,000 graduate students are enrolled at USF this fall.

The growth of USF as a research and graduate institution is not lost on high-tech industry. Companies such as Unisys and Bear Stearns have recently opted to open major new divisions nearby, citing USF's presence and ready stream of more than 7,200 graduates that flows from the university each year.

"We hope that this new designation will be a catalyst for stronger-than-ever growth at USF," said Castor. "We look forward to working with legislators over the coming months to help them determine how they can help us realize the full potential of our new classification."

by Todd Martinez-Padilla Simmons

Several members of the USF community worked together in November to help build homes for Habitat for Humanity, Included were Professors Murray Cohen (second from left) and Cynthia Cohen (third from left).

USF commencement ceremonies scheduled for Dec. 12-15

USF will confer more than 2,600 degrees during fall commencement, which begins Dec. 12 at the Tampa campus.

Young Barylski, the commencement speaker for the Tampa campus is Professor Robert Barylski, former dean of the Sarasota campus and current faculty member in the Political Science department. During the ceremony, U.S. Rep. C. W. "Bill" Young will receive an honorary doctorate in humane letters. The Republican is the chairman-designate of the House Appropriations Committee.

During the two Tampa campus ceremonies, a total of 2,252 degrees will be awarded. 1,839 bachelor's degrees, 626 master's degrees and 97 specialist and doctoral degrees. Admission is free (tickets are not required). However, tickets will be required for the St. Petersburg commencement exercises and the Sarasota campus graduation.

Ann Henderson, executive director of the MacArthur Foundation's Abacoa Partnership for Community, will address the 214 graduates receiving degrees from the St. Petersburg campus. The former USF instructor will be presented with the President's Distinguished Service Award.

USF alumni Rubyinda Zickafoose will speak to a much-smaller crowd of 110 graduates at the Dec. 15 graduation in the Political Science department. During the ceremony, U.S. Rep. C. W. "Bill" Young will receive an honorary doctorate in humane letters. The Republican is the chairman-designate of the House Appropriations Committee.
It took up 30 years of Dr. David Hubbell's time, and 23 feet of his bookshelves.

Despite the dedication to his Mark Twain collection, Hubbell, a professor of Medicine and employee of the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, decided to donate it to the USF St. Petersburg campus Library. It saves his wife some dusting, he said lightheartedly.

More importantly, it gives Hubbell an opportunity to share his research with university Twain enthusiasts. "It will get better use in an academic setting," Hubbell said.

The decision of which USF library should house the collection was a difficult one, Hubbell said. The Tampa campus was tempting, but St. Petersburg won out because of what's in a name.

It seems Twain, in "Huckleberry Finn," named one of his fictional Missouri towns St. Petersburg. Hubbell was drawn to the Florida campus because of it.

It gives the newly renovated library there one of its finest collections, said Kathy Arsenault, who heads the library's special collections department. "This is the first major exhibit for the St. Pete campus," Arsenault said. The collection is kept in a room with special lighting and separately locked cases.

Included in the collection is a rare first-edition copy of "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County," which Hubbell stumbled upon in a San Francisco bookstore. But his favorite book is the classic "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn."

Hubbell recalls his favorite passage: when Huck struggles with his conscience, and decides to turn in his friend, a black slave, who's hiding out on his boat. Huck later decides against it, but must convince a boatful of men that the slave on his boat is actually his father, who has the bubonic plague. Huck decides his conscience "isn't a hell of a lot of good," Hubbell said with a laugh.