

Subject: Discover USF: Daily Points of Pride

Date: Fri, 3 May 2002 09:08:36 -0400

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To: USF-NEWS@LISTSERV.ADMIN.USF.EDU

YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD TO GET YOUR DEGREE:

Commencement ceremonies for USF St. Petersburg on May 5 will be particularly notable for Ellen Fox, 79, who will receive a bachelor's degree in business. That might seem enough of an achievement, but a lifetime of struggle went into that success. Mrs. Fox dropped out of school after the seventh grade, married and had four children. Decades later, after her oldest son asked her for help with his college algebra, she decided it was time to further her own education. After completing her high school requirements, Mrs. Fox began attending USF in 1990. Her goal was go into business with her oldest son, a local CPA. Three years ago, he was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident. As she struggled to assist in his care, she never gave up her studies. "I didn't see any point in turning back," she says. See her story, publicized in the May 3, 2002 Tampa Tribune online at <http://www.tampatrib.com/FloridaMetro/MGAFAP3FR0D.html> .

PARENTS WITH A PURPOSE TO GRADUATE FROM USF ST. PETE:

For Marla and Mark Smith, their graduation will be a time of shared happiness. The couple met four years ago at an orientation session as each started at USF St. Petersburg. Marla, a single mom with three small children, began dating Mark and they soon married. Now parents of a fourth child, both will receive bachelor's degrees in business management. Ellen Fox and Mark and Marla Smith are among the approximately 300 students at USF St. Petersburg who will earn degrees at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 5 at the Mahaffey Theater in downtown St. Petersburg. For more information, call (727) 553-3458.

ANOTHER MILESTONE FOR USF ST. PETERSBURG:

The USF St. Petersburg commencement marks the first time freshmen will receive a four-year diploma from USF St. Petersburg. Two of these students will walk in the ceremony, both from the College of Education.

---"It's never too late to become what you might have been."---George Eliot

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