

BOOKNOTES

A Quarterly Publication of the
FRIENDS OF THE ECKERD COLLEGE LIBRARY

VOLUME II, ISSUE 2

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

by Arturo Macias

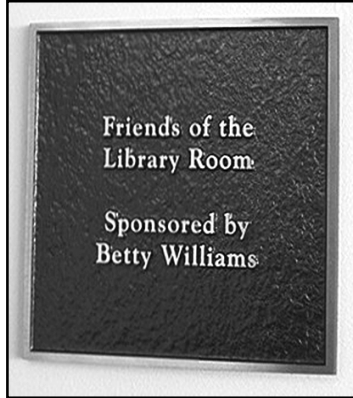
Books, books, books. That's what libraries are really all about, isn't it?

Our library is now on the cutting edge of information technology and in addition to the computers it has increasing resources of film, tape, CDs, DVDs, and the like. September's *Booknotes* pointed out the availability of large numbers of periodicals. But above all, what we have, and what our wonderful new building was built to hold, is books, books, books. If you are in any way an old-fashioned person like I am, you will know the joy of picking up a book, feeling its weight, looking at the binding and the cover and the frontispiece, riffling through the pages, and then sitting down in an overstuffed armchair and reading it, sometimes gently nodding off between chapters. This is something we can do over and over again in the library.

Another delight of our library is the provision of open stacks, which allows us the chance to browse freely, and often to encounter splendid things that we didn't know were there. Books are always an adventure, and finding them in the library only increases the enjoyment. I doubt that many of us would have become Friends of the Library if we didn't already know this. I can only encourage you to take advantage more often of these little voyages of discovery. I have always spent too much time in libraries, here and elsewhere, and I have no intention of doing otherwise in the future. Do join me. It's really amazing! The whole building is filled with books, books, books.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Since September 1, the following people have officially demonstrated their support of the library by joining the FOL: Nita Beckman, Donald Crane, and George Wiley. We extend a cordial welcome to our new members and invite all book lovers to add their support to our growing list of Friends. For membership information, please call Connie Pearson at 864.8336 or visit the Library website at www.eckerd.edu/library/friends. Membership categories are described on the website, and a membership application is available for download. Friends have access to library materials and borrowing privileges upon presentation of their library card.



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

by David Henderson

It is hard to believe the Holiday Season is already upon us and another semester is nearly over. Among its highlights were the introduction of an exciting new library orientation program for incoming Freshfolk, the gala opening of the Joseph Albers art exhibit, and the purchase of three more significant electronic resources.

Perhaps the words "library orientation" and "exciting" seem a bit oxymoronic, but I do believe Librarpalooza, which was coordinated by Helene Gold, achieved the desired effect. Amid an afternoon of music and prize giveaways and book searching, we managed to teach new students a bit about the library, its resources, and most importantly to introduce them to the extraordinary folk who work here. Judging by their written and oral comments, it was a grand success.

I was pleased to see a number of Friends at the official opening of the Albers exhibit. Attended by a number of local leaders in the arts community, the event was catered by members of the college's food service, who outdid themselves. As one patron said upon departure, "I can't wait until the next one." As to the timing of that event, a collection of Dali prints, we are still a bit uncertain, but we will surely get the word out to you as soon as it is firm.

Finally, the Friends were instrumental in our being able to purchase a fabulous electronic collection of contemporary (post-1950) literary criticism – the equivalent of over 225 print volumes. The group contributed \$6,000 to the cause, for which we are very grateful. In addition, the library has added Oxford's electronic foreign language dictionary collection (which includes pronunciation help from native speakers and a variety of culturally focused electronic links) and the Credo electronic collection of 284 reference titles on a broad range of subjects from 57 publishers and containing nearly 3 million entries.

It truly has been an eventful fall, and we have much to be grateful for. Thank you, Friends, for your continued support. Happy Holidays, everyone!

FRIENDLY NOTES

Did you know? Some numbers that may be of interest: As of November 1, 2007 membership in Friends of the Eckerd College Library has reached 136. Annual renewals were due September 1; the total includes some who may have been a little late in sending their membership renewal checks.

We have been asked how many copies of each *Booknotes* are printed and distributed. For the September First Anniversary issue, 280 copies were distributed. The distribution list includes all Friends members, off-campus friends of the College, campus offices, and ASPEC members who have not yet joined the Friends. The September print total also included 60 copies for the College Board of Trustees and the Executive Staff for their October meeting on campus. Speaking of ASPEC, 80 members of the Academy are also Friends of the Library. Sixteen of the 20 members of the Friends Board of Directors are also ASPEC members, demonstrating a significant interaction between these two organizations.

