



UF | UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA

Chapter One

For Friends of the George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida

Spring 2010

Grand opening for the Al Burt Papers

by James Cusick

Curator, P.K. Yonge Library of Florida History

Few journalists left as big an imprint on modern Florida history as Al Burt, reporter and columnist for the *Miami Herald* and author of three classic anthologies about the state and its people. Burt, an alumnus of the University of Florida, started his career as a sports writer, became a leading foreign correspondent in the Caribbean, and established a legacy as a roving reporter and columnist. For more than a quarter century, he composed weekly columns and Sunday features about life in Florida the way he saw it. He didn't base himself in Miami, but in Melrose, just east of Gainesville, where he and his wife Gloria planned their itineraries and traveled around Florida, from Destin to Moore Haven, from Fernandina to Key West.

Now, all of Al Burt's work is preserved in Special Collections at the George A. Smathers Libraries. Al and Gloria Burt donated his papers in 2008 and the collection has been processed and described online at www.uflib.ufl.edu/spec/pkyonge/burt.htm. It includes hundreds of Burt's columns and articles as well as his interviews and notes, and his unpublished talks on the importance of preserving Florida's natural places. The collection is a treasury of anecdotes and observations on everything from

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Members of Al Burt's family at the opening of his papers. From left to right, Mary Burt, sister-in-law; Andy Burt, nephew; Gloria Burt, wife; and Jim Burt, brother.

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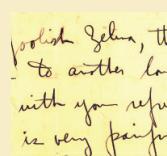


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Al Burt (Continued from page 1)

Marjorie Stoneman Douglas, Harry Crews, Jackie Gleason and Fidel Castro to Florida's crackers, shrimpers, sponge fisherman and oyster-shuckers.

As part of a celebration of Burt's career, materials from his papers were placed on exhibit at the Melrose Public Library during the main event of the first annual Al Burt Festival on February 28, 2010 and displayed at the Matheson Museum, Inc., in Gainesville, on April 11, 2010 to officially open the papers.

Al Burt (1927-2008) was born in Oglethorpe County, Georgia but grew up at the family home in Jacksonville, Florida. He studied journalism at the University of Florida and joined the *Atlanta Journal* in 1950 as a sports writer. In 1955 he was hired onto the *Herald*. Although best known as a columnist, Burt spent his early career as a foreign correspondent, winning the prestigious Ernie Pyle Award in 1961 for his coverage of the communist revolution in Cuba. In 1965,

while reporting on the American military occupation of the Dominican Republic, both he and *Herald* photographer Doug Kennedy were severely wounded in a friendly fire incident at a roadside check point set up by the U.S. Marines. Despite injuries that shattered his hip and left him reliant on a cane, Burt crisscrossed Latin America in subsequent years, becoming an expert on current issues, and co-authoring a book with Bernard Diederich about the Duvalier regime in Haiti.

Dr. Mark Barrow, president of the Matheson Museum, reads a selection from Al Burt's work at the George A. Smathers Libraries' event officially opening the collection.



In 1973 Burt accepted a position as a roving reporter and columnist for the *Herald*. His job: to travel the state of Florida and write about what he saw. He and his wife Gloria relocated to Melrose, in north central Florida, and went about the task together. "It was very much of a partnership thing, and we shared it," he noted. "The best years of my life are the ones I spent traveling Florida."

Burt reached a new audience when he began publishing anthologies of his work in *Becalmed in the Mullet Latitudes* (1983), *Al Burt's Florida* (1997), and *Tropic of Cracker* (1999). Other published works include *Florida: A Place in the Sun* (1974) with photos by Heinz Erhardt and contributions to *The Wild Heart of Florida* (1999) and *The Book of the Everglades* (2002).

The Al Burt Papers include his writings, public talks, photographs and audiovisual recordings. These materials document all aspects of Burt's career as a journalist. Tapes of his interviews, as well as his reporter's notes, exist for most of his major articles and columns. There are also video tapes of Burt's public talks and audio recordings of him reading from his own work. Burt was an advocate for protection of Florida's natural resources and many of his recorded and unpublished talks deal with this topic.

The George A. Smathers Libraries would like to thank Al and Gloria Burt and Jim and Mary Burt for their dedication in seeing his papers protected for the future. The libraries also thank the Melrose Public Library for including examples from his papers as part of their festival and the Matheson Museum, Inc. for providing a wonderful venue to officially open the papers. Audiovisual materials in the papers are now being converted into current electronic formats and unpublished material from Burt's talks to the public will appear online with the guide to the collection. The Smathers Libraries appreciates contributions that have been made to assist with these efforts.

