Message from the President

As the American Era in Panama was drawing to a close on the last day of December in 1999, a small, but dedicated group of volunteers from the fledgling Panama Canal Museum, was quietly and diligently gathering an impressive collection of historical objects, artifacts and other memorabilia in a serious attempt to preserve for future generations that remarkable period in U. S. history.

Now, after nearly 14 years of operation, the museum, too, has drawn its shades and is moving on to another phase of its existence. This wonderful collection, which has grown significantly—thanks to generous contributions from our loyal supporters—has recently been described as a "National Treasure," and will forever be preserved through the museum’s partnership with the University of Florida (UF).

UF is truly excited about having our collection and they are treating it with great care. They have already digitized a number of items that are now available for public viewing on the UF website http://ufdc.ufl.edu/pcm. Many more items will be digitized and placed online as funds become available. In addition, UF is planning a gala celebration beginning in August 2014 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Panama Canal and will display a great many items from our collection in various exhibits throughout its campus in Gainesville, FL.

Although the Panama Canal Museum will soon fade away into a distant memory, we have taken steps to retain its spirit and vision by establishing a new organization called "Friends of the Panama Canal Museum Collection at the University of Florida (or 'PCM Friends,' for short).” Because processing, preserving, digitizing and exhibiting the collection are costly undertakings, the PCM Friends will continue to raise money in various ways and will be asking current museum members to continue their membership in, and support of, the new organization. These measures will ensure that we have a continuous flow of funds to maintain the collection far into the future.

Sadly, this is our last official issue of the Panama Canal Museum Review; but we will be sending out our e-Musings for the next few months as a way of keeping our members informed. As to the future, if all goes well, we hope to have a membership publication for the PCM Friends and, already, our current Review editor, Peggy Huff, has stated that she will be pleased to continue on as editor of the new publication.

Continued on page 2
**Friends of the Panama Canal Museum Collection at the University of Florida**

As the Panama Canal Museum winds down its operations, a new organization has been established to continue the legacy of the museum and to assist the University of Florida in maintaining the museum's collection. The official name will be “Friends of the Panama Canal Museum Collection at the University of Florida.” We will call it PCM Friends, for short.

The PCM Friends will operate under the auspices of the University of Florida Foundation (UFF), a 501(c)(3) organization, to which gifts may be eligible for charitable contribution deductions. The PCM Friends will have memberships and will have duties and responsibilities as shown below:

- Assist UF in interpreting, organizing and articulating the collection
- Assist UF in researching inquiries about the canal, the Canal Zone and Panama
- Assist UF with fundraising, and the recruitment of members
- Advise UF on the allocation of income from the endowment and other sources
- Donate and solicit relevant material for the collection
- Solicit volunteer support for processing of materials
- Participate in public relations activities
- Prepare and support exhibits
- Generate awareness of the United States' role in the history of Panama
- Participate in presentations and speakers bureau
- Support educational outreach and oral histories

Effective July 1, dues and donations that would have been sent previously to the Panama Canal Museum may thereafter be sent to the PCM Friends account at UF or to other accounts that have been established to preserve, maintain and enhance the collection. Contributions may be made to any of the funds listed below, by making a check out to the University of Florida Foundation, and showing the appropriate account number.

- **Friends of the Panama Canal Museum Collection (#017863)** - for redistributing to the other accounts or supporting oral histories, research and other activities related to the PCM Collection
- **Panama Canal Museum Collection Processing Fund (#016629)** - for processing, digitizing and preserving the collection
- **Panama Canal Museum Collection Endowment Fund (#017605)** - for supporting the collection indefinitely with the annual interest from this fund
- **Panama Canal 2014 Anniversary Exhibit and Related Events (#017763)** - for supporting activities related to the 100th anniversary of the Panama Canal
- **Janice G. Grimison and Edward "Ted" W. Scott Library Memorial Fund (#017911)** - for digitizing 60 years of the *Panama American* newspapers

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**Message from the President (continued from page 1)**

So, as we bid farewell to the museum, I would like to extend, on behalf of the members of the museum’s board of trustees, its staff and its many volunteers, our most heartfelt thanks to every single person and organization that contributed in any way to the museum’s success over the years. As a result of your generous donations, your contributions of valuable and historical artifacts and your support of and participation in our many events and activities, we can look back at our accomplishments with a sense of pride and know that our collective efforts have ensured that our unique heritage will not soon be forgotten.

