The University of Florida will soon make available to UF classes, researchers and the general public the Bob Hope Collection, which documents the entertainer’s 80-year career spanning global wars, social change and celebrity culture during the 20th century. The Bob Hope Collection will become part of the Popular Culture Collections in the Special and Area Studies Collections through a gift by the Bob & Dolores Hope Foundation of Burbank, California.

The Bob Hope Collection features an array of scrapbooks, photographs, documents, posters, stage costumes, awards, artifacts and one-of-a-kind memorabilia from the event-filled life and colorful performing career of an iconic American 20th-century show business figure. Access to the materials for research, teaching and exhibitions will generate a better understanding of broadcast media and the role of entertainment figures as shapers of culture in larger society.

Over his career, Hope left an indelible mark on the entertainment industry through his work in vaudeville, Broadway theatre, radio, television, recording and film. His career grew from local vaudeville to the global stage, lasting for eight of the ten decades that he lived. Over a long career, he became a leading comedian, commentator on American life and times, TV and film star, humanitarian and friend to 11 Presidents.

To many Americans in the 20th century, a simple cartoon of a ski-slope nose immediately called to mind Bob Hope. Richard Zoglin’s biography of Hope named him “Performer of the Century.”

In support of the troops, Hope entertained active duty personnel in war zones for half a century, from 1941 to 1991. He was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 1963 and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1969. Hope’s rapid-fire delivery crammed jokes into a performance, with an underlying witty skepticism and just enough brashness (Continued on page 3)

Photos courtesy of the Bob & Dolores Hope Foundation.
FROM THE DEAN OF THE LIBRARIES

The library buildings closed on March 19th and will remain closed until the University deems it safe to re-open, but the faculty and staff of the Libraries continue interacting with University students, faculty and staff to deliver services electronically. The Libraries have also joined in the fight against COVID-19 as we move through these unprecedented times. Some examples are provided below.

The Conservation and Preservation Department donated 46 R95 respirators, 100 surgical masks and 2,700 gloves from its own supply, Special and Area Studies Collections, and the off-campus Alternate Library Facility and the Interim Library Facility to UF Health Shands Hospital.

Randell Duggins, Sara Gonzalez and Israel Herrera at the Marston Science Library, in coordination with an Associate Dean of the College of Engineering and in partnership with other UF and non-UF entities, are assisting with prototyping and producing PPE for UF Health Shands Hospital, VA Hospital, North Florida Regional Medical Center and UF Health Jax. These items include parts for testing swabs, face shields, masks, adapters for respirators, surgical mask head straps and other items.

The Health Science Center Libraries (HSCL) are providing twice as many document delivery and interlibrary loan requests to clinicians and researchers as the same time period last year.

The Interlibrary Loan, Course Reserves and Acquisitions and Collections Services units have been working with instructors and students to meet the need for on-demand at-home access to library materials.

The Education Library has created a guide for the College of Education that collects education resources including open access children's and young adult literature options.

The Latin American and Caribbean Collection has created a guide and a series of webinars to help with research and teaching through remote-access resources.

The Digital Partnerships & Strategies Department, Library Press@UF and Twanna Hodge, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Librarian, have started a “Practicing Kindness in Crisis” series which offers multiple ways for Smathers Libraries personnel to share what makes them a “whole person.”

I am impressed by and grateful for the “can do” attitudes and the many creative responses to the current difficult situation.

Most of our faculty, staff and student employees are working remotely and as I write this, we have had no COVID-19 cases among our employees! We certainly hope that continues, and that you and you loved ones also remain safe and well!
to set him apart from performers with gentler personae. His showmanship resonated with thousands of military troops during World War II and continued into the 1990s with Desert Storm.

The collection will make it possible for the Smathers Libraries to support courses, scholarship and programs related to popular culture, performing arts, 20th-century U.S. and global history, military service and support, and philanthropic activities. A major public exhibition will be available in Smathers Library in spring 2021, with the collection available for research in January 2021.

BOB HOPE  (Continued from page 1)

Surprise Dedication of the “Jews and the Americas Book Collection” Alcove

On January 12, 2020, Eunice and Barry Zisser of Jacksonville, Florida, boarded a bus bound for Gainesville for a tour of the Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica, named in honor of her parents, in the George A. Smathers Libraries. Unknown to them, their daughter Melinda was planning a surprise. Once they were all seated, Rebecca Jefferson, Curator of the Price Library, gave an introductory speech recognizing the important contributions made by the Price family in supporting and developing one of the best Judaica research libraries in America. She emphasized the support of Barry and Eunice and directed the assembled group to see the Torah scroll they had donated to the Library in collaboration with Florence and Gerald Schemer. Rebecca then invited Melinda up to present the surprise dedication plaque for the “Jews and the Americas Book Collection” Alcove to her parents on behalf of herself, her brother Howard and his wife and all of the grandchildren. Rebecca followed up this heartwarming family moment with a talk about the history of the library. She showcased some of its treasures, with a particular focus on materials relating to the experience of the Jews in the Americas.

