

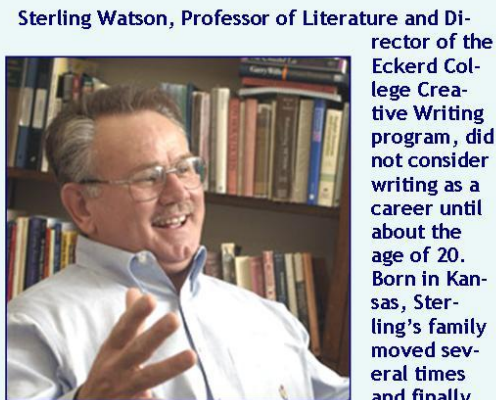
A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF FRIENDS OF THE ECKERD COLLEGE LIBRARY

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ECKERD AUTHORS:

Professor Sterling Watson



Sterling Watson, Professor of Literature and Director of the Eckerd College Creative Writing program, did not consider writing as a career until about the age of 20. Born in Kansas, Sterling's family moved several times and finally settled in the Orlando, Florida, area which in the pre-Disney era was pretty much a small town. When Sterling began his academic career as a student at Florida Presbyterian College, now Eckerd College, he became known as "the baseball player who wrote good stories." After graduating from FPC in 1969, Sterling completed graduate work in English at the University of Florida.

Influenced by such eclectic authors as Flannery O'Connor, William Faulkner, Tobias Wolff, Eudora Welty, William Campbell Gault, Ford Madox Ford, and Ernest Hemingway, Sterling has had a diverse career as an author, teacher, and mentor. Prior to joining the Eckerd College faculty, Sterling taught at the University of Florida in Gainesville and at the Florida State Penitentiary at Raiford.

Sterling, who served as editor of *The Florida Quarterly* for five years, has won four Florida Arts Council Grants for fiction writing.

Sterling's career at Eckerd College spans almost 30 years. His many honors include being named the first occupant of the Peter Meinke Endowed Professorship in Creative Writing, established by Friends of the Library member Martha Rudy Wallace. Sterling also received the John M. Bevan Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership Award and the Lloyd W. Chapin Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Art. In 2005 Sterling and Dennis Lehane co-founded, and now co-direct, the very successful Writers in Paradise program that brings outstanding authors and aspiring writers to campus each January for a weeklong conference. Professor Watson and Dennis Lehane have also collaborated on a screenplay, *Bad Blood*.

Author of five novels (*Weep No More My Brother*, *The Calling*, *Blind Tongues*, *Deadly Sweet* and *Sweet Dream Baby*), Sterling's latest novel, *Fighting in the Shade*, will be published next summer. Set in then segregated central Florida in the year 1964, the novel tells the story of a talented high school athlete and what goes wrong when a high school football team's hazing goes too far. It is a story of relationships between a boy and his father and community race relations among a well drawn cast of characters. In January he participated in Writers in Paradise Evening Reading Series.



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY HELP SUPPLEMENT FACULTY COURSES

By Director Jamie Gill



The Friends of the Library Supplemental Book Grant Program for faculty members first began in March 2008. The purpose of these grants is to provide added support for new courses, new programs, and new majors. These grants are especially helpful to new faculty members who are building specific library holdings and to faculty members who are developing a new course.

We are now in the fourth year of this annual program and it has proven to be a wonderful opportunity to increase the resources available to students. To date, sixteen faculty members have received awards to purchase supplemental materials. Proposal topics have covered a wide range, including: Forensic Anthropology; Japanese Language, Culture and Society;

Cuban Literature; Classical Studies; the Science of Sound; Comparative European History; Anthropology of Food; Buddhist Traditions; Star Trek; China; Economics; Comparative Literature; and Movies and Madness.

This year, recipients have submitted excellent proposals for the topics: "Making History - World War II, France under Occupation, Islam and Human Rights - Middle East Politics, Urban Sociology, Digital Media, Arabic Language, and Body and Culture.

Eckerd College faculty members greatly appreciate the opportunities that these grants provide to build collections in specialized areas. Our students are happy recipients of the many new books, videos, and DVDs provided by the generosity of the Friends of the Library.

CHAIR'S CORNER by Shari Watson-Wardrum



As I write my article for the March Booknotes, I remember my fondness for the month of March. I feel the closeness of spring and the promise of renewal. I grew up in northern Indiana where spring was reluctant to show itself even in April much of the time. My memory of the weather in March is made keener by the fact that my birthday hap-

pens in mid-March, and I always wanted a warm spring day to celebrate it. I rarely got one, but occasionally my birthday would fall on a beautiful, warm and sunny day. What a treat!

That has not been a problem since moving to St Petersburg some thirty years ago. March is usually a lovely month, and spring is very much in evidence, not only because of the weather but also due to the influx of northerners taking advantage of sunny Florida.

I wish for all of you to enjoy the promise of spring.

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



www.eckerd.edu/library

PROFILE OF FRIENDS BOARD MEMBERS: Tom and Signe Oberhofer

TOM OBERHOFER is Professor of Economics Emeritus at Eckerd College where he taught between 1974 and 2009. His degrees are from Fordham (B.S.) and Rutgers University (MA and Ph.D.). While at Eckerd he had the opportunity to serve as Associate Dean for General Education for several years, which went a long way to supplementing the liberal arts education he missed as an undergraduate. In addition, he had the pleasure of taking students to London and Paris. In recent years he did this primarily with PEL students. His avocational interests include medieval French history and numismatics, oil painting, and community volunteering.



He is a long term Habitat for Humanity volunteer

and more recently a Hospice volunteer.

SIGNE has lived in many states, including Mass., N.Y., N.J., Michigan, Missouri, Colorado and Oregon. She has a BA degree from the University of Denver, and Masters degrees from Rutgers and USF.

Signe was a librarian for over 40 years, including 30 at USF/St. Petersburg. She was involved with many professional organizations, primarily dealing with computers in libraries.

She is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, and served as Director of the Library at Ahwaz Agricultural College, Molla-Sani, Iran. One result of this experience has been a life-long love of travel. She and Tom have enjoyed visiting many countries throughout the world, recently focusing on France, England, Italy and Germany. While a member of the International Relations Committee of the City of St. Petersburg she was able to join an official tour of our sister city Takamatsu, Japan.

Signe is enjoying her retirement, attending ASPEC events, volunteer activities at the Museum of Fine Arts, and studying Ikebana (Japanese flower arranging).

BOARD ACTIVITIES, By Margie Laughlin: At its meeting February 3, 2011 the Board extended a cordial welcome to Timothy H. Sherwood, who recently joined the Friends of the Eckerd College Library. Many thanks to Friends of the Library who responded to Jamie Gill's letter in February about the successful Campaign for Eckerd College and the goal of building the library's endowment. Donations included single-time gifts in honor of friends, book-a-year donations in memory of loved ones, and unrestricted gifts that will enhance the collections and support the operations of the library. Scott Rivinius, EC Director of Gift Planning and Administration, reported that the library endowment goal of \$1 million has reached the 54% mark, with \$547,960 pledged or donated to date. Contributions to the library for the Campaign are still welcome—and needed.

BECOME A FRIEND OF THE ECKERD COLLEGE LIBRARY: For membership information, please call Connie Pearson at 727-864-8336 or visit the Library web site at www.eckerd.edu/library/friends. Friends have access to material within the Library and borrowing privileges upon presentation of their Friends Library card. From within the library members have access to extensive on-line data bases, and ready access to the help desk. A rotating collection of current "hot" novels and non-fiction is available.



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