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USF ST. PETERSBURG STUDENT RECEIVES DEGREE AFTER 57 YEARS IN COLLEGE

ST. PETERSBURG, FLA. (April 26, 1994) -- Peggy La Montaine will receive her bachelor's degree on May 4, after spending 57 years earning it.

La Montaine, 74, is the oldest degree-seeking student at the University of South Florida's St. Petersburg campus. She has taken classes on and off since 1937. An English literature major, La Montaine tried several different careers before deciding on her field of study. She understands when fellow students express uncertainty about their futures. "I know what it's like for kids not to know what they want to do," says La Montaine.

Widowed for eight years, La Montaine raised four children, the oldest of is now 49. In addition to her classes at USF, she plays tennis, travels and volunteers for her church.

She will receive her degree at the commencement ceremony on May 4, at 7 p.m. in the Mahaffey Theater in St. Petersburg. About 250 St. Petersburg campus graduates will march in the ceremony; more than 300 will earn degrees this spring and summer.