

**CHAIR'S CORNER***by Shari Watson*

To my great pleasure, I received a letter and a poem in my ASPEC mailbox shortly after the last *Booknotes* came out, from my vice chairman, Lloyd Conover. In the first place, it was gratifying to know that someone really did read my column. In the second place, it was especially nice to find relevance to my article.

Lloyd's note indicated that his son, Roger, had written a poem about readers, books, and libraries some years ago. Roger is a sometime author and a fulltime editor and has had a lifetime love affair with words and books.

He gave me permission to use the poem in my letter to all of you:

To be a book,  
in a stack, on a shelf, on a carrel is  
to be chosen, to be held, to be returned,  
to be copied, to be admired, to be referred to,  
to be reserved, to be borrowed, to be a burden,  
to be asked for, to be loaned, to be enjoyed,  
to be known, to be read: that is to be a book.

To be a reader is  
to dwell, to consider, to memorize, to decipher,  
to copy, to wonder, to agree, to question,  
to edit, to translate, to discover, to inhabit.

To be a reader with a book is  
to choose a place by the window,  
to wander through the stacks,  
to seek a preferred corner, to find a place,  
to sit down, to look up, to dip into, to drift off,  
to find one's place, to discover a new room,  
to live in many houses, and perhaps,  
to become a writer.

And to be a library is  
to convey acquired information from  
generation to generation which, according to  
the laws of biology, only living things  
are supposed to be able to do.  
To be a library, then, is to be a miracle.

Roger L. Conover

(These lines were delivered at the end of a formal address by Roger L. Conover at the Opening Celebration of the Rotch Library, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, on December 5, 1991. They are published with the author's permission.)

**DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE***by David Henderson*

In December's *Booknotes* I mentioned that the college will soon be undergoing its decennial evaluation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Since our last review there has been an increased emphasis on instituting and documenting "evidence of '**ongoing, integrated, systematic, and research-based**' planning and evaluation processes that incorporate a review of programs and services that (a) results in continuing improvement and (b) demonstrates that the institution is effectively accomplishing its mission." This applies to every department and division, including the library, and involves identifying "measurable" goals.

The library has identified four particular goals for current evaluation purposes. The first goal (information about the others will follow in ensuing newsletters) is to enhance the library's "core collection." Using the *Resources for College Libraries* collection development and analysis tool which allows us to compare our holdings against those of other liberal arts institutions, we have identified several areas for initial focus. These include economics, Latin American studies, Middle Eastern studies and African American studies. I am currently working on the economics' list with the goal of adding a minimum of 100 new titles by the end of this academic year. Once we have met our goals for these subject areas, we will identify another set to work on – as time and monies allow.

In another bit of news I am happy to report that we added another \$1,000 to the Friends' Book Grant program as a result of our January dinner event featuring author Les Standiford. It was a delightfully Dickensian event – good food, good friends, and good talk. Thanks to all who organized and participated in this wonderful evening. Winners of the book grants will be announced in April.

**FRIENDLY NOTES***by Stan Chesnut*

**Did you know?** Our outstanding new Armacost Library opened January 2, 2005 and was dedicated February 18, 2005. Construction took two years, and the cost was a reasonable \$15 million, which was under budget. Approximately 140,000 volumes are now in the collection, plus some 90 subscription databases and 15,000 unique periodical titles.

More statistics to amaze you: Patrons in and out in a one-year period numbered 338,868 (divide by 2 for real number); one-year circulation of books checked out numbered 18,669; reserves 3,341, with 5,019 renewals, for a total of 27,029 transactions. 8,326 periodicals were re-shelved.

The Archives Room has several types of material, both print and electronic. As the College becomes more paperless, increasing numbers of items will be stored electronically. Currently in the Archives there are 45 bookshelves, plus file cabinets and storage boxes, covering approximately 150 linear feet. College personnel are reminded periodically to submit items that may be of historical interest.

Our Friends' link to the library website began in 1998, and that site had 6,368 unique page-views from October 1, 2008 to January 27, 2009. The College website had 9,798 hits in January 2009 alone, an impressive number!

Privileges of Friends of the Library include use of the rooms for reading and research, assistance from the staff, ability to check out books, and access to the special Friends of the Library Room.

(I am indebted to Jamie Gill, Helene Gold, Connie Pearson, and Cathy McCoy of the library staff for most of these interesting and useful pieces of information.)