Library student assistant scholarship winner

Nancy Cooey, a junior from Gulf Breeze, Florida, was awarded the spring 2010 James and Leslie Rutherford Library Student Assistant Scholarship. Cooey works at the Architecture & Fine Arts Library and is an English major with a minor in art history and sustainability. The \$500 scholarship is awarded each semester to a student assistant employed by the Smathers Libraries. Information on the scholarship can be found at <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/pers/scholarship.htm>.

Nancy said in her winning essay, "Once at the research desk at Library West when I needed to find a topic for a thesis, a librarian took extra time to thoroughly explore several topics with me and find various resources that were extremely pertinent to my paper's focus."



Dean of UF Libraries Judy Russell presents Nancy Cooey with her scholarship award.

Conservation treatment of mixed format collections

by John Freund
Conservator, Preservation Department

The preservation of archival collections in diverse formats is challenging to collection managers and conservators. Different types and formats of materials require varied treatment and storage options. Housing them together as a collection causes problems in several areas. Small items may become lost among large items. A book housed next to a group of letters may damage or distort the papers. An item with sharp edges, such as a tintype could damage items stored next to it, and a large map or broadside may need to be folded in order to fit among the other items.

The Miscellaneous Manuscript Collection of the P.K. Yonge Library of Florida History holds more than 2,000 small manuscript collections, comprised of family correspondence, land records and diaries. The collection is a compilation of diverse, unrelated files covering subject areas such as politics, wars, trade, geography, religion, entertainment, railroads, hotels, Native Americans, immigration and slavery. The various formats of research materials include photos, sketches, maps, diaries, narratives, marriage, baptism and church records, battle orders and rosters, newspaper and magazine clippings, receipts, deeds, menus, theater programs, postage stamps and campaign buttons.

Archivists processing the collections have to determine how to best keep them in order, mindful of the long term preservation requirements of mixed format collections. Fragile letters need to be removed from their envelopes and unfolded, flattened and protected from damage. Paper and metal clips, rubber bands and other fasteners, need to be removed to prevent rusting and distortion of the papers. Photographs, depending on their type, may need to be enclosed for their own protection and to protect

the items next to it. Large maps should be unrolled or unfolded, flattened and possibly deacidified. Books need to be protected and stabilized. Each type of item has its own storage requirements and care needs to be taken that they do not damage or affect each other. For items that continue to deteriorate such as newspapers, it may also be necessary to make a backup copy on archival paper or create a digital image. Student interns are trained in the processing and preservation of these collections through a 3-credit "Preserving History" undergraduate course. The course is taught by Special Collections staff and includes a component of preservation and conservation of book and paper collections.

Correspondence, maps, documents and other unbound material are organized, unfolded, flattened and stabilized. It is important for most paper items to be stored flat since repeated folding tends to weaken the paper along the fold lines until it eventually breaks. Most paper made between 1850 and the 1960s is acidic, so deacidification or treating the paper to neutralize the acidity of the paper is necessary. Damaged or fragile papers are encapsulated in a sealed clear polyester envelope.

Photographs have different storage parameters depending on the type of image. Cased images such as daguerreotypes and ambrotypes are generally stable, but are bulky and difficult to interfile with paper materials. Other paper photographs, depending on their type may also have specific storage requirements such as housed in enclosures, or being protected from light.

Occasionally, advanced treatments will be needed on a diary or set of letters which have come loose from



Carolyn Eliza Williams' 1811 diary encapsulated in a polyester book.

their bindings. An example of this is the 1811 diary (above) of Carolyn Eliza Williams of East Florida. This twenty-five page diary had very brittle paper and the pages were detached from the binding. The paper was too weak to repair, so a "polyester" book was created. In a polyester book each page is deacidified, and then separately encapsulated in a polyester envelope. A binding margin of excess polyester is left on the side. After all pages are encapsulated they are collated and bound together as a book with a hard cover. After treatment the original diary can be used without fear of damaging or destroying the paper.

The goal in the conservation of mixed format collections is to stabilize and protect the material while still allowing it to be housed in a coherent collection. Since each collection is unique, interns work with the curators in the organization of the collections and the creation of finding aids, and with the conservation unit of the Preservation Department to determine and perform treatment options.



Mary-Anne, Glenn and Alice Primack and Sheri Spencer at the reception honoring Alice.

