

BookNotes

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF FRIENDS OF THE ECKERD COLLEGE LIBRARY

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 4

ARMACOST LIBRARY

CHAIR'S COLUMN: In Memoriam

Shirley Crane and Maurice Williams

By Shari Watson-Wardrum

I am dedicating my article this issue to two recently deceased cherished Board members of Friends of the Library.

Shirley Crane was, in her husband Don's, words, "The ray of sunshine that kept everyone in good spirits. Shirley greeted her friends as though they had not seen each other in a year. She wore a marvelous smile with sparkling eyes. Her laughter came quickly. She wanted to know about you and what was going on in your life. She was the glue that kept all of her family together."

"What was it about Shirley that attracted so many friends? I think it starts with a personality that likes people regardless of their color, political affiliation and background. The only people Shirley had little time for were those who were unethical, those who thought they were very important either in the business or political arenas, and those who thought they were important in social circles. Shirley was just plain nice."



Shirley was born in Greenville, South Carolina and attended Bryan College in Dayton, Tennessee. She graduated from the University of South Carolina with an AA degree. She was secretary to the administrator for Tampa General Hospital. From 1976 to 1987 she was the Supervisor of Executive Office Staff, coordinating all of the Governing Boards for the South-west Florida Water Management District where she

met her husband Donald Crane. They were married July 11, 1986. From 1987 to 2004 Shirley was Staff Assistant to the President of St Petersburg Junior College. After retirement, she returned to St Petersburg College working in the Human Relations Department. Shirley was a puppy raiser for the Southeastern Guide Dog Association. Shirley was an avid reader and a proud member of a book club called WOW - Women of Words. She was a member of the study circle of First Presbyterian Church and a valuable member of the Friends of the Library of Eckerd College.

In addition to her husband Don, she is survived by three sons, two stepsons, eight grandchildren, one step-great grandchild and Foxy and Zoe, her black Labradors.

Shirley was, indeed, a friend to all, and those of us who worked closely with her on the library board will miss her generosity of spirit and her concern for her commitment to our board. Her warmth and compassion were obvious in the way she carried out her responsibilities. Shirley, you will be missed by all of us.

Maurice Williams was a great friend to Eckerd College. He was a member of ASPEC, former Eckerd adjunct professor, IRGA advisor, and a campus presence of integrity and compassion since 1994. He and his first wife Betty Jane (d. 2005) sponsored the naming of the Friends of the Library Room in the Armacost Library, and both served on the FOL Board. Maurice was profiled, along with his photograph, in June 2008 BookNotes, accessible at <http://www.eckerd.edu/library/booknotes/June2008.pdf>.

ECKERD COLLEGE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY DINNER

SPEAKER: AUTHOR LAURA LIPPMAN

By Chris Eastman

You are invited to attend the Friends' annual dinner on Thursday, January 20, 2011, in the President's Dining Room at 6:00 pm. This is a major fund-raiser for the Friends, as well as a very congenial gathering for lovers of literature.

Laura Lippman, our guest speaker, was a reporter for 20 years, including 12 years at The (Baltimore) Sun. She began writing novels while working fulltime and published seven books about Tess Monaghan before leaving daily journalism in 2001. Her work has been awarded the Edgar, Anthony, Agatha, Shamus, Nero Wolfe, Gumshoe, Quill, and Barry awards. She was the first-ever recipient of the Mayor's Prize for Literary Excellence (Baltimore) and the first genre writer recognized as Author of the Year by the Maryland Library Association. Her works of fiction also include: *What the Dead Know*; *Another thing to Fall*; *Hardly Knew Her*; *Life Sentences*; and *I'd Know You Anywhere*. Laura is part of the Writers in Paradise writing workshop at Eckerd College, Jan. 15-23, 2011.



This annual dinner promises to be a great evening. RSVP to Jaime in the President's office 727-864-8871. Cost is \$50 per person, of which \$25 is a tax-deductible contribution.



The Seventh Annual Eckerd College Writers' Conference will be held on campus Jan. 15-23, 2011. Designed for serious writers passionate about their craft, the conference is expected to attract 80 participants from across the country. Admission is competitive and acceptance is based upon writing samples. Activities include workshops, panel discussions and roundtables.

The Writers' Conference was created by Dennis Lehane and Sterling Watson. Watson directs the Creative Writing Program at Eckerd, and is the author of six novels. Lehane, a former student of Watson, is the author of several successful novels, including *Mystic River*. His latest book, *Moonlight Mile*, is a suspenseful tale involving the characters from his earlier crime novels. Dennis and Sterling co-direct the Writers' Conference and are assisted by Christine Caya. Many former participants in

the workshops have themselves gone on to successful writing careers. Complementing the Writers' Conference is the very popular Evening Reading Series, free and open to the public, both the 7:30 pm reception and the 8:00 readings and booksales and signings in Miller Auditorium.

Evening Reading Series schedule: Sat, Jan 15: Key-note Address by Pulitzer Prize winner Richard Russo, interviewed by Dennis Lehane. Sun: Les Standiford and Sterling Watson. Mon: Jane Hamilton and Peter Meinke. Tues: Julianna Baggott and Ann Hood. Wed: No Readings. Thurs: Michael Koryta and John Dufresne. Fri: Laura Lippman and Tom Perrotta. Sat: Dennis Lehane. For additional information about the Eckerd College Writers' Conf., visit www.writersinparadise.com.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: New additions to the Library

By Jamie Gill

The next time you visit the Eckerd College Library online page, you will notice its new look. The College website has been revamped to make it more functional and forward-looking. The link to the Friends of the Library remains in its familiar spot, however, in the upper left corner. For current and past copies just click on *BookNotes*. You will also enjoy an exciting new feature—the **Public Digital College Archives**. Enjoy a visual walk through the history of Eckerd College! Under SERVICES in the center of the library page, you will find a link to "College Archives." From this page you can go to information about the

physical materials that are housed in the library archives or you can be taken to the digital public archives by clicking on that link. View all the College yearbooks from 1964 to 2002 and the course catalogs from 1959 to 2008. Alyssa Koclanes, Instructional Services/Technical Services Librarian, and Cathy McCoy, Acquisitions Assistant and resident College archivist, managed this project. We plan to continue adding interesting items to the digital archives. Watch for further developments!

BOARD ACTIVITIES

By Margie Laughlin

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: It is with great pleasure that we welcome the following new Friends:

Mr. Edward Shamas and Mrs. Betty Shamas, Mr. David Beam and Mrs. Jane Beam, and Mrs. Louise Chapin. Friends of the Library have access to material within the Library and borrowing privileges upon presentation of their Friends of the Eckerd College Library card. For membership information, please call Connie Pearson at 864-8336 or visit the Library website at www.eckerd.edu/library/friends.

RECENT EVENTS: The Friends of the Library Board held its Fall meeting on November 11, 2010. A mo-

ment of silence was observed in memory of two Board members, Shirley Crane and Maurice Williams. Following Board tradition, the Board approved a Book-A-Year purchase in memory of each.

COMING EVENTS: The annual fund raising dinner is scheduled for Thursday, January 20, 2011, to coincide with the Writers in Paradise workshop. Author Laura Lippman will be the featured speaker. Invitations will be mailed early in the year. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, February 3, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. in the Wireman Conference room.

BookNotes Editorial Staff: Eddy Burns, Eileen Deegan, Margie Laughlin, and Sandra Ripberger.

www.eckerd.edu/library/friends