Michael Gannon Endowment supports Florida history

The Smathers Libraries have launched an initiative to build an endowment in honor of the late Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus, Dr. Michael Gannon. Annually, the endowment will sponsor a prominent speaker on the subject of Florida history or the history of World War II.

Gannon donated his papers to the Smathers Libraries and they officially opened at a reception in November 2016. The Michael Gannon Papers include writings, research notes, correspondence, photographs, biographical materials and other documents of Gannon, the noted historian, radio commentator and former priest. He was an expert on Florida history from its Spanish founding through the U.S. Civil War, and on World War II.

A Guide to the Michael Gannon Papers can be found at http://ufdc.ufl.edu/gannon.

The Libraries hosted an inaugural fundraising event with Genevieve (Gigi) Haugen Gannon on March 27 at the Flagler College Solarium in St. Augustine, Florida. The guests enjoyed a screening of a spoof film, Return of the Creature, written and filmed by a 27-year-old Michael Gannon at Marineland in 1954.

Those interested in making a gift to support the Michael Gannon Endowment can use the pledge card at https://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/portals/communications/GannonPledgeCard.pdf.
It has been a busy few months during which we have acquired a number of important new collections and established endowments to support others.

Former U.S. Senator Bill Nelson has deposited his papers and related materials with the Libraries. His collection includes items from his 1986 flight on the space shuttle Columbia. An endowment honoring Senator Nelson will support the collection and a variety of programs focused on ethics and leadership that he will host.

The donation of the Ellas B. McDaniel (Bo Diddley) Collection will support teaching and research about his many contributions to American music, while ensuring that a substantial collection of materials will be made accessible locally and through national outreach. The materials from the Ellas B. McDaniel Irrevocable Trust ensure that the largest institutional holding of historical materials about Bo Diddley remains close to where he lived the latter portion of his life. A partnership with the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at UF will enable the Libraries to begin collecting oral histories in the near future.

The Joel Buchanan Archive of African American Oral History was unveiled on March 22. Joel was an expert on the history of African Americans in Gainesville and Alachua County, Florida. The archive currently contains 878 oral histories provided by the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at the University of Florida and are available online in the UF Digital Collections at http://ufdc.ufl.edu/ohfb.

The donation of correspondence between Pulitzer Prize author Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and her literary executor Julia Scribner Bigham greatly enhances the existing collection and gives insight into Rawlings’s personal and literary life.

Beloved professor Michael Gannon will be honored with an annual memorial lecture by a significant scholar. A collection of his interviews with prominent Floridians is available in the UF Digital Collections at http://ufdc.ufl.edu/gannon along with other items from his personal papers.

If you would like to view or support any of our collections, please contact me at jcrussell@ufl.edu. You are encouraged to explore the digital collections described in this issue and the many others at http://ufdc.ufl.edu.
EXCERPT FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA NEWS RELEASE:

Former U.S. Senator Bill Nelson has deposited a collection of papers and other historical materials with the George A. Smathers Libraries, establishing a significant collection spanning his multi-decade career in public service.

Over 800 boxes and more than six terabytes of electronic records were delivered to the Libraries in January. The collection documents over 46 years of public service by one of Florida’s most influential political figures. In addition to his time in the Senate, the collection documents his training and flight of the Space Shuttle Columbia mission in 1986, as well as aspects of his youth and earlier political career. The Nelson Collection will be processed, preserved and stored in the Smathers Libraries. Some internal committee documents and constituent correspondence, for instance, must be withheld for a period of time according to federal law, but most materials will be made available to the public after review by Nelson and processing by library staff.

Nelson’s papers will become the sixth Senate collection in the P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History in the Special and Area Studies Collections Department, following those of Spessard Holland, George Smathers, Lawton Chiles, Connie Mack III and Bob Graham. The Libraries hold 60 additional collections related to Florida politics, including the papers of members of Congress, governors, a commissioner of agriculture, the Florida League of Women Voters and the Florida Defenders of the Environment.

After serving as Florida’s treasurer, insurance commissioner and fire marshal in the 1990s, he was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2000 and completed his political career after three terms. While serving in the Senate, he was the ranking member of the Senate Commerce Committee, chair of the Science and Space Subcommittee and chair of the Senate Committee on Aging.
TREASURES from the LI

What is it? The Florida Alligator was the University of Florida’s student-run newspaper until 1973 and is online in the UF Digital Collections. The latest phase of digitization covers September 1957 to December 1972. The Florida Alligator contains articles about student organizations, Gator sports and social events like Gator Growl. During this time, it also heavily covered campus politics and racial integration. Though the focus of content is on campus life, local news and advertisements for local businesses are featured.

Where is it? http://ufdc.ufl.edu/alligator

What is it? March 7, 1986 cover of Bohemia, published in Havana, Cuba. The Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLoc), hosted by the Smathers Libraries, has issues from 1910 through 2013 (4800 issues). Bohemia is Cuba’s oldest general consumer magazine, founded in 1908. It provides commentary of politics, analysis of history, as well as advice on fashion. It made claims of being the first to publish the work of Cuban artists in color.

Where is it? Celebrating Cuba! digital collection at http://dloc.com/UF00029010/00001
What is it? The Joel Buchanan Archive of African American Oral History, a collection of more than 800 oral histories with African Americans on topics including slavery, segregation and civil rights, officially opened Friday, March 22 in Smathers Library. Buchanan (1948-2014) was a beloved civil rights activist and historian in Gainesville and at the Smathers Libraries. The oral histories are from African American elders throughout Florida and the wider Gulf South. The Archive contains interviews, recorded over several decades, from numerous collections from the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program and is hosted by the University of Florida Digital Collections.

