

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER*by Shari Watson*

Libraries! Aren't they wonderful places to spend one's time? And, aren't we, the Eckerd College community, fortunate to have such a magnificent new library?

Libraries have been special places to me since my early childhood, and I feel particularly privileged to be a member of the Friends of the Library Board.

I became a member of the board in the early '90's and served as chair for three years. My love of the college and of books brought me back to the board in 2006. While the composition of the board has changed, I continue to feel the spirit and enthusiasm of the current board as we share in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the college.

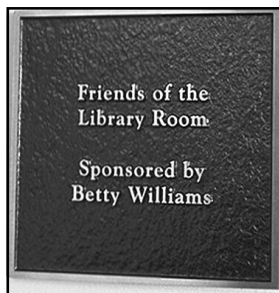
The Eastmans hosted a lovely evening for members of the library board on April 15 in the President's Dining Room. The dinner was well attended, and the conversation flowed throughout the room as members became better acquainted with one another. Chris Eastman is an active member of our board and works hard to see that the members enjoy sharing social occasions.

I was honored to be asked again to serve as chair of the Friends of the Library Board on April 3rd meeting. Knowing I will have big shoes to fill as I follow Arturo Macias who has served so ably these past three years, I look forward to the challenge and the opportunity to serve Eckerd College.

ANNUAL MEETING*by Margie Laughlin*

The annual meeting of the Friends of the Eckerd College Library was held April 3, 2008 in the Wireman Room of the library. Appreciation was unanimously expressed to the retiring officers, and the following new officers were elected: Shari Watson, *Chair*; Lloyd Conover, *Vice-chair*; Arturo Macias, *Secretary*; David Henderson, *Treasurer*

Current board members whose terms were renewed for three years are: Patricia Brown, Eddy Burns, Stan Chesnut, Katharine Meacham-Conover, Claude Corty, Sue Corty, Shirley Crane, Jodie DiMaria, Chris Eastman, Margie Laughlin, Tom Laughlin, Marshall Rousseau, Bob Siver, Mike Slicker, Maxine Terry, Marty Wallace, Bill Wilbur, Maurice Williams

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE*by David Henderson*

July 8th I will be beginning my 35th year at Eckerd College - but in a somewhat altered capacity. I have decided to take advantage of a new opportunity offered by the college - "phased retirement." This means that instead of having to put in five day work weeks, I will be working approximately three days a week, spread out over the 36 week academic year. In other words, no more Monday mornings! It also means that I will be surrendering tenure and my

official title of "Director of Library Services," though I intend to carry on many of the same responsibilities - including working with the Friends, which is one of my favorite parts of the job. My other main task will involve an extensive collection evaluation/development project.

Jamie Gill, a long time Eckerd veteran herself (25+ years) and currently Coordinator of Technical Services, will assume the roll of "Interim Director" for next year. In the fall the College will begin a search for a new full time director whose term will start July 1, 2009. At that point I will head off to new adventures - travel, perhaps some writing, ASPEC-ing or OLLI-ing - wherever the road leads. I have to say it has been a mostly fun-filled 35 years, and I wouldn't have missed any of it. Most gratifying are the friendships that I have made over the years with some truly wonderful folks—students, faculty, staff, and Friends. While I am also proud of the role I had in developing the new Library, in the end, it truly is the people that matter most. I look forward to working with you for another year. Together lets make it the best yet!

FRIENDLY NOTES*by Stan Chesnut*

Did you know? Eckerd College is celebrating its 50th anniversary throughout this year, as you probably knew already. You may not recall, however, that Friends of the Library is also nearly that old.

We can trace our origins to 1959, when the Patrons of the Library was first organized (see my articles on Friends of the Library history in BOOKNOTES, Vol. I, Issue 3, Vol. II, Issue I). Therefore, if we wish, in 2009 we can observe our own semi-centennial celebration.

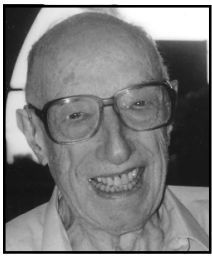
What has our organization accomplished in the past half-century? I'm sure a statistical summary could reveal the total number of members of Friends of the Library, the innumerable volumes purchased with funds from our budget, and the undoubtedly large sum of dollars contributed by our members to the library and to the college. The library Archives Room might yield estimates of these statistics, if anyone cares to do the research.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS*by Margie Laughlin*

We extend a cordial welcome to our new member, Ms. Rivy Chapman. Like all members of Friends of the Library, Ms. Chapman has access to material within the library and borrowing privileges upon presentation of her library card. All members are invited to special programs and receptions during the year.

