



BOOKNOTES

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FRIENDS OF THE ECKERD COLLEGE LIBRARY

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CHAIR'S CORNER

by Shari Watson

Springtime in Florida is often elusive, and this year was no exception. Where has it gone? I have lived here since 1980, and this has been one of the loveliest of springs. By the time you read this, the 2009 class of Eckerd College students will have graduated and started on their career journeys. Soon the library will settle in to its summer schedule of shorter hours and quieter study areas.

The Friends of the Library and OLLI sponsored a reception on Friday, April 24, for the purpose of viewing the Native American Images from the Tom and Mary James/Raymond James Financial Art Collection featuring artists who are Native American and artists who depict Native American images. There were over 120 people in attendance, and we all enjoyed an array of appetizers and refreshments as well as the amazing paintings.

At the close of the reception, the Friends presented retiring director David Henderson with a bird painting by artist John Costin, which will hang in the Wireman Conference Room. It was a lovely evening and a fitting way to end the 2009 school year. May you all have an enjoyable summer until we meet again in the fall.

RECENT EVENTS

by Margie Laughlin

The spring meeting of the Board of Directors of Friends of the Eckerd College Library was held April 2, 2009 in the library's Wireman Conference Room. Chris Eastman presented the Nominating Committee report. Welcomed as new board members were Eileen Deegan, Sandy Ripberger, Signe Oberhofer, and Tom Oberhofer. Board members completing their terms were J. Stanley Chesnut, Katharine Meacham Conover, and William Wilbur, and their years of service were acknowledged with a round of thankful and enthusiastic applause. The slate of officers was also confirmed, as follows: Shari Watson, Chairperson; Lloyd Conover, Vice-Chairperson; Arturo Macias, Secretary; and Jamie Gill, Treasurer. The Board will meet again on Thursday, November 12, 2009.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

by David Henderson

Well, after 35 eventful years, it is finally time to bid adieu. I can hardly believe it. It seems like only yesterday that former director Wanda Calhoun first drove me onto campus. It was pretty much love at first sight. I am not referring here to the location and physical beauty of the campus, though they have their charms. It was the spirit of the place that attracted me - represented in the vision of the founders, in the commitment of the faculty to the students, to treating them as individuals and not numbers, in the widespread belief in the value of the liberal arts tradition, as well as the openness to innovation. Certainly, there have been some ups and downs over the years, but I have never regretted my decision to join this amazing community.

Having started out basically as a glorified circulation clerk, I am very grateful that Eckerd allowed me the opportunity to develop my own interests and talents, especially in the areas of collection development and instructional services. It has been amazing to see the changes that have occurred over the years, particularly since the advent of the computer. From the early days of struggling to help students locate enough information, the main problem now is helping them sort through and evaluate the immense amount of information to which they have access. Times have certainly changed.

Of course, probably the biggest highlight of my 35 years was the dedication of the Armacost Library in 2005. I had always said that one of the things I wanted to do before I retired was to be involved in building a new library on campus that would better reflect the needs of the new generation of students and changing teaching/learning styles. I am very grateful and proud to have had a hand in designing this amazing resource for the Eckerd community.

In closing, I want to express my deep appreciation to everyone who has made these last 35 years so rewarding. It is truly the people who make a place and the people here are simply amazing - from the students whose curiosity and enthusiasm is always inspiring (and who keep one young), to a faculty that remains dedicated to a belief in students as individuals and the value of "values," to an administration that has always been supportive, even in the toughest of times, and, of course, to you, the Friends of the Eckerd College Library, who have been so generous over the years and whose support has made such a difference in the lives of everyone who works in and uses the facility. It has truly been a pleasure working with you and getting to know so many fascinating fellow book lovers.

Rest assured, I may be riding off into the sunset, but I shall always remain a Friend of the Eckerd College Library. As such, I hope to see you all again at various events in the years to come. In the meantime, farewell and Godspeed.

(In September, the Director's Message will be written by Jamie Gill, Interim Library Director. We welcome Jamie and look forward to her contributions to future newsletters--Eds.)



ECKERD COLLEGE

www.eckerd.edu/library/friends

BOARD MEMBERS TOM AND MARGIE LAUGHLIN: A PROFILE

by Eddy Burns

Tom and Margie Laughlin have been faithful members of the Board of Friends of Eckerd College Library for over six years, and Tom served as secretary from 2004-08.



Tom is a graduate of St. Petersburg High and St. Petersburg Junior College. He holds both a BA and MA from University of Florida and a PhD in government from FSU. He has taught at several universities, including University of South Florida, and worked in public administration for the City of St. Petersburg.

Margie is a native of Puerto Rico. She worked in the library and office of the registrar at what is now Inter-American University, which she also attended for two years. She worked in Washington, DC, for the Army and in the Latin American Affairs Office of the State Department. She received her BA in Hispanic Studies at the University of Puerto Rico. She later studied at Florida State University, where she received her MA. She is a lover of words, languages, and literature. Margie was well known to art lovers in St. Petersburg for 29 years in her job as Registrar at the Museum of Fine Arts.

Both Tom and Margie have been valuable and active members of First Presbyterian Church in St. Petersburg. Both have served as elders in the church and in the education program. Margie is co-leader of the book discussion group Faith and Fiction, founded about 25 years ago by former Eckerd College Adjunct Professor Jan Ross. Among other activities, she coordinates volunteers for Meals on Wheels at First Presbyterian.

Tom and Margie met at a stag dance in St. Anne's Catholic Church in Washington, DC. (Neither was Catholic, just visiting.) They were married in San Juan, Puerto Rico. They have the great good fortune to have their two adult children living here in St. Petersburg.

Both Tom and Margie are active in life-long learning at the Academy of Senior Professionals at Eckerd College (ASPEC). They enjoy traveling, walking, and many stimulating pursuits.

FRIENDLY NOTES

by Stan Chesnut

Did you know? It's easy to visit our Armacost Library, even if you live a long distance from Eckerd College. On the Internet, go to www.eckerd.edu/library/. There you'll find links to Research Tools, Services, and Information. In the upper left corner you can click on "Friends of the Library" and gain access to all issues of BookNotes from September 2006 to March 2009, plus items about our organization.

The library walls have many spaces for hanging works of art, and the latest is the outstanding display of Native American Images on loan from the Raymond James collection, courtesy of Tom and Mary James.

Have you requested your library card? As a member of Friends of the Library you will be issued a card allowing you to borrow up to five books for three weeks. This is one of several privileges you have as a Friend. You can have your card programmed in order to visit the Friends' Room, an attractive space on the second floor, which was donated by the late Betty Williams, former Chair of the Board of Friends of the Library.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

by Margie Laughlin

The following people joined the Friends during the last quarter:

Dr. and Mrs. James Deegan
Mr. Wojciech Wiak
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Werner
Mr. Donald Sullivan
Mrs. Susan Lukens

We extend a cordial welcome to these 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 downloading. Friends have access to library materials and borrowing privileges upon presentation of their library card.



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FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

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