Where is it? http://ufdc.ufl.edu/ohfb

What is it? This handmade guitar from the Ellas B. McDaniel (Bo Diddley) Collection was recently donated to the Smathers Libraries. The collection is available to scholars, students and the public and will open avenues for better understanding technical and performance innovation, international influences in America, and race and gender in the entertainment community. Bo Diddley brought rhythm and blues elements into the new genre and articulated musical elements that became enduring influences on rock, hip hop and popular music. The collection includes musical instruments, stage costumes, posters, photographs, documents and memorabilia. McDaniel lived the latter part of his life in Archer, Florida, near the UF campus.

Where is it? Grand Reading Room in Smathers Library. A finding guide is available at www.uflib.ufl.edu/spec/manuscript/guides/bo-diddley.htm
Rutherford library student assistant scholarship winners

Each spring and fall semester, student assistants working in the Libraries can submit an essay to compete for the James and Leslie Rutherford Student Assistant Scholarship. One $500 scholarship is awarded each semester. Winners are chosen based on the essay that best responds to a question.

**Bhumi Patel**, the fall 2018 scholarship winner, is a Health Science major on a pre-occupational therapy track. She is a senior from Miami, Florida. An excerpt from Bhumi’s essay reads:

“When I was younger, I always thought the lessons that can be learned at the library were from the books in it but, after working at the Health Science Center Library, I have realized the establishment itself has many lessons to offer. For me, the biggest lesson I have learned is to be generous and what generosity entails.”

**Megan Kanhai** won the Spring 2019 scholarship. She is a first generation West Indian student from Clermont, Florida. Her major is Health Science on the pre-physician assistant track. Megan is interested in pathology, reducing health disparities and raising mental health awareness. She is a member of Community Health Service Corps and Health Occupations Students of America. Megan’s essay read in part:

“I really like how our library is taking an active approach to promoting mental health. As a college student, I always hear about the resources UF has available, but they are not very accessible. The Counseling and Wellness Center is not on the main part of campus, so students must go out of their way to go there. By bringing health and wellness opportunities to the library, students can have greater access to them, and they don’t have to feel like it is inconveniencing their studies.”

Plato Smith receives 2019 GreyNet Award

**Plato Smith**, Ph.D., data management librarian, received the 2019 GreyNet Award from Grey Literature Network Service in recognition of outstanding achievement in the field of grey literature. The GreyNet Award is based on results from Conference Evaluation Forms, publication of authors’ papers in Conference Proceedings, the selection and republication of conference papers as journal articles, as well as other significant contributions by the recipient in sustaining the growth and development of the International Grey Literature Network Service.

Michele Tennant named a Fellow of the Medical Library Association

**Michele Tennant**, AHP, FMLA, librarian at the Health Science Center Library, has been named a prestigious Fellow of the Medical Library Association. Fellows are selected based on their notable leadership, outstanding achievement, significant scholarship and professional reputation. Dr. Tennant’s achievement in creating the role of bioinformationist in health sciences libraries is one of her lasting legacies. She helped define what a bioinformationist meant for libraries, and has worked to educate the nation’s health sciences librarians about bioinformatics and genetics.
EXHIBITS

An American Canal in Panama
Now – February 2020
Albert H. Nahmad Panama Canal Gallery
Smathers Library

We Landed on the Moon!
April – August 2019
Marston Science Library, Education Library and Smathers Library Lobby

Three separate exhibitions celebrating the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11’s Lunar Mission

A Space For...
August – October 2019
Smathers Library Gallery

An exhibit developed by the Spring 2019 Graduate Exhibitions Seminar in the College of the Arts

Ladies of the Everglades
October – December 2019
Smathers Library Gallery

An exhibit developed by the Spring 2019 Graduate Exhibitions Seminar in the College of the Arts

The Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Papers in the Department of Special and Area Studies Collections received a bonus collection recently. The new addition includes personal and professional correspondence between Pulitzer Prize author Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings (1896-1953) and her literary executor Julia Scribner Bigham. Also included in this gift is a collection of letters concerning the literary estate and the posthumous publication of some of Rawlings’s works.

Julia Scribner Bigham, daughter of Charles Scribner, Rawlings’s publisher, was a close friend and intimate correspondent of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings from the late 1930s until the author’s death in 1953. Subjects of their discussions include the creative process, music, religious faith, politics, mental health, marriage, motherhood and professional employment. They also discussed many writers one or both of them knew personally, including Margaret Mitchell, Sigrid Undset, Robert Frost and legendary Scribner editor, Maxwell Perkins.

Nicholas Meriwether, the son of the late James Meriwether, a literary scholar who had purchased the collection from a dealer in 1988, donated this collection.

For more information, contact Florence M. Turcotte, Literary Manuscripts Archivist, at turcotte@ufl.edu or (352) 273-2767.
**SPOTLIGHT:** Sarah Meyer, Health Science Center Libraries liaison

**Sarah Meyer, MLIS,** is the Health Science Center Libraries’ (HSCL) liaison to the College of Dentistry and departments of Urology and Orthopedics in the College of Medicine. Collaborations with faculty and library colleagues include contributions on publications, grants, instruction and other academic endeavors. Her technical skills and extensive background in dental practice management enhances her work in the College of Dentistry curriculum committee and instruction in dental-related courses. Active membership in UF’s Clinical Translational Science Institute’s Precision Public Health (PPH) workgroup for two years has extended her understanding of public health and data-driven research.

To support these efforts she has collaborated with other liaison librarians to improve identification and access to datasets for PPH. She also mentors graduate students in the Master of Public Health program. In March 2019 her first scholarly article, “Toward Precision Public Health,” was accepted by the *Journal of Public Health Dentistry.*

Sarah Meyer (right) with Amanda Hicks, assistant bioinformatics professor in the Department of Health Outcomes and Policy and a member of UF’s Precision Public Health workgroup.