As they would say in Panama, “Vaya con Dios, Panama Canal Museum,” and “Bienvenidos, Friends of the Panama Canal Museum Collection at UF.”

**Joe Wood**

President
Transition of Collection a Series of “Home Runs”

by Dr. Robert Hughes

In November and December, Dr. Bob Hughes, Zonian, PCM board member and author of Ahorca Lagarto, headed to the University of Florida to research material for his next book. Much to his surprise, the Panama Canal Museum Collection, which he assumed was going to be a great help to him in his research, turned out also to be a major distraction, pulling him from his planned research! Bob soon became engrossed in providing the university with more information about many of the items in our collection now at the university, thus insuring future researchers will have access to information about the collection perhaps only those who had lived in the Canal Zone and Panama at the time could provide. After hearing about Bob’s exciting work at the March PCM board meeting, the board, knowing that others would also be interested and maybe, too, want to join in the excitement and become involved in the work, asked Bob to prepare a report of his activities for our members. The report follows.

The transition of the PCM collection to UF is the result of a series of “home runs” of which we can all be proud:

- First, the Panama Canal Museum, through the creation of their visionary institution and the generosity of many hundreds of donors, collected priceless historical artifacts, objects, photos, books, and manuscripts related to the American Era—and thus created a proud legacy that enriches us all.
- Second, the University of Florida entered into a partnership with the Panama Canal Museum and agreed to accept the entire Museum Collection into the University library system.
- Third, the University dedicated the library professionals and resources to process, handle, report, photograph, store, exhibit, inventory, and allow access to the Museum Collection in a library setting. The result: The Museum Collection is safe and secure for future generations to study, research, and enjoy.

The Panama Canal Museum Collection has found its proper home at UF; it will be safeguarded, preserved, refined, and soon more accessible than ever to students, researchers, and the interested public. Over 13,000 unique objects are already catalogued or listed, and stored in a safe and secure environment. Other aspects, such as digitization, storage, and access, will be developed in the future, as time and resources become available. The basics—the truly hard part—are well covered and in the best of hands, and the focus has already begun to shift to the research and interpretation of this extraordinary collection and its limitless study opportunities.

But the game is not over; there are still “home runs” to be hit, and there will still be roles to play for the members of the team that created this collection. In the near future, it is planned that volunteers will have the opportunity to enrich the collection database, adding critical descriptive data, key words, and first-hand knowledge—most of which cannot be added by someone unfamiliar with the Canal, and all of which adds to the “search ability” or “retrieve ability” of the information found in the database. Stay tuned—there’s work yet to be done. And let’s plan to hit some more “home runs.”

Years from now, because of the dedicated people and good works outlined above, students and scholars will still be using this collection—truly a national treasure—to study the canal, one of the true engineering marvels of the modern age, and the American Era rests at the very heart of this great achievement.

Please contact the museum if you would like to join this information sharing, “home run” hitting team—at the university as part of an e-mail panel of consultants, or in some other way.
UF Library Administrators Go Hands-On
Promoting PCM Collection Collaborations in Panama

by Dr. Rachel Schipper

In March Judy Russell, Dean of UF’s George A. Smathers Libraries, and Rachel Schipper, Associate Dean, Technology and Support Services, traveled to Panama to lay ground work for UF’s 2014-15 Panama Canal Centennial Celebration. On her return, Rachel, a member of the Panama Canal Museum’s Board of Trustees, prepared this report for the Review. It was Rachel’s first trip back after serving as a Penn State student teacher at Curundu Junior High School in 1978.

Judy Russell and I recently went to Panama with a goal of identifying potential speakers and sponsors for the University of Florida (UF) centennial celebration of the Panama Canal (August 2014-August 2015). Upon arriving in Panama, we stayed at the Bern Crowne Plaza Hotel, conveniently located in Panama City. During the week we spoke with Leslie Ch. de Castro, Manager, Public Relations, for the Bern resorts. Leslie indicated that we should issue an invitation to Mr. Bern and his son to attend or introduce our opening centennial event, the Symphony of the Americas.

