
Abagail Featherstone

Victoria Salazar

Christopher Guinn

Follow this and additional works at: https://digital.usfsp.edu/nnb_news

Recommended Citation


https://digital.usfsp.edu/nnb_news/16

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Neighborhood News Bureau (USFSP) at Digital USFSP. It has been accepted for inclusion in NNB News by an authorized administrator of Digital USFSP.
Neighborhood News Bureau honors Midtown seniors

By: Abagail Featherstone
Victoria Salazar

Pictures by: Christopher Guinn

The USF St. Petersburg Neighborhood News Bureau (NNB) honored distinguished Midtown community seniors at a 5:30 p.m. presentation Tuesday, April 24.

City Council members, USFSP chancellor Margaret Sullivan, members of The Bridge Group, journalism faculty, students and friends gathered at Trinity Presbyterian Church to view media presentations organized by students enrolled in the NNB advanced journalism writing class.

City Council chairwoman Leslie Curran, Wengay Newton and Karl Nurse welcomed participants on behalf of St. Petersburg and remained to hear presentations.

Midtown seniors recognized for their outstanding service were Ethel Johnson, Bertha James, Dr. Leo Nussbaum, Lounell Britt, Caroline D. Williams, Mordecai Walker, The Rev. Dr. Frederick Terry, Charley Williams, Willie Mae McGarrah, Carolyn Starling-Cloud, Fred Winters and Mable Gibson.

Students highlighted the contributions of the dedicated educators, activists, newspaper owner and others who serve through their often silent leadership. These seniors work tirelessly in the community to create better race relations among cultures and improve life for people in need of various types of assistance.

“Being honored was so great that my husband called me a celebrity afterwards,” Carolyn Starling-Cloud said. “The student was very interested in my life and what I’m doing in the community. Tonight’s presentations show St. Petersburg what we do even if we’re not in the limelight daily.”

Starling-Cloud says the USFSP journalism program is much needed and adds value to the community by telling stories that are often overlooked by others.

Founders of the journalism department of USFSP, Robert Dardenne and George Killenberg, discussed the mission of NNB and their purpose for starting the off-site classroom at Sanderlin.

“One reason we started this program was demonstrated today. There are remarkable stories in the area and there’s more than crime...
Robert Dardenne and George Killenberg, founders of USFSP journalism program, interviewed by NNB student Skyla Luckey.

here,” said Dardenne, which inspired a round of applause from the audience.

Professor Killenberg described the history and purpose of creating the Neighborhood News Bureau as a way for students to gain real journalistic experience.

“We started this program back when we made a conservative effort to cover the news mainstream media would miss,” Killenberg said. “Journalism needed to be closer to the people of the community.”

Professor Loretha Cleveland is the instructor for the news writing class at NNB. She organized the event at Trinity Presbyterian Church to encourage continued community interaction for students. She said it would be easy to hold the function at USFSP but that would be counterproductive as to why the NNB class meets at Sanderlin Center instead of campus.

“The mission of NNB is to report untold stories from the community as we are part of Midtown,” Cleveland said. “What we do and what we write about are the same – the Midtown community from a positive viewpoint, giving voice to the often voiceless.”

Through her contact and guidance, this is the second year the community senior presentations were featured at the church.

USFSP student Gabrielle Frazier designed a website for Trinity to give the church a Web presence.

“It took two months and I spent a lot of time at the church and instead of getting to know just one person, I got to know many people,” Frazier said. She primarily worked with Trinity pastor Alfonso Woods to gather pictures and history for the site.

The Bridge Group, a service organization founded by recognized community seniors Leo Nussbaum and Rev. Frederick Terry, was included as a special guest that exemplifies a similar community mission as NNB. Bridge, whose members are mainly retired professionals from various careers, meets monthly to discuss and implement ways to blend cultures and support inclusiveness of all people equally in society. Sunday, April 22, Bridge celebrated its 15th anniversary. Nussbaum said he and Terry intentionally meet weekly for lunch, dinner or events to continue the bond and mission of the group.

Neighborhood News Bureau (NNB) is a working newsroom, staffed by USF St. Petersburg undergraduate and graduate journalism students. NNB serves Midtown and surrounding communities. To report your community news, call 727-873-4741, or email lclevela@mail.usf.edu. NNB is online at nnbnews.com.

Tagged as: midtown, nnb, seniors