

5-5-2000

Inside USF : 2000 : 05 : 05 - 2000 : 06 : 01

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Recommended Citation

University of South Florida, "Inside USF : 2000 : 05 : 05 - 2000 : 06 : 01" (2000). *Inside USF*. 163.
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Inside USF

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The University of South Florida's faculty/staff newsletter

Send address changes to Human Resources, SVC 2172

Millennium commencement this month

USF will confer more than 3,393 degrees during spring commencement ceremonies starting May 5 at USF-Sarasota and continuing May 6 at the Sun Dome at USF-Tampa.

Former USF President Betty Castor, now the president and chief executive officer of the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards, will speak at the 7:30 p.m. May 6 Tampa convocation and receive an honorary doctorate of Humane Letters from USF.



Castor

During her presidency that began in January 1994, USF embraced changes to its physical landscape, academic programs, research status and campus environment.

USF underwent a beautification campaign that included the creation of the Martin Luther King Jr. Plaza and the completion of a 155,000 square-foot College of Education building.

The university's curricula flourished with the addition of half a dozen Ph.D. degree programs.



Gross

Sponsored research funding rose from \$92 million to more than \$161 million in the last four years of Castor's term. This set the foundation for USF to be declared one of only three Florida Research I institutions by the Board of Regents.

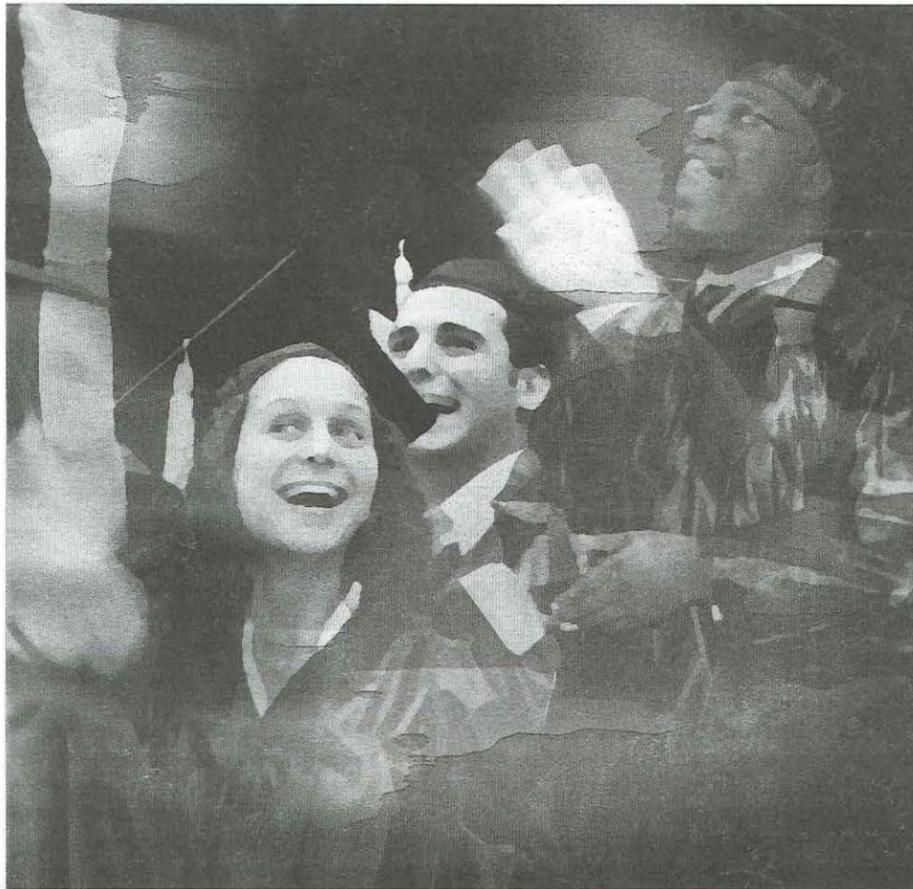
Castor also helped establish the Florida High-Tech Corridor, along Interstate 4 from St. Petersburg to Orlando, as an area to attract technical companies to the region and redefine Florida as a high-technology state.

During the two Tampa campus ceremonies (at 2:30 p.m. for College of Arts and Sciences, Fine Arts and School of Architecture graduates and at 7:30 p.m. for Business, Education, Engineering, Public Health, Nursing and Medicine graduates), 3,393 degrees will be awarded: 2,474 bachelor's, 824 master's, six specialists and 89 doctorates.

Both ceremonies will take place in the Sun Dome and admission is free. No tickets are required.



Jacobs



graphic by David Fink

Tickets will be required, however, for the USF-St. Petersburg commencement ceremony at 2 p.m. May 7 in the Bayfront Center's Mahaffey Theater. Tickets may be required for the USF-Sarasota graduation at 7 p.m. May 5 at College Hall on Sarasota Bay at the Sarasota campus.

Judge Raymond Gross, who presides over dependency cases in Pinellas County, as well as the USF Alumni Association, will speak at the 2 p.m. May 7 ceremony for USF-St. Petersburg graduates.