Our first day in Panama was spent in taking the train to Colón and then traveling by car to historic Portobelo. On Tuesday, we had appointments at the American Embassy and talked with Alison Brown, Cultural Attaché. Alison mentioned many student and faculty opportunities for collaboration, and Judy and I will be pursuing these with Panamanian Ambassador to the United States, Mario E. Jaramillo, and the Dean, UF International Center, David Sammons.

Wednesday we met with Angeles Ramos Baquero, the director of the Museo del Canal Interoceánico de Panamá, and members of her staff, Antonio-F. Avila de Montulé and Lineth Suira. The director was extremely gracious and was able to arrange a meeting with Raúl Castro Zachrisson, Secretary General of the National Cultural Institute (INAC). When we met with the INAC administrator, we were impressed by his appreciation for the progress in Panama and his lifetime of service. Raúl spent many years in Los Angeles and San Diego in the diplomatic corps and returned to Panama to head INAC. He is now heavily involved as the representative of one of five nations that take part in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Memory of the World Project. UF, through the Digital Library of the Caribbean (DLOC) and Chelsea Dinsmore, participates in the UNESCO project as well. Chelsea is the Smathers Libraries government documents librarian responsible for coordinating the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries’ Center of Excellence for Panama Canal Documents. In the afternoon, we went to the Afro-Antilles Museum, where we met with Glenroy O. James Grant, the president of the Friends Society. The museum is housed within a small church, soon to be an important stop along the new subway line. Interest was high in obtaining a tour of the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D.C., where thousands of records of the silver roll can be found. We hope that Mr. Grant will participate as a speaker, either in person or by video, during the centennial year.
On Thursday Judy and I had the honor of meeting with members of the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) administration. Ernesto Holder, Manager of Communication and Documentation, has a team of 18 people who are recording every step of the expansion project and we were promised aerial views and text materials for our DLOC project. After meeting for several hours with CEO Alberto Alemán Zubíe and Jorge L. Quijano, we were impressed with the depth of their commitment to digitization. Quijano will become the ACP CEO in September and has worked for the Panama Canal Commission and ACP for over 27 years. Quijano is cautiously optimistic about the success of the expansion, yet realistic in the need for infrastructure to support utilities, sanitation and general human services in Panama. Both Alemán and Quijano understand that the 20th century helped to make Panama what it is today, and they honor the people and work that made the progress possible. Today Panama seeks to preserve and revere its history and to teach its children about their global heritage.

Thursday afternoon was spent in touring the huge excavation site with Jan Kop of the Jan De Nul Group (Belgium). Three locks with reservoir (recycling water areas) are planned, along with a change to the door design (sliding rather than opening outward). A multinational team of Spanish, Italian, Belgium and Panamanian corporations are working on the excavation with the MWH Company (Chicago) collaborating with the ACP on the design. We talked with Michael Newberry, Vice President, MWH, about the potential of placing student interns from UF in the canal for a semester-long experience, mentoring with engineers on the project.

At the Reprosa factory on Friday, the tour was conducted by an articulate, university-trained modern Kuna woman who was charming and personable in her mola blouse and designer jeans. She had gone to a university in Arkansas, and was a respected and honored member of the Reprosa staff.

Our Panamanian driver decided to go on the tour with us, since he had never been through the factory. He couldn't stop talking about our guide and noting that he had never met a Kuna woman who was so confident and self-possessed. We saw three separate instances of Kuna women walking down a busy Panama City street, cell phone to their ears. Even 35 years after my first Panama trip, it is still unreal to me that these indigenous and traditionally dressed entrepreneurs would now conduct business by cell phone.
On our last Monday, we visited the Visitor Center at Miraflores Locks, and had a private tour and showing of the movie about the Canal. Our guide was looking forward to the summer language institute at the University of Florida, and perfecting his English language abilities. We were invited to stand on the lock, where we were told only two presidents have stood. The Center collection was undergoing some renovation, but any exhibit materials that we funnel via INAC would get the maximum public exposure in this facility. Thousands of people per week flood through their doors to view the raising and lowering of ocean vessels.