Reception held to honor Alice Primack and the Library Instruction Fund

A kickoff celebration honoring Alice Primack, former instruction librarian, was held on February 4, 2010 in Marston Science Library. Primack spoke to the crowd of friends, former colleagues and co-workers, which was followed by light refreshments and demonstrations by library faculty on the use of interactive technology tools and the new state-of-the-art Smartboard.

Primack has established a Library Instruction Fund to support ongoing library instruction in various formats for faculty and students. This fund will provide for enhancements to create electronic library tools in the form of online tutorials and interactive activities that are available anytime, anywhere.

It will also provide for upgrades to teaching classrooms that will create a dynamic learning environment for students. To learn more about making a gift to the Library Instruction Fund, please contact the Development office at (352) 273-2505.

The Panama Canal Museum joins the Gator Nation

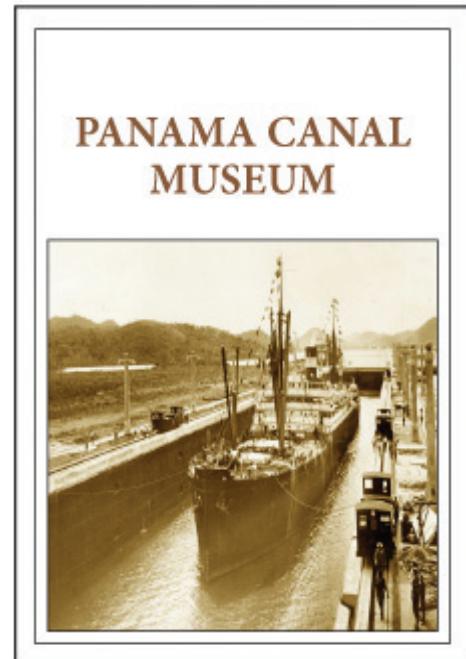
by Rachel Schipper, Associate Dean, Technology and Support Services and Kathy Egolf, Panama Canal Museum

Twelve years after opening, the Panama Canal Museum (PCM) in Seminole, Florida has decided to transfer its collections to the University of Florida (UF) Libraries. In collaboration with the Center for Latin American Studies and the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program, the libraries will preserve and archive the United States' participation in the history of Panama. Uniquely qualified to preserve and provide access to these collections, the UF Libraries have one of the largest and most respected Latin American repositories in the world.

The Museum's broad mission includes the contributions by people of all nationalities to the construction, operation and maintenance of the Panama Canal. The United States began construction in 1904 after the French had attempted a sea-level canal in the late 1800s. By damming the Río Chagres to create Gatun Lake in the middle of the Isthmus, a series of locks were developed to equalize sea levels. The Canal began commercial operation in 1914 and continued to expand in prominence during a time when the Isthmus became a major thoroughfare for transporting cargo and passenger ships between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Handling up to 5% of international trade produced an economy based upon other service-oriented activities, such as storage, ship repair, unloading of cargo and services to ship travelers.

For the rest of the 20th century, the United States continued to operate, maintain, and defend the Canal, involving Panama in its administration. This governance started in 1979 and lasted until December 31, 1999, when the Canal was turned over to Panama. Currently, construction continues to impact the Canal, and it is anticipated that the expansion project begun in 2006 will double the Canal's capacity. The historical impact and importance of the Canal's construction only continue to be more prominent in the world's economy.

UF will be selecting from the Museum's more than 3,333 objects, 5,260 photos, 1,948 archives and 7,607 books the items that will best enhance the Smathers Libraries' current holdings and contribute to academic achievement and research excellence. In addition, UF will also continue to collect complementary materials. Joint exhibits of information and artifacts are planned for the 100th anniversary of the Canal in 2014. It is the intent of the Dean of Smathers Libraries Judith Russell, to partner with the Library of Congress for a traveling exhibit that will have its debut in Washington, D.C. Concurrently, a virtual exhibit will be developed to visually display the materials to anyone anywhere in the world through online access.





John and Judy Smathers; Dean of University Libraries Judith Russell; and Susan and Bruce Smathers cut the ribbon at the rededication ceremony of the Smathers Library lobby.

Smathers family participates in rededication ceremony of Smathers Library lobby

The sons and daughters-in-law of the late George A. Smathers participated in the rededication ceremony of the Smathers Library lobby on December 2, 2009, and Bruce Smathers spoke to the capacity crowd. The lobby underwent a much-needed renovation, including the addition of new lighted wood display cases showcasing both Senator Smathers and the Department of Special and Area Studies Collections, which is housed in the library. The lobby also sports two video monitors featuring images from the department, new lighting, paint and refinished woodwork. A large bronze plaque of Senator Smathers, which was formerly in Library West, now hangs outside the entrance to Smathers Library.