## WHY WE ARE FRIENDS OF THE ECKERD COLLEGE LIBRARY

by Claude and Sue Corty

We all owe a debt to the libraries of the world, which for centuries – even millennia – have been the focal point of civilization. Libraries are the repository of our heritage where the history, ideas, and teachings of mankind are preserved and available to be passed on to future generations.

Technology may have changed how libraries function; we not only have books but now also electronic records, and we are learning to keep our expanding knowledge available through increasingly powerful search techniques. But the purpose remains the same.

The Eckerd College library is a vital link in this chain, for students, faculty, and the greater community. Supporting this chain, so that it can not only continue but also grow, is important. And that is why we feel it is a pleasure and a privilege to be Friends of the Eckerd College Library.

## EVENTS, PAST AND YET TO COME

The Friends of the Eckerd College Library held a lovely dinner in the President's Dining Room for 45 people on Thursday, January 22. The conversation was lively; the food was delicious. The speaker, Les Standiford – who has spoken at various Eckerd College events in the past – gave an entertaining and informative talk on his new novel, *The Man Who Invented Christmas*. We look forward to making this special evening an annual event. This is a wonderful way to support the library and have an enjoyable evening out.

The FOL Board of Directors met on February 5 and will meet again on April 2, 2009 before taking a summer recess. Board meetings are held in the Wireman Conference Room.

A catered reception and gallery presentation for the Friends of Native American Images: Paintings from the Tom and Mary James/Raymond James Financial Art Collection is being planned for later in the spring. Invitations to this event, to be held in conjunction with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, will be forthcoming once the date is confirmed.

The exhibit is described on the Eckerd College website: Full of powerful symbolism and a desire to combine Native culture with today's world, these Native American artists are translating their stories and symbols in a contemporary style all their own. The urgency to capture parts of their past is certainly felt, and in addition to influence by other Native American artists such as T.C. Cannon and Fritz Scholder, there is stylistic influence by artists such as Van Gogh, J.M.W. Turner, Andy Warhol, and Jackson Pollack.

Take a few minutes to visit this captivating exhibition. You will not be disappointed.

## ASPEC READING ROOM

ASPEC members have consistently provided generous support for the college. When the opportunity arose to name a space in the new Armacost Library, several members responded with donations. The result is the ASPEC Reading Room, on the second floor of the library. Members who contributed are:

Mr. David J.\* and Mrs. Paula K. Benjamin;  
Dr. Leonard and Mrs. Naomi L. Block;  
Dr. Robert C. Meacham\* and  
Mrs. Katharine M. Meacham Conover;  
Mr. Joseph M. and Mrs. Ellen K. Cortese;  
Dr. Claude and Mrs. Susanne P. Corty;  
Mr. Raymond J. and Mrs. Doris T.\* Fontana;  
Mr. Scott K. Wagman and Ms. Beth A. Houghton;  
Dr. Roger W. and Mrs. Genevieve B. Jackle;  
Mr. Henry P. and Mrs. Dorothy L. Kalapaca;  
Mr. Clark M. and Mrs. Barbara C. Lambert;  
Mr. John R. and Mrs. Althea K. Leyon;  
Ms. Janet E. McBride;  
Mr. G. William and Mrs. Donna Marie Oglesby;  
Mr. Edgar\* and Dr. Virginia L. Oppenheimer;  
Mr. Robert E. and Mrs. Nena B. Shepherd;  
Mr. Paul D.\* and Mrs. Marguerite A. Siebert;  
Dr. Norman J.\* and Mrs. Marcia B. Silver;  
Mr. Robert I.\* and Mrs. Nancy L. Siver;  
Mr. Norman R. and Mrs. Mirella C. Smith;  
Mr. Aldo B. and Mrs. Frances L. Sparzani;  
Mr. Maurice J. and Mrs. Betty\* Williams.  
\*deceased

The list of donors has been compiled to the best of our ability. If any information is incorrect or incomplete, please inform the Advancement Office.

(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](mailto:advancement@eckerd.edu).)

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

by Margie Laughlin

We are delighted to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Gleason as new Friends. As all Friends, the Gleasons will have access to library materials and borrowing privileges upon presentation of their library card. They will receive a copy of the quarterly *Booknotes* and invitations to all Friends' activities.