Anete Vasquez, an English teacher at Palm Harbor University High School and Pinellas County's Teacher of the Year, will also speak at the ceremony.

Gross is responsible for deciding cases which deal with children at risk. He also decides termination of parental rights cases and adoptions. Gross graduated from USF with a bachelor's degree in political science in 1969.

Before being appointed as a Circuit Court judge in 1995 by the late Gov. Lawton Chiles, Gross practiced law in Pinellas.

He served as president of the Clearwater Bar Association, Florida Bar Grievance Committee and the Sixth Circuit Judicial Nominating Committee. He's a member of several Supreme Court Rules Committees, as well as the State-wide Dependency Court Improvement

Committee and the Family Court Steering Committee.

Debra Jacobs, president of the Selby Foundation, will speak at the 7 p.m. May 5 USF-Sarasota ceremony. Jacobs works with the community and foundation trustees to enhance the quality of life in the arts, education and human services.

Before joining the foundation in 1998, Jacobs was the vice president for institutional advancement for Ringling School of Art and Design, responsible for admissions, alumni relations, career services, the design center, development, financial aid and marketing. Jacobs came to Ringling after 11 years as executive vice president for SunTrust Bank, Gulf Coast.

A graduate of Utica College of Syracuse University and the University of Rochester, Jacobs is past chairman of the Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce board of directors, the Sarasota County Committee of 100 and the Community Housing Corp. She has served on the boards of the Sarasota Family YMCA, Sarasota University Club and the Sarasota Opera Association.

For more information about any of the ceremonies, call USF's University Relations office at ext. 4-4189 or 4-1816, or the Office of Media Relations at ext. 4-4014.

by Lisa Cunningham

Peck tightens campus bonds

USF Interim President Richard Peck recently announced several steps to improve the educational experience at the St. Petersburg and Sarasota/Manatee campuses that will have immediate and long-term consequences.

First, Peck is strengthening the campus dean position in St. Petersburg by transforming it into a vice presidency, he announced April 18. Effective immediately, Dean Bill Heller becomes an acting vice president, reporting to Peck and becoming a member of the executive budget council and the president's staff.

"This is definitely a step in the right direction," Heller said. "It's important to be a part of the body where major decisions are being made."

Peck will also establish an office for himself on the St. Petersburg campus and spend one day a week there through the end of his term, further solidifying the relationship with USF's largest branch campus. Peck additionally is working with Athletic Director Paul Griffin toward scheduling some USF home games in Conference USA baseball play for St. Petersburg.

In addition, Peck and Griffin could implement an intercollegiate crew program in which both the Sarasota/Manatee and St. Petersburg campuses might take part. The St. Petersburg campus already has a successful sailing team.

"USF has an important role to play as a regional institution," Peck said. "I am taking these immediate steps, along with working to increase branch campus enrollments and to seek increased resources, in order to strengthen the connections that bind together the constituent parts of the university throughout our service area."

Enrollment has increased significantly for the Sarasota and St. Petersburg campuses, and funding for both campuses is up more than 10 percent from the 1997-98 to 1998-99 academic years.

Incoming President Judy Genshaft will be able to build from Peck's efforts when she comes permanently to campus in July, Peck added.

"(Genshaft brings) a fund of expertise developed when she supervised the entire branch campus operation for Ohio State University," he said.

by Danita Arbuckle

New master's program created in Latin, Caribbean studies

USF now has a master's program in Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies.

The program will accept its first class of graduate students in the fall 2000 semester. The program was approved by the Board of Regents in November 1999.

The program, unlike many other Latin American programs, includes the study of the Latino communities in the United States in its interdisciplinary approach. USF, with strong ties and commitments to the community, is uniquely positioned to offer an interdisciplinary graduate degree to students interested in academia, international business, government service and international development.

Under the direction of Michael L. Conniff, the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies has expanded its horizons, signed exchange agreements with universities in Central and South America and increased the number of undergraduate students enrolled in its certificate program.

The university is now accepting applications for admission to its program. Paul J. Dosal, a native of Tampa and specialist in the history of Central America and the Caribbean, will coordinate the graduate program and teach the core seminars.

The two-semester seminar sequence will provide graduate students with a common orientation and preparation for interdisciplinary studies and research.

The second core seminar will focus on selected topics within the field of Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies. Both seminars are designed to foster the development of analytical, multi-cultural and problem-solving skills through exposure to the perspectives of several disciplines and methodological approaches to selected regions and topics.

In addition to these core seminars, students will take classes in participating departments to fulfill their requirements in major and minor fields of concentration.

For more information, contact the Latin American and Caribbean Studies office at ext. 4-3547, or email pdosal@luna.cas.usf.edu.



Most wired: USF is listed by the Internet service Yahoo! as one of America's most wired universities in the country for 2000.

Advise-a-Bull: The Counseling Center's career services assist students with career planning and decision-making, including selecting a major, making informed decisions and engaging in fulfilling, meaningful work.