UPCOMING EXHIBITS

Smathers Library Exhibit Gallery, 2nd floor

ARTBOUND

Exhibition of Artists' Books from the First Annual Juried Student Book Arts Competition at the University of Florida Libraries

September 1-October 1, 2010

Opening Reception Wednesday, September 8, 10:00 a.m. - noon

Contemporary works by students making books in book arts and/or fine arts programs across the United States.

THE ART OF THE BOOK: Binding, Illustration, Typography

October 8-December 17, 2010

Artistic aspects of a book rather than the text will be featured.

Borland Health Sciences Library rededicated

The newly renovated Borland Health Sciences Library in Jacksonville was rededicated at a ribbon-cutting ceremony, followed by an afternoon social, on January 26, 2010.

Dr. James L. Borland, Jr. presented a biography of his father, Dr. James L. Borland, Sr., for whom the library is named. Dr. Borland, Sr. was a gastroenterologist, and had Florida's first fluoroscope in his office. He served as president of the State Board of Medical Examiners, and fostered the development of a medical library to serve Jacksonville medical practitioners. Dr. Borland was a founding member and fifth president of the "Gut Club," which evolved into the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy. He also founded the Florida Gastroenterology Society.

Dr. Robert Nuss, dean of the University of Florida College of Medicine, Jacksonville, spoke about the continuing value of the Borland Library to the medical community and the University of Florida. He also noted that the library is a modern, updated facility which provides full access to medical information resources.



Dr. James L. Borland, Jr. and Dr. Robert Nuss, dean of the University of Florida College of Medicine, Jacksonville, cut the ribbon at the rededication ceremony.

Historic St. Augustine research material accessible online

by Tom Caswell

University of Florida Libraries Liaison for the Government House Research Collection

Through a partnership between the University of Florida Libraries and the City of St. Augustine, two major collections of research material have recently become accessible online. This will be of interest to anyone researching the history of St. Augustine, particularly in light of that city's 450th anniversary celebration approaching in 2015.

The first of these initiatives is an inventory of the Government House Research Collection, now accessible through the libraries' online catalog at www.ulib.ufl.edu/afa/GovHouse as an affiliated library. The collection was initially built and maintained by the State of Florida's Historic St. Augustine Preservation Board (HSAPB) during its existence from 1959 to 1997 and has since been overseen by the City of St. Augustine's Department of Heritage Tourism.

Users can add keywords or limits to a search of over 2,100 catalog records to find government documents and books on historic preservation, planning, Spanish colonial history, anthropology, historic archaeology, architecture, cultural resource management, decorative arts and other subjects pertinent to the history of St. Augustine. The collection is physically located at the Government House in St. Augustine at 48 King Street and is accessible for pre-approved researchers and by appointment only, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Phone: 904-825-5033). By providing a complete inventory, the libraries are helping the City of St. Augustine provide access and assistance in the stewardship of this invaluable and unique collection.

The second project is the result of a University of Florida Libraries mini-grant to digitize the majority of the Historic St. Augustine Block and Lot Files also archived at Government House. Started in the 1960s, these files provided historical information to guide HSAPB administrators in the purchase and development of the colonial town and properties.

Documents include historical interpretation notes, architectural sketches, drawings, archaeological field reports, maps and photographs. The materials are of particular interest to researchers in architecture, historical archaeology, museum studies, tourism studies, historic preservation and restoration, as well as to those generally interested in the history of St. Augustine. The digitization of these files forms the core of the "Historic St. Augustine" collection (www.ulib.ufl.edu.ufdc/?s=hsa1) which is freely

accessible within the University of Florida Digital Collections (UFDC). As a result of promoting the collection regionally, an anonymous donor from St. Augustine provided additional funds to help digitize the remaining Block and Lot Files not initially covered by the mini-grant. As of May 2010 there are 2,898 items/titles that have loaded for the collection, equaling 13,967 page images. These numbers will continue to increase as additional archives and funding sources become available. Funding is currently being sought to digitize some of the large-format items associated with the HSAPB documents in Government House.

St. Augustine City Commissioner Nancy Sikes-Kline says of these latest endeavors, "It's a dream come true for us who regularly look to historical documents to tell us more about who we are and how we got here."



Librarian Tom Caswell cataloging the Government House Research Collection in St. Augustine, Florida.

