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St. Petersburg Showroom Aids Campus Expansion

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← ST. PETERSBURG SHOWROOM AIDS CAMPUS EXPANSION

(Left to right) St. Petersburg City Councilman Edward L. Cole unveils a dedication plaque as former Piano Man Building owner Ted York and St. Petersburg campus dean H. William Heller look on. Once a piano showroom, the building was donated to USF by the city of St. Petersburg in 1991. Renovations have now been completed to turn the facility into four classrooms.

MINORITY GRADUATE STUDENT ENROLLMENT SOARS AT USF

The number of minority graduate students at USF has jumped dramatically over the past five years, nearly doubling overall and more than tripling in some categories.

Minorities comprised nearly 11 percent of the entire graduate pool in 1992-93.

"The university has really turned the corner here. We have one of the highest percentage of African-American doctoral students [4.1 percent last year] of any Ph.D.-granting institution in the country," says Richard Mansell, interim dean of the USF Graduate School. The number grew from 60 to about 70 in the past year.

Mansell attributes much of the success to strong faculty outreach efforts, to former President Francis T. Borkowski, and to Provost Gerry G.

Meisels. "It's the leadership that makes things possible."

That leadership is most evident in the increased funding for financial aid and tuition waivers, from \$155,000 in 1987 to \$768,000 last school year.

The number of African Americans has jumped from 119 to 235, while the number of Hispanics has escalated from 139 to 245. Overall, the minority graduate student population has gone from 307 to 611.

Asian American graduate students have increased from 44 to 121, while Native Americans have gone from five to 10.

Mansell is also proud of the caliber of student USF attracts. Only about one percent of the minority graduate student population falls below a 3.0 grade point average. **USF**

CONTINUING EDUCATION MAKES SENIORS COMPUTER LITERATE

Senior citizens who have never touched a computer can now learn all about the latest software and hardware in new classes offered by USF's School of Continuing Education and the West Central Florida Area Agency on Aging.

USF has become part of SeniorNet, a non-profit organization that links seniors via computer. USF's will be the fourth SeniorNet program in the state, joining cities such as Winter Park and Ocala, says Lee Leavengood, director of the Division of Life-long Learning.

USF interim President Robert Bryan, national SeniorNet President Mary Ferlong, and senior citizens at-

tended an October open house for the project.

At the open house, seniors saw the computer lab, demonstrations and videos and talked to the volunteers who will teach the course. Most of the instructors are former IBM employees, says instructor Wayne Sperr.

The first class is an introductory one to show seniors how to approach and use a computer with some proficiency, Sperr explains. "We'll let them touch it and make things happen with it, so by the end of nine weeks, they can get things done with it."

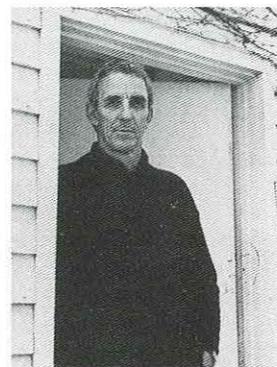
Many of the students are people who might have a computer and have never used it, Sperr says. Or "they see

BROWN, MATTHIESSEN AND KUMIN TO HEADLINE SUNCOAST WRITERS' CONFERENCE

Best-selling author Rosellen Brown (*Tender Mercies*, *Street Games*, *Before and After*), National Book Award and American Book Award recipient Peter Matthiessen (*The Snow Leopard*, *At Play in the Fields of the Lord*, *African Silences*) and Pulitzer Prize winning poet Maxine Kumin (*Up Country*, *Looking for Luck*) will headline the Florida Suncoast Writers' Conference, Feb. 3-5, 1994.

The 22nd annual conference will be held at USF's St. Petersburg campus and will feature more than 50 workshops led by award-winning and professional writers, editors, agents and publishers.

Cost for attending the three-day conference is \$100 before Jan. 21. For more information, call (813) 974-2695. **USF**



Peter Matthiessen



Maxine Kumin

their children or grandchildren using it, and they want to learn."

By linking up to the network, seniors will exchange ideas through an E-mail system.

"It's almost like a social event, when you get on-line," Sperr explains. The network offers unlimited use and allows seniors to talk to each other about everything from sewing to sky-diving.

Sperr taught both customers and employees at IBM. The computer firm has also donated computers for the class.

For more information about the network, call (813) 974-2403. **USF**

Photo by Nancy Crampton

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