**Booknotes
Editorial Staff**

Patricia Brown
Eddy Burns
Stan Chesnut
Margie Laughlin
Shari Watson



MAURICE WILLIAMS

by Shari Watson

Maurice Williams, currently a member of the Friends of the Library Board of Eckerd College, met his wife, Betty, when they were freshmen at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois in 1940. “She was my first date,” said Maurice with a smile. Maurice was soon drafted and served his country during WWII. Betty

continued her education and graduated with a degree in journalism from the MacDill School of Journalism. When Maurice returned, he went to the University of Chicago where he got a degree in international relations.

Maurice and Betty spent over two thirds of their early marriage outside the United States while he was in the Foreign Service. He served in Iran, Pakistan, and India as well as Rome, Paris, and London. They returned to Washington DC with their three sons where Maurice continued working for the government, including being a diplomat serving as undersecretary of the U.S. Department of State, United Nations (assistant secretary-general); Department of State, Paris OECD (Ambassador); and Social International Development (president).

Betty’s love of books and literature led her to be a member of the Friends of the Library Board in 1998. She served as chairman from 2000 – 2002 and worked to expand the membership of the Friends, focusing on the Book-A-Year Endowment, with Chris Eastman’s help in raising funds. Betty also was instrumental in raising funds for art in the new library.

Maurice wanted to honor Betty’s contributions to the library by donating for a room in the new library in her name. She refused until he promised to give the money for a Friends of the Library room. She lived to see the Betty Williams room, but died in January of 2005. Maurice continues her legacy by his participation on the Friends’ board. We are honored to have him as a member.

NOOKS AND CRANNIES

by Patricia Brown

One of the first open areas a visitor encounters when entering the Armacost Library is the Thomas Dreier Grand Reading Room, located immediately to the right of the main entrance. This eclectic space overlooks one of the most serene areas of the campus – oak trees draped with Spanish moss and a lake that is home to many varieties of waterfowl. Beyond is the campus chapel.

This is the second incarnation of a library space named for this “gentleman of the old school,” as President Eastman once referred to him. The first was in the original Eckerd library. Mr. Dreier’s influence in St. Petersburg was widespread. He loved libraries and served on the boards of state and local library associations.

In 1964 Mr. Dreier established a trust with over \$110,000 in stocks, to benefit the Eckerd College library. An event in 1967 speaks toward Mr. Dreier’s commitment to a strong personal moral code. In the words of President Eastman at the dedication of the Armacost Library: “Three Eckerd College faculty members marched in Selma against segregation and several trustees threatened to leave the Board in protest. Mr. Dreier stepped forward and announced that he personally would contribute to the College sums equal to the donations that would have been made by departing trustees.”

With gratitude and pride, Eckerd College continues to recognize the largesse and commitment to humanity of one of its early contributors. Mr. Dreier’s portrait hangs in the reading room bearing his name. 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.

ROBERT I. SIVER

July 13, 1926 – April 4, 2008

by Eddy Burns

Bob Siver, a longtime Board member of Friends of the Eckerd College Library, died of a stroke on April 4. Members of the Board will remember Bob fondly for years to come. He was a man often sought for leadership positions because he was known for his major attributes: a strong moral compass, business expertise, and the ability to find common ground among opposed views.

Not long after Bob and Nancy, his wife of 34 years, arrived in St. Petersburg, they became leaders in Cursillo, the renewal movement in the Episcopal Church. And for the next 25 or so years, Bob continued weekly prayer and sharing with his friends in renewal, as well as daily personal prayer and meditation. He served St. Thomas Church in many capacities, including the selection process for new clergy. His golf games at the Vinoy seemed for him a spiritual experience. Just three days before his death, when he hit a good shot he remarked, “Boy that makes me feel good. Aren’t we lucky to be here in this beautiful place.” The lakes, the birds, the beautiful spring sky and flowers meant so much to him.

In his work at St. Anthony’s Hospital, at All Children’s Hospital, at the St. Petersburg Free Clinic, and as a Senator and President of the Academy of Senior Professionals at Eckerd College, Bob was known as a person who could make things happen, someone who could be relied on to make a difference with mission, with organization, and with individuals. He was a wonderful, sincere listener, who could ask just the right questions, often leading to resolution of differing points of view. In all his associations, his many friends will miss him greatly.