Upon returning to Gainesville, discussions immediately ensued concerning the planning for collaboration. The International Center, Libraries, Center for Latin American Studies, English Language Institute, those who are involved in facilitating Fulbright activities, Museum Studies, and our centennial partners—Harn Museum of Art, Phillips Center for the Performing Arts and the Florida Museum of Natural History—will come together to keep strong the momentum generated by the Panama Canal Museum transfer. As the project grows, so does the University of Florida’s enthusiasm for future partnerships focused on the Panama Canal.

With horns blaring and taxis that operate more like kamikaze pilots, Panama’s traffic is a study in alternate opinions expressed through horn blares. The pace is unimaginable, especially in 95-degree heat and very high humidity. There are no Hollywood laid back moments for siestas here, with motorcycles and delivery scooters darting in and out of traffic with suicidal abandon. The traffic symbolizes the new Panama - fast paced and progressive with lots of risk involved. Ancon Hill, with the view of the city, shows the contrast of 80-floor skyscrapers jutting out where man has made land out of the sea. Juxtaposed with the commercial district, the subway construction, and the street vendors with the accompanying poverty and less than pristine conditions, it is an amazing and vivid assault on the senses. Fast food is everywhere, symbolizing that there is little time for leisurely repasts. It is occasionally disconcerting to note that travelers may not immediately know what country they are in, simply because McDonalds, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Dunkin Donuts and Dominos Pizza abound.

Although it has remarkably changed and has experienced its share of growing pains, the new Panama has much to offer. I look forward to a return visit soon.
Panama & the Canal Digital Collection Hits on UF Site

The chart at the left shows the total number of hits UF's Panama and the Canal Collection (http://ufdc.ufl.edu/pcm) received during a recent four-month period.

Below is a list of the most commonly accessed titles in the Panama and the Canal Collection. Please note that the first Spillways span the years 1963 through 1999. The second Spillway listing includes years 1957 through 1963.

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Oral History Fundraiser—James Brooks-Bruzzese

James Brooks-Bruzzese, a 1958 graduate of Cristobal High School and distinguished founder and artistic director of the internationally-renowned Symphony of the Americas in Ft. Lauderdale, FL (www.symphonyoftheamericas.org), will bring his orchestra to the University of Florida in Gainesville on August 15, 2014, for a special opening night performance to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Panama Canal.

James, better known by his classmates and friends as “Jimmy,” has had an interesting and notable career leading to his current role as artistic director of the symphony. The Panama Canal Museum, and its partner, the University of Florida, are interested in capturing Jimmy’s fascinating life story by conducting an oral history interview to add to the PCM’s growing collection of oral histories and to be used in the next two years to promote the symphony and other commemorative events to be held at UF in 2014.

An oral history requires funding of as much as $1,500, which includes travel expenses for the interviewer, transcribing, editing and preparing an audio podcast that can be accessed via the internet. Donations to fund this intriguing oral history are now being sought and can be made to the Panama Canal Museum for the “Jimmy Brooks Oral History Fund.”

Before this issue of the Review went to print, this article ran in our eMusings, and donations totaling $1,005.00 were received from the following:

- Louis & Barbara Egolf Dedeaux
- Katherine Egolf
- Mabelle Walker Fitzgerald
- Julian B. Hall, Jr.
- Joseph & Lucille Kane
- William & Barbara McKeown
- Wendell & Donna Wertz Sasso
- Dr. Rachel A. Schipper
- Space Coast Panazonians
- Herb & Pam Spector
- Joseph & Beverly Bowman Wood

Donations of any amount will be gratefully accepted, and the names of all donors to this worthy project will be forwarded to Jimmy for his information and listed in future eMusings.

We hope as all our members receive word of this project, additional donations will put us over the top in our efforts to reach $1,500. An amount over $1,500 would enable us to do some of the additional work required in making available to the public other Panama Canal-related oral history interviews that have already been conducted.

YES! I want to help make possible an oral history of Jimmy Brooks-Bruzzese and other Panama Canal-related oral histories with my enclosed donation of $___________.