Reception held to support the Women in Development Digital Library Collection

A celebratory reception of the Women in Development Digital Library Collection and “Wear-White” Birthday Party for Dr. Anita Spring was held on January 31, 2010 in Smathers Library. The Women in Development program began at the University of Florida in the mid-1980s with Spring as its first director. In January 2009, she became Professor Emerita of Anthropology and African Studies. A present focus of Dr. Spring and her colleague Dr. Helen Safa (Professor Emerita in the UF Center for Latin American Studies and longtime leader in research and teaching) is the creation of a worldwide digital collection on Women in Development (WID). This is a collection on social change in the form of e-resources of academic and agency-related materials. It includes materials from WID scholars, advocates and practitioners.

Dr. Spring has pledged \$10,000 to initiate digital work and has challenged others to donate as well. In addition, she has generously agreed to match every gift above \$250 donated through August 31, 2010 (up to a total of \$15,000) to support the building of the Women in Development Collection and Endowment. Dr. Safa initiated her own WID challenge in 2008.

The Women in Development Digital Collection is openly accessible for anyone from anywhere in the world at www.uflib.ufl.edu/ufdc/?c=wid.



Dr. Anita Spring at her celebratory reception.

“My dear foolish Zelma”:

Smathers Libraries acquires important early letter from Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings to Cross Creek Trial nemesis Zelma Cason

by Florence M. Turcotte
Library Manuscripts Archivist

An important letter detailing the nature of the tumultuous relationship between Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and Island Grove resident Zelma Cason has been donated to the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Papers in the Department of Special and Area Studies Collections at George A. Smathers Libraries.

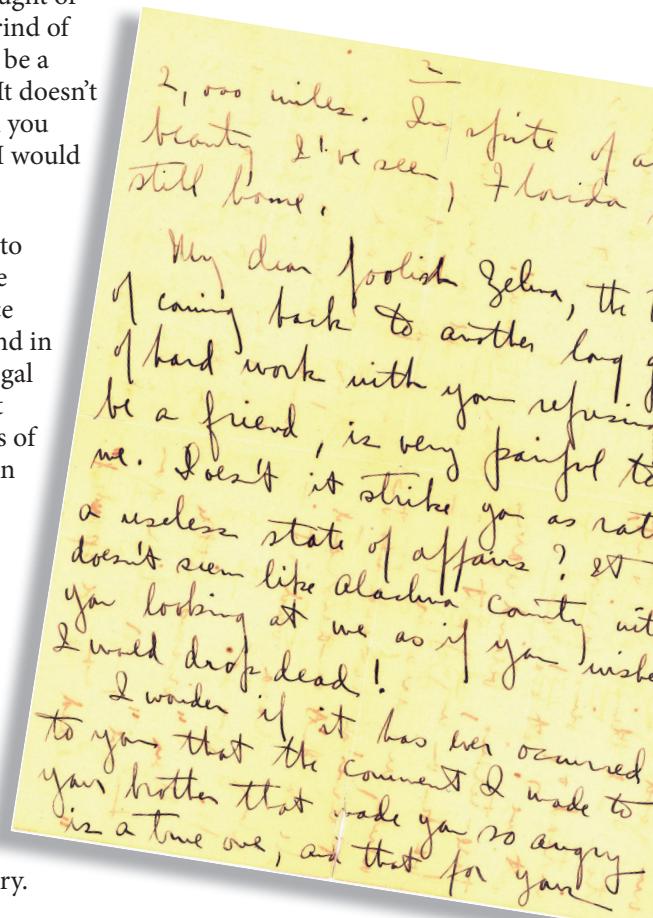
The letter was donated by Lakeland resident Billy Townsend, the grand-nephew of Kate Walton who was part of the legal team that represented Cason in her 1943-1947 libel/invasion of privacy suit against Rawlings. In her 1942 best-selling memoir *Cross Creek*, Rawlings had characterized Cason as: “an ageless spinster resembling an angry and efficient canary,” which precipitated the suit. Townsend is planning to write a book relating his aunt’s perspective on the famous *Cross Creek* trial.

The hand-written letter, dated September 21, 1933, was written on board the S.S. Minnewaska as Rawlings was returning to Florida after vacationing in England. In it, Rawlings proffers a gesture of reconciliation with her friend, Zelma Cason. Apparently, Rawlings had made a disparaging remark to Zelma’s brother about her “vicious little tongue”, and Zelma was not speaking to Marjorie. Here is the somewhat suspect olive branch extended by Marjorie:

My dear foolish Zelma, the thought of coming back to another long grind of hard work with you refusing to be a friend, is very painful to me... It doesn't seem like Alachua County with you looking at me as if you wished I would drop dead....