Here's a very pleasant and positive note. Betty Grafton, a part-time weekend reference librarian, recently helped a Friends member trying to locate an obscure book that turned out to be OOP (Out Of Print). Betty spent more than 20 minutes trying every means at her disposal, walking through the stacks, until finally the Internet yielded a used and worn copy at a used book site. Betty, thank you very much for this friendly assistance!



ECKERD COLLEGE

www.eckerd.edu/library/friends

J. STANLEY “STAN” CHESNUT

by Shari Watson



In 1963 Stan Chesnut moved with his family – wife Carolyn and their three sons and a daughter – to St. Petersburg, where Stan became professor of humanities and religious studies at Florida Presbyterian (now Eckerd) College.

Stan’s academic preparation included degrees from University of Tulsa, McCormick Theological Seminary, and Yale University. In the 1960s Stan received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for a one-year study of Asian religions.

Stan has done archaeology fieldwork in the Middle East and conducted both research and study travel for Eckerd students and Elderhostel groups. Since retirement Stan has concentrated his study and research on the Maya culture. He continues to lecture widely on this topic, locally for OLLI and ASPEC and, on location, in the Yucatan.

As a professor of biblical literature, history, and archaeology, Stan says that he most enjoyed helping students develop their ability to do library research and produce convincing and well-written papers.

Stan was elected to the Board of Directors of Friends of the Eckerd College Library in 1990 and has served on the Board at various times since then. He was Vice-Chair from 2005-07. At ASPEC he is programming chair and co-leader of the Religions and Faiths interest group.

Stan has been published widely on academic topics and, more recently, as a fiction writer. His second novel is due for publication in December 2007.

FRIENDS HISTORY, PART III

by Stan Chesnut

Who were those Friends in 1959? They first organized as “The Library Committee,” later calling themselves “Patrons of the William Luther Cobb Library.” (The Cobb Library was completed in 1962). Mrs. Cobb was the first chairman – it was 1959, you know—and among the original membership were Thomas Dreier, William W. Upham, Walter P. Fuller, and Professor Robert C. Meacham. Soon the membership totaled 265 individuals and approximately 25 supporting churches and other organizations.

In 1960 Mrs. Robert Hendershott of Clearwater, a founding member, became the first Life Member of the group, which in some of the early records is called “Patrons of the Library of Florida Presbyterian College.” Our Archives Room has many files of documents from past years, and you might enjoy half an hour or more leafing through some of these old papers.

The Board of Directors began using the name “Friends” (“Library Friends” and “Friends of the Library”) in the days of chairmen Hunter B. Blakely and Thomas Dreier. The list of later chairmen includes current Directors Mike Slicker and Shari Watson. Mike recalls many changes in Bylaws. As an example, the records show that the fiscal year of the Friends was once July 1-June 30, later becoming April 1-March 31. It currently stands at September 1-August 31, conforming to the fiscal year of the College.

NOOKS AND CRANNIES

by Patricia Brown

(This is the first in an occasional series featuring named spaces in the library. Some spaces are small, others larger, but each has its own special character, hence the title “Nooks and Crannies.”)

One of the most hallowed spaces on the second floor of the Armacost Library is the Friends of the Library Room, sponsored by the late Betty Williams. The spacious wood-paneled room, decorated in tones of blue, houses special collections, including publications by Eckerd College authors and alumni. Rare and historical items include two books presented by the Friends, one in honor of Mrs. Williams and the other celebrating the dedication of the library on February 18, 2005.

At that dedication ceremony, President Eastman reminisced on the achievements and generosity of Mrs. Williams, who had died a month earlier. He said, “Betty was an active member of ASPEC, editing the *Aspects* magazine as well as writing many of the articles contained within this publication.

Born in Cleveland, she served as an editor for the American Association of University Women, director of publications for America Home Economics Association, and president of the Educational Press Association in Washington, DC... A true Eckerd College giver, Betty served faithfully on the Friends of the Library Board and was the former President of the Board. In recognition of how much she valued that experience, she asked to sponsor the Friends of the Library Room.”

While public access to this room is limited, Friends of the Library may visit the room whenever the library is open by swiping their card in the room’s keyless entry system. Once inside, they may well find a small group of students meeting with a professor, making use of the significant collections housed inside. There is also a cabinet with historical photographs of the five presidents of the college.

(If you would like information on Armacost Library naming opportunities, which begin at \$25,000, please contact the Advancement Office at 864.8222 or e-mail advancement@eckerd.edu.)

BOOKNOTES EDITORIAL STAFF

Patricia Brown, Stan Chesnut,
Jodie DiMaria, Margie Laughlin, Shari Watson



ECKERD COLLEGE

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

4200 54th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33711