



# BOOKNOTES

A Quarterly Publication of the

FRIENDS OF THE ECKERD COLLEGE LIBRARY

Volume III, Issue 2

## CHAIR'S CORNER

by Shari Watson

The Friends of the Eckerd College Library met November 6 for its first meeting of the 2008-09 year. As I watched the members of the board enter the room, I was struck by the interesting variety of talent and experience that filled the boardroom. We have a former professor or two, an honorary trustee, the wife of a current trustee, a PEL graduate, a chemist, an attorney, the wife of the president of Eckerd College, several ASPEC members, and others who have been influential in the community and who have the wisdom and experience to add to our board.

We have plans for a dinner and speaker in January (see Director's Message for details), an art exhibit in February, and plans to update our brochure as well as potential plans for increasing the Friends' membership.

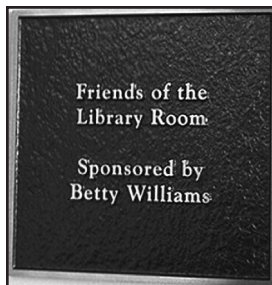
Although the dictionary defines a library as "a place where books are collected and systematically arranged, a room or a building where such collections are kept," I like to think libraries are much more than that. While libraries certainly exist to educate and provide knowledge, libraries are also a place for social and cultural events, such as dinners with speakers, or art shows. They also provide spots of solitude and quiet in our very hectic and highly stressed lives. Think about what experiences you have had in libraries during your lifetime. Maybe you can add to the list.

## BOOKNOTES ON THE WEB

You can find this issue of *BookNotes*, as well as all those previously published, on the Eckerd College Website. Just log on to [www.eckerd.edu/library](http://www.eckerd.edu/library), then click on the "Friends of the Library" link located in the upper left corner of that page. Enjoy!

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

by David Henderson



Where does the time go? Already we are nearing the end of the first semester of the 2008-2009 school year. The library is abuzz with students working on term papers and class presentations and getting ready for finals. And just as students are busy with various projects so are we. A prime focus this fall has been developing a preliminary draft of our decennial evaluation/report for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), the college's accrediting agency. As we gather and review various data on library performance, I am happy to report that the library seems well positioned not only to meet, but even to exceed SACS' requirements. I expect you will be hearing a lot more about this over the next year and a half.

We also have been working on preparations for our annual January dinner, to be held in conjunction with the Writers in Paradise workshop to raise money for the Friends' Book Grant program. We are excited to report that this year's speaker will be renowned author Les Standiford. He has not one, but two, books out this year – the Pulitzer Prize nominated Washington Burning and the just released The Man Who Invented Christmas, the story of Charles Dickens and his "A Christmas Carol." Roast goose anyone? It is sure to be an entertaining evening so please be on the lookout for your invitation, and be sure to bring a friend or two along. The more the merrier. **Mark your calendar: January 23.**

Until then, I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season.

## FRIENDLY NOTES

by Stan Chesnut

**Did you know?** Now in our third year of publication, this newsletter from the Board of Friends of the Library may soon receive a face-lift. We're considering a new format, more color and images, different feature articles, and better quality paper. If you have comments or suggestions, please contact Patricia Brown ([pbrown09@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:pbrown09@tampabay.rr.com)) or Stan Chesnut ([chesnujs@eckerd.edu](mailto:chesnujs@eckerd.edu)).

Our friend and invaluable aide in producing *BookNotes*, Kathy Murtha, has retired from the college and moved to Orlando with her husband, John. Kathy was the graphic designer for Special Programs and will be greatly missed throughout the college. From the Friends' Board and all of us on the staff of *BookNotes*, a big thank you and best wishes, Kathy!

Members of Friends of the Library have many privileges in the library and we're always welcome to use them. When you visit it would be helpful to identify yourself to one of the librarians or other staff members, who will be glad to give you information on the library itself and any of its services.