This letter is a significant addition to the Rawlings Papers in that it is the only piece of direct correspondence between the two women to be found in the archive. Predating any of the legal squabbles between them by almost ten years, it indicates that the seeds of contention between the two women may have been sown long before the unflattering characterization published in *Cross Creek* came out in print.

For more information, and to read this fascinating letter in its entirety, please contact the MKR Collection curator, Florence M. Turcotte at turcotte@ufl.edu, or visit the Department of Special and Area Studies Collections on the second floor of Smathers Library.



Help us build a coral reef

by Denise Beaubien Bennett
Engineering Librarian

The Marston Science Library's display room will evolve into a coral reef in April 2011.

Librarians will curate a satellite of the worldwide Hyperbolic Crochet Coral Reef project created by Margaret and Christine Wertheim of the Institute for Figuring (<http://theiff.org>) in Los Angeles. The project combines mathematical awareness, art practice and environmental awareness, and will involve collaboration from several areas on campus.

By showcasing the science communication aspect of the project, the Smathers Libraries plan to engage the interest of the academic community, addressing the mathematical nature of these natural structures and providing a forum for presentations and discussion. As a community art project, the Coral Reef provides an approach to a wide array of people of all ages, from school children to retirees, to teach or remind them of a handcraft, engage their creativity

and engender awareness of the world's oceans.

The libraries will sponsor a coordinating speaker series throughout the year. The series will focus first on the mathematical aspects to spark interest in crocheting, and will feature environmental topics while the exhibit is displayed.

Contributions of crocheted corals, yarn, hooks and other supplies, as well as funding for atoll construction, are appreciated. Once the single crochet stitch is mastered, hyperbolic planes and psuedospheres can be created with ease!

Please see photos of other satellite reefs and instructions for crocheting coral on the reef site at <http://libguides.uflib.ufl.edu/crochetreef>. For more information, contact the team at lib-crochetreef@uflib.ufl.edu.



Elegance of Science art contest winners

Winners of the second annual "Elegance of Science" art contest were announced at a reception on February 25 at Marston Science Library. The winning artworks will be on display in the Marston Science Library and the Health Science Center Library. All of the entries can be viewed at www.uflib.ufl.edu/msl/art/slideshow2009.html. The contest is sponsored by the Marston Science Library and the UF Alumni Association, in partnership with the Health Science Center Libraries and the Architecture and Fine Arts Library.

1st place: *Mycorrhizas in Full Color* by Megan M. Smith

2nd place: *Orderly Destruction* by Hannah Vander Zanden

3rd place: *Fatal Attraction: When the Immune System Goes*

Bad by Yaima Lizardo and Clayton E. Mathews

Honorable Mention: *Roads of Graphene* by

Victor V. Albert

Alumni Award: *Lightning Over the Rappahannock* by
Wes Marston



Left: Wes Martin won the Alumni Award with *Lightning Over the Rappahannock*; Right: Megan M. Smith won first place with *Mycorrhizas in Full Color*.

Isabel Silver – New Director of Academic and Scholarly Outreach

Dr. Isabel D. Silver has been named Director, Academic and Scholarly Outreach, at the University of Florida George A. Smathers Libraries. With 30 years of administrative and managerial background in public education – in both libraries and higher education, Silver has a wealth of experience to strengthen academic and scholarly outreach at UF.

Silver began her career in academic librarianship at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill as a subject indexer, assisting in the development and revision of the *Population/ Family Planning Thesaurus*, a multi-disciplinary subject-access tool. She then moved to Richmond, Virginia, to assume responsibilities as a branch head of a neighborhood public library and was promoted to head the Tuckahoe Area Library—a large and busy facility (32,000 sq. ft.) in the rapidly-growing County of Henrico that surrounds Richmond City, VA.

After 13 years with the County of Henrico Public Library System, Silver and her family moved to Indonesia through the Fulbright program. While in Jakarta, she served as a consultant for collection development and cataloging to the Zorinsky Memorial Library at the American Cultural Center. Upon her return to the U.S., Silver served as interim and associate director of the Virginia Commonwealth University Center for International Programs, administering student exchange and study abroad programs and scholarships, initiating campus-wide international education programming, forming partnerships with non-US universities, and writing the university plan for centralizing international education. Internationalism is a core value, engendered by Silver's research abroad and her academic studies focusing on comparative public administration.