Read more at https://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/news/index.aspx#20200310

ABOVE: Photo courtesy of the Bob & Dolores Hope Foundation.
LEFT: A few of the objects in the Bob Hope Collection. Photo by Jim Liversidge.

The Barry and Eunice Zisser Family at the dedication in the Judaica Suite.
LEFT: Mari Meke and Lisa Bailey-West of the User Services staff are putting returns into quarantine, processing them once quarantine is over, helping Interlibrary Loan and processing new books.

RIGHT: Patrick Reakes, Senior Associate Dean for Scholarly Resources and Services, has his hands full with his 9-month-old Boxer mix Biscuit while he works at home on his computer.

LEFT: Ariel Pomputius, Health Science Center Librarian, says while the adjustment initially was “ruff,” working from home with her pomerian/spitz mix dog Leo has become an absolute treat. He tries to be a good boy while Ariel searches databases for students.

ABOVE: Hélène Huet, European Studies Librarian, is helping students and faculty with their research via Zoom meetings, the ask-a-librarian chat and emails. Her coworker Lucy is helping too but finds it very tiring.

LEFT: Betsy Bemis, Special and Area Studies Collections, is standing by, ready to record interviews for the Panama Canal Museum Collection’s oral history project in her husband’s home music studio. She is also available to respond to research requests and to meet online with faculty, staff and students from her computer.
LEFT: **Lisa Campbell**, Instruction and Outreach Librarian, is working alongside her 90-lb pup Albie, to help students navigate the library research process. She’s currently teaching an online library and internet research course, and has been connecting with her students to ensure they have the resources they need for her course and others. She’s also working with other teaching librarians and faculty to support the transition to online learning. Lisa works on several Libraries committees, so Albie is making many Zoom appearances. He wants everyone to know he’s one hundred percent a good boy.

RIGHT: Zoom virtual meetings are the way Libraries faculty and staff communicate. **April Hines**, Journalism and Communications Librarian, chats with graduate student Sarah Staub. They were looking at how conspiracy theories are represented in communications research.

ABOVE: **Lela Johnson**, Administrative Assistant in Administration, and daughter Olivia, are rocking distance learning and telework together.

RIGHT: **Jim Liversidge**, Curator of the Popular Culture Collections, is processing a small portion of the Bob Hope Collection at his home.
Margarita Vargas-Betancourt named Rare Book School (RBS) Cultural Heritage Fellow for 2020-2022

Margarita Vargas-Betancourt, Associate Librarian and Latin American & Caribbean Special Collections Librarian, has been named one of 15 prestigious RBS-Mellon Cultural Heritage Fellows for 2020-2022. Margarita coordinates the processing of Latin American manuscripts, and serves as a liaison to faculty and students. She uses her background on colonialism, ethnohistory and diversity to identify and highlight the hidden voices in archival collections, and to serve and empower Latino students at the University of Florida. In 2016, she was part of the team that won the SAA Diversity Award for the Latin American and Cultural Heritage Archives Section webinar series “Desmantelando Fronteras/Breaking Down Borders.”

Rebecca Jefferson named to Florida Task Force on Holocaust Education

Rebecca Jefferson, Curator of the Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica and a Joint Faculty member of the University of Florida’s Center for Jewish Studies, has been named to the Task Force on Holocaust Education by Richard Corcoran, Commissioner of Education for the Florida Department of Education.

Since becoming the Curator of the Price Library, Rebecca has focused her efforts on developing the collection to bring it to national prominence. She oversees the unique Judaica Suite, where local and visiting students and educators can experience and work with Judaic resources (and antisemitic hate propaganda) first-hand and up-close. Rebecca looks forward to supporting the Task Force’s core mission of promoting Holocaust education in the state of Florida by providing increased access to resources for teachers and through outreach to schools and the community.

Nelson Initiative on Ethics and Leadership Series

Former U.S. Senator Bill Nelson, whose collection of papers and historical materials are on deposit with the Smathers Libraries, has hosted three events in the Smathers Library Grand Reading Room.