Please send your check made out to:
Panama Canal Museum
7985 113th Street, Suite 100
Seminole, FL 33772

Name: ____________________
Street or Box: ______________
City: _____________________
State: _______ Zip: __________

James Brooks-Bruzzese
Recent PCM Events on Florida’s Space Coast

In March, Space Coast Panazonians (SCPs) dedicated a Panama Canal Museum in a Trunk (MIAT) to the Brevard County, FL, public schools division of curriculum and instruction. The MIAT is a Panama Canal Museum outreach program, established to teach young people about the history of the Panama Canal. There are approximately 20 MIATs throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Republic of Panama. The $1,500 sponsorship funding of the Brevard County MIAT was raised through Space Coast Bunco VI in March 2011. At the dedication ceremony the trunk was presented to Mr. Daniel T. Julich, Teaching American History Grant Coordinator, and Ms. Irene Ramnarine, Resource Teacher (Social Studies.) Four of the seven SCPs who have participated in all six bunco fundraisers attended the dedication: Peggy Huff, Fran Meyer, Nikki Meyer and Nancy Grimison; Leanne Lemon, Janet Watkins and Christina Volonnino were unable to attend. Brevard County teachers interested in obtaining the trunk for presentation in their classroom may contact the Division of Curriculum and Instruction, Brevard County Schools, at 321-633-1000, ext 300.

Space Coast Panazonians attending Space Coast Bunco VII at the Dog ‘n Bone Pub in Cocoa Village, FL in April, donated over $700 to fundraisers for the Panama Canal Museum and the American Cancer Society, Merritt Island Relay for Life. This year’s donation to the museum—$520—was equally distributed between the James Brooks-Bruzese oral history fund and the "Ted" Scott endowment fund for the digitization of the English version of The Panama American. SCB VII champions were Tom Grimison, Melinda Grimison Niemeyer, Christina Grimison Volonnino and Nancy Grimison.
Museum Raided by Aronsons, Robleses, and Zumbados

An educational and most enjoyable raid on the Panama Canal Museum occurred on November 26, 2011. The children and grandchildren of Bob and Marguerite Neal Zumbado were entertained for four hours by Gerry DeTore, Kathy Egolf and Marilyn White, with a tour of the museum, films of a canal transit and the Red, White and Blue Troupe followed by a sumptuous meal of pizza, empanadas and brownies. The highlight of the visit was Gerry’s accurate, enlightening, in depth and humor-filled perspective of Spanish, French, West Indian and American history beginning in the 1500s and leading through the American Era of the construction and operation of the Panama Canal.

The nine children range in age from 6 to 19. The parents’ and grandparents’ ages are a secret. The smiling faces at day’s end tell the story of a rewarding and fun filled family visit better than a thousand words.

Pictured left to right in a loosely defined rear row are Rachel Robles, Joe Robles, Beth Robles, Gerry DeTore, Rebecca Robles, Sammy Aronson, Jacob Aronson, Sarah Robles, David Robles, Hannah Robles, Kathy Egolf and Shayna Aronson. Standing in the center are Marguerite and Bob Zumbado. Kneeling are Stephen and Esther Robles Aronson with Daniel Robles between them.

The Museum Thanks Mario Calleja!

For a number of years, the task of transporting all of the paraphernalia needed to set up the museum’s exhibit and store at the society’s annual reunion in Orlando was a major problem for the staff and volunteers of the museum. During recent years, however, this job has been made much easier through the efforts and unique talents of a single individual, Mario Calleja.

In the early formative years of the museum, Mario volunteered many hours at the museum’s Pinellas Park storage unit, assisting in our efforts to assemble and house the museum’s growing collection of historical items. More recently, after hearing about our annual reunion exhibit-hauling woes, Mario approached the museum with a generous offer to help us in transporting our wares to Orlando. He offered us a truck, trailer, and a wealth of expertise in the art of moving heavy items.

After his first year as our “loadmaster,” Mario decided that the museum needed to get out of the horse-and-buggy era. At his manufacturing plant in Safety Harbor, he had his employees fabricate several large aluminum freight hauling carts to streamline the process of loading and unloading our reunion exhibits. The resulting savings in labor (and aging backs!) has been a godsend.
The Panama Canal Museum and University of Florida are preparing for their participation at the Panama Canal Society’s June 27-July 1 reunion at the Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, FL.