After completing her doctoral program, Silver served for five years as Assistant Dean of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois, where she also taught several graduate courses and expanded the practicum course into a service-learning community experience through both online and face-to-face formats, and published "The LIS Practicum: An Internship with Academic Credit," in *Public Library Internships: Advice from the Field*, ed: C. Mediavilla (MD: The Scarecrow Press, 2006), pp. 19-34.

Silver earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Lawrence University, a Master of Science degree in library science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in public policy and administration from Virginia Commonwealth University. She was inducted into the VCU Chapter of Pi Alpha Alpha, the National Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration.

At UF, she most recently served as Associate Director, UF Division of Continuing Education, developing distance courses and professional programs, which included recruiting and hiring faculty, handling student issues and developing administrative infrastructure.

As Director of Academic and Scholarly Outreach at Smathers Libraries, Silver will provide leadership, direction and planning for a coordinated outreach effort to the campus community in support of academic integration and the development of a scholarly communications program. Academic integration includes the incorporation of library resources and services into academic courses, e-learning, and other campus programs and events. Scholarly Communications includes support of alternative scholarly communication modes and educating



the university community about open access activities at UF, scholarly publication reform and intellectual property issues and their impact on scholarly inquiry and instruction.

Through her daily and life-long public service efforts, Silver strives to provide public education to enhance the life of the mind and circumstances of living for all constituents. "I am honored to join the UF Smathers Libraries, which is an integral part of a top-tier public university. I will draw upon my diverse experiences in librarianship, international education, continuing education, and information science higher education to continue to contribute to this goal through this challenging and exciting position", she said.

Silver has also been active on the UF campus through leadership in the Academic and Professional Assembly and the Association for Academic Women, and is a lifetime member of the Association of University Women.

Rebecca Jefferson – New Head of the Price Library of Judaica

The Smathers Libraries welcome Rebecca Jefferson as the new head of the Price Library of Judaica. Her responsibilities include collection development and overall management of the Price Library of Judaica, located on the first floor of Library West.

Jefferson will work closely with faculty and students, particularly those affiliated with the Center for Jewish Studies, to assist with their research and teaching needs.

Jefferson comes to UF from the Genizah Research Unit at Cambridge University Library. She was responsible for the Research Unit's Bibliography Project and was editor of the biannual *Genizah Fragments* newsletter. She assisted with collection management and development, managed and updated the inventory of the Cambridge Genizah manuscript collections, and engaged in public outreach including giving speeches and arranging exhibitions.

She received a Ph.D. and MPhil in Medieval Hebrew from King's College, University of Cambridge, and was awarded a BA Hons in Hebrew from University College London. She also lived in Israel, taking Hebrew language classes and attending a one-year course in graphic design. Jefferson's recent research has focused on the history of

Genizah manuscript collections. She has just signed a contract with Brill to edit a volume of letters and documents entitled *Collected Papers of the Scholars and Antiquarians who Discovered the Cairo Genizah*.

The Price Library, with more than 90,000 volumes, is the largest research Judaica collection in the southeastern United States. The collection has significant holdings in social, political, and community history, Hebrew and Yiddish linguistics and literature, Palestinography and modern Israel, Zionism, Hebrew Scriptures, Judaism and rabbinics. It holds over 450 current serial titles, a large number of which are becoming scarce in Florida and the southeastern states.

In addition to meeting the research needs of the Center for Jewish Studies and the wider university, Jefferson is keen to expand and develop these primary holdings. "In order to strengthen the Price Library's reputation as one of America's major research libraries for Jewish Studies, it will be important to concentrate upon prevailing key areas such as Hebrew and Yiddish literature, Holocaust Studies, and Land of Israel Studies, as well as providing resources for hot topics like Muslim-Jewish relations and

other interfaith issues," said Jefferson. She added, "Another continued area of focus, particularly for the University of Florida, should be Florida and South American Jewry and its ties with Latin America."

Jefferson would also like to bring greater attention to some of the more unexpected and unusual aspects of the Price Library, including its important sub-collection of memorial books commemorating lost Jewish communities, and its many ephemeral items such as rare pamphlets and Jewish calendars.

"Many of these items, particularly those that require less handling, would greatly benefit from digitization; furthermore, as digital objects they would make ideal candidates for future online exhibitions," she said. Using digitization, and incorporating the latest library tools, Jefferson plans to enhance the Price Library's website in order to generate increased interest in the collection.