Tours of the library, conducted many times in recent years by Helene Gold, Electronic Services Librarian, will resume in early 2009. Watch for notices of these informative and enjoyable events. The first tour is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, February 19, 2009.



ECKERD COLLEGE

[www.eckerd.edu/library/friends](http://www.eckerd.edu/library/friends)



## MIRELLA CIMATO

by Shari Watson

I met with Mirella Cimato at the Suntan Art Center on St. Pete Beach in a room where the walls were covered with her bright and colorful paintings. Mirella serves on the Board of the Art Center as public relations coordinator. She also serves on the Executive Board of the Mahaffey Theater Foundation and the Board of American Stage. She served on the Chicago Lyric Opera Board and is currently on the Metropolitan Opera Regional Audition Board, where she helps singers with Italian and diction as well as translating librettos.

Mirella's husband, Norman Smith, is the Associate Dean and Director of the Center for the Applied Liberal Arts at Eckerd College in addition to teaching courses. Norm served as ASPEC director from 2002-05. Reading about ASPEC is what led Norm and Mirella to relocate to St. Petersburg in 2000.

Mirella was born and raised in Rome, Italy. She met Norm while he was visiting Rome before returning to Germany, where he was employed by Proctor and Gamble. Shortly afterward, Norm was transferred to Belgium, making their courtship much easier. They were married two years later in San Francisco, but returned to England for six years and Belgium for two before moving to the U.S. in 1980.

While living near Akron, Ohio, Mirella decided to attend the University of Akron where she majored in French and minored in Latin, taking art classes as electives. This is where she learned she had talent as an artist, and she has been painting ever since. Mirella and Norm's love of Eckerd College and ASPEC contributed to their donating a lounge and reading room to the Peter Armacost Library. The Eckerd College community is fortunate to have such dedicated people to be responsive to the needs of the library and the campus.

## FRIENDS' EVENTS

by Margie Laughlin

On September 19 our Eckerd College library was the scene of a reception and viewing of Bicentennial art works from the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg. Board member Marshal Rousseau arranged the exhibition. President Donald R. Eastman III was the host, and Dean of Students James Annarelli led the program. Guest speaker was Dr. Jennifer Hardin, Chief Curator at the Museum.

The fall meeting of the Board of the Friends of the Library took place Thursday, November 6, 2008. The meeting was led by the new chair, Shari Watson. Sixteen members were in attendance.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

**January 23, 2009.** Annual Friends' dinner and program.  
(See Director's Message for details.)

**February 2009.** Works of art about and by Native Americans, on loan from the private collection of Tom James, will be exhibited in the library.

**February 5, 2009.** Winter meeting of Friends' Board of Directors – Wireman Conference Room.



# ECKERD COLLEGE

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

4200 54th Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33711

## A PASSION FOR LIBRARIES

by Eddy Burns

You will catch the passion when you meet Helene Gold, Electronic Services Librarian at Eckerd's Armacost Library – both her passion for libraries and for having fun on the World Wide Web.

Helene received her MLS from SUNY, Albany, and her MED in Instructional Technology from USEF, the latter while working full time at our library, where she has been for eleven years. Born in Massachusetts, Helene loves the splendid climate of Florida. She drives a big pick-up truck and has a passion also for baking, biking, and stimulating conversation about endless topics.

If you need help finding information, a resource, or a fun book, contact Helene at [goldhe@eckerd.edu](mailto:goldhe@eckerd.edu) and identify yourself as a member of Friends of the Library. Incidentally, Helene's VERY favorite website is [www.huffingtonpost.com](http://www.huffingtonpost.com).

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

by Margie Laughlin

A cordial welcome is extended to the following members who joined the Friends during the last quarter: Marianne Rucker, LeeAnne McDonough and Emery McDonough.

Friends have access to library materials and borrowing privileges upon presentation of their library card. For membership information, please call Connie Pearson at 727-864-8336 or visit the Library's website at [www.eckerd.edu/library/friends](http://www.eckerd.edu/library/friends).