In the Museum Exhibit Room we expect to have on display information about the University of Florida’s Panama Canal initiatives, health- and Canal Zone police-related exhibits, the always popular town site maps and some of the museum’s DVDs.

Also featured will be the UF/PCM poster which was displayed at the 2012 Annual Conference of the Florida Library Association in Orlando in April.

This year’s silent auction will certainly show that Panama is a funnel of world commerce! This year’s silent auction items include a large Royal Doulton Toby jug (Old Charley, #787515) from England; Irish linen dish cloths with historical maps of Panama on them; G. Girardi Italian porcelain montuno and pollera figurines; South American wall hangings; Kuna Indian textiles; a Panamanian pollera; a black skirt sporting colorful molas; a Costa Rican ox cart; a relic Japanese porcelain dish set (1000 Faces pattern); other Japanese dishes; three Taiwanese brass trivets signifying prosperity, long life and good luck; and even an assortment of Gator Nation items, in addition to many other items and gift cards. If you have something you’d like to donate for the auction, please contact the museum right away.

The museum’s tables in the Vendors’ Room will offer our 2012 collectible ornament (a pretty pink hibiscus) and 2013 calendar (a retrospective of the Panama Canal Museum), new books, used books, antique bottles, DVDs, Shorty & Slim CDs, museum caps, mugs and tumblers, coasters, license plates, t-shirts, note cards and more!

The PCM and PCS will once again be coordinating a cultural seminar at 2 PM on Friday afternoon in the Grand Ballroom 8A. This year’s seminar will feature Robert Hughes, Ph.D, author of Ahorca Lagarto, who will speak on “The Beginning of the American Era in Panama: The Railroad and the California Gold Rush.”

Copies of Ahorca Lagarto will be available for sale and autographing. Following the seminar, there will be a special showing of “Panama Canal” from the PBS “American Experience” series.

A special one-time occasion will be the Panama Canal Museum Despedida in our exhibit room at 3:30 on Saturday afternoon. You’re invited to come indulge in a bit of nostalgia and bites and sips of refreshment as we look back on our 14-year history.

Do plan to spend some time in the Museum Exhibit Room, at our tables in the Vendors’ Room, and at the cultural seminar—you’ll be glad you did!
Upcoming 2012–2013 Events

June 27–July 1: Panama Canal Society reunion at Orlando World Center Marriott. Visit the Museum Exhibit Room to see the PCM/UF exhibits and bid in our silent auction, attend the PCM/PCS cultural seminar on Friday afternoon in the Grand Ballroom 8A, say "adios" at our museum despedida on Saturday afternoon, and buy at the museum’s tables in the Vendors’ Room.

January 27–February 6, 2013: Fundraising cruise to the exotic southern Caribbean—St. Thomas, St. Lucia, Barbados, Dominica, and St. Maarten. Contact the museum or Travel Leaders (888-652-1365) to join the fun!

PANAMA CANAL MUSEUM
7985 113th Street, Suite 100
Seminole, Florida 33772
Tel. (727)-394-9338
Fax (727)-394-2737
Email: pcancalmuseum@aol.com
www.panamacanalmuseum.org
EIN 59-3532182
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This newsletter is published by the Panama Canal Museum for its members, donors and benefactors. Additional copies can be obtained by writing or emailing the Museum. The Museum is staffed by a museum director, education curator, two part-time clerical assistants and volunteers who graciously donate their time and skills to carry on the work of the Museum. We acknowledge and thank our many benefactors, donors, volunteers and friends who continue to assist this important project.

THE PANAMA CANAL MUSEUM
MISSION AND VISION

The mission of the Panama Canal Museum is to document, interpret and articulate the role of the United States in the history of Panama, with emphasis on the construction, operation, maintenance and defense of the Panama Canal and the contributions to its success by people of all nationalities.

The vision of the Panama Canal Museum is to achieve national and international recognition as the foremost source of historical information uniquely dedicated to documentation of the United States’ participation in the history of Panama.