The Nelson Initiative on Ethics and Leadership includes a regular, ongoing series of speakers and seminars; classes for UF undergraduate and graduate students; and a fellowship program for UF graduate students interested in more in-depth examination of these topics.

The first event was on July 2 on “Bipartisan Cooperation in the United States Senate” featuring U.S. Senator Marco Rubio. The second was on January 23 with author Jon Meacham, titled “Political Division in America.” The third was with former U.S. Senator and Governor Bob Graham, titled “Florida Political History Live.”

The events were co-sponsored by the UF Bob Graham Center for Public Service and the Levin College of Law Center for Government Responsibility.

Two additional planned events for the spring semester were postponed until a later date: a forum with Erin H. Kimmerle, forensic anthropologist and Executive Director of the Institute of Forensic Anthropology & Applied Science at the University of South Florida, and another with Former Senator Nelson, a Payload Specialist on Space Shuttle Columbia’s STS-61-C mission, along with the other Shuttle astronauts.

Recognizing his personal and professional contributions to Florida and his country, an endowed fund has been established at the George A. Smathers Libraries to honor former U.S. Senator Bill Nelson and to support his initiative focused on ethics and leadership. The endowment will also foster research and scholarship through the use of Senator Nelson’s personal and professional papers and related materials.

Gifts to support the Nelson Initiative on Ethics and Leadership can be made online at https://www.uff.ufl.edu/giving-opportunities/023653-nelson-initiative-ethics-leadership.

To give by check, make payable to the University of Florida Foundation (UFF) #023653 and mail to the Office of Development, George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida, PO Box 117000, Gainesville FL 32611-7000. For more information, call the Office of Development at (352) 273-2505.
**Spring Rutherford Scholarship Winner**

Christine Reynolds, a sophomore graphic design major from Ocala, Florida, won the James and Leslie Rutherford Student Assistant Scholarship for the spring semester. Christine works in Special Collections in Smathers Library.

Each spring and fall semester, student assistants working in the Libraries can submit an essay to compete for the scholarship. One $500 scholarship is awarded each semester. Winners are chosen based on the essay with the best answer to a question. Christine’s essay read in part: “The library of today is drastically different from the libraries of twenty years ago. In twenty years, our very own Library West may be unrecognizable from renovations and upgrades! However, no matter what changes may come to the library, it will always retain its primary function as a collaborative and education space.”

**MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY LEADERSHIP BOARD CHAIR**

The libraries are a living organism and the faculty and staff at the George A. Smathers Libraries have adapted to the new normal of exclusive online learning. The Library Leadership Board met on April 17 to learn of the innovations implemented by the Smathers Libraries to help students adjust and learn.

The “Ask Us” button appears on the Libraries home page, [https://cms.uflib.ufl.edu](https://cms.uflib.ufl.edu) providing immediate research assistance to students and the public with just one click. Additional e-books and digital materials have been purchased to help students with their new learning environment while the Marston Science Library is partnering with UF and non-UF departments to 3D print needed materials for our front line health care workers.

If you are looking for ways to give back to the Libraries, please consider a gift to support efforts during this critical time. You can also acknowledge, honor or memorialize a family member or friend through the Books of Honor program or join the Friends of the Libraries.

While the Libraries are closed, we want to keep you informed but we also want to hear from you. You can keep in contact or explore the Libraries on social media by following us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

For Friends membership, gifts or more information, feel free to call the Libraries Development Office at (352) 273-2505. Or contact me, Michael Price, Chair of the Library Leadership Board, at (904) 465-1724, or e-mail mprice@pricerealestate.land. The giving website is [https://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/giving/Index.aspx](https://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/giving/Index.aspx).
SPOTLIGHT: Neil Weijer, Rare Book Curator

The Harold and Mary Jean Hanson Rare Book Collection covers more than 900 years of human interaction with the book in its many forms. As its curator, Neil Weijer works to make the collection accessible and useful as a source of knowledge and creative inspiration on and off campus. Throughout the year, Neil works with University and Libraries faculty and staff to plan hands-on class sessions, workshops and talks that bring the materials in the collection to life.

A historian by training, Neil enjoys uncovering the stories written in, around and over the books in the collection, many of which were used for centuries before they arrived on campus. He is most excited about creating more opportunities for University of Florida’s undergraduate and graduate students to do research and find new meaning in the collections, as well as outlets to share those stories with the world.

For student events this year, Neil designed temporary tattoos featuring images from rare books.