Betsy Simpson awarded research grant funds

University Librarian Betsy Simpson, chair of the cataloging and metadata department, is the winner of the 2010 American Library Association (ALA) Carroll Preston Baber Research Grant for the project entitled "Shifting Patterns: Examining the Impact of Hiring Non-MLS Librarians." The \$3,000 grant supports innovative

research that could lead to an improvement in library services to any specific group of people.

The focus of the award is on a pressing national issue that is of importance to library service.

"Simpson has identified a question relating to the dynamics involved in hiring and initiating non-MLS librarians into academic and public librarianship and the development of their theoretical and practical skills in librarianship," said jury chair Mary Pagliero Popp. "We anticipate that the results of her study will lead to an important discussion about the skills and learning needs of academic and public librarians in the twenty-first century."

New Library Leadership Board members

Beverly English

Beverly English spent her career in education. She was an adjunct (internship supervision) at Florida Gulf Coast University from 1998-2002. Prior to that she was a guidance counselor at LaBelle (Florida) High School and LaBelle Elementary School, and an elementary school teacher.



She has served on the LaBelle Free Public Library (AKA Barron Library) board since 1969 and has also served on the Wedgeworth Leadership program for Agriculture and Natural Resources Advisory Council at the University of Florida.

English earned her master's and bachelor's degrees in education from the University of Florida where she was a member of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. She was also inducted into the Delta Kappa Gamma Society. She is married to Hugh M. English and has two daughters.

Minette L. La Croix, CPA, CFP, CAM – Principal

Minette (Mindy) La Croix, CPA, is a graduate of Florida Southern College and began practicing public accounting with Coopers & Lybrand in 1991. She has worked in audit, tax and litigation with a variety of clients, including construction, medical, manufacturing, business valuation and estates. After working in public accounting for several years, she became the Manager of Internal Audit for the international IT consulting company Gartner and then CFO of SI Ventures, a venture capital firm in Fort Myers, Florida. She opened her own firm in 2005 focusing on small- to medium-sized businesses prior to merging with Dana Vidussi, CPA, PA in 2007.

La Croix is a Certified Financial Planner (CFP) and licensed community Association Manager (CAM). She is currently the treasurer of Keep Lee County Beautiful, co-treasurer for Special Equestrians, Inc. and an advisory board member for Ronald McDonald House of SW Florida. She has served various other non-profit, professional and CIRA boards and committees. She is a member of both the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants.



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Chapter One

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Dean's message

Libraries today are a mix of the old with the new. As you read on page 3, our preservation department uses a variety of methods to restore and protect valuable and rare materials so they can be preserved and used for research by students and faculty. Current technology is used to digitize items so they can be accessed online any time and not just inside the library. We have digitized over four million pages from our unique collections to make them more accessible and useful. We now have the capability to digitize approximately two million pages per year and are buying outside services to expand that capacity. But people still like to see the real thing and to hold it in their hands.

The libraries have amazing special collections and maintain the university archives. We serve as a resource for the Grand Guard each year as they plan for their reunion. UF faculty and students and scholars from around the world come to use some of these collections. For example, we have a fantastic research collection of over 103,000 children's books from the 1600s through to the present time and an outstanding collection on Florida history. We have one of the three largest (and best)

collections in the country supporting Latin American studies.

I sometimes hear that libraries are less important now that "everything" is online. Nothing could be farther from the truth. While it is true that we now spend 75% of our materials budget acquiring online resources – e-books, e-journals and databases – that are available to our faculty, staff and students 24 hours a day, there is still significant demand for print materials – and increased heavy traffic and materials checked out in our campus libraries.

The library as "place" is evident as last year there were three million visitors to the University of Florida Libraries. Library West had more visitors (1.4 million) than either the Ben Hill Griffin Stadium (637,000) or the O'Connell Center (660,000)! Marston Science Library had over 700,000 visitors.

One reason they come is that we have a wide variety of spaces from individual study carrels for graduate students writing their dissertations to group study rooms that are in constant demand – students get buzzers to notify them when a room is available, like you would get at a

restaurant to let you know when your table is ready. We even had to create a program to help students determine where there is an available computer.



Judith C. Russell
Dean of University
Libraries

Emerging technologies are monitored, studied, tested and implemented in order to stay abreast with the rapidly changing world of information dissemination. The libraries' Emerging Technologies Advisory Group addresses the changing nature of online research and advises the emerging technologies librarian about setting priorities for implementing web developments.

The libraries embrace the juxtaposition of traditional and emerging technologies and are striving to help keep students, faculty and staff informed and up to date with new materials, resources and technologies to meet their research needs.

*Judith C. Russell
Dean of University Libraries*