On July 26 a massive, almost nine foot bronze alligator sculpture was unveiled on the third floor of the Humanities and Social Sciences Library, Library West. It will remain there until the new Colonnade is built where it will move to its permanent home as the centerpiece of the space.

The gator was donated by the A. H. Burnett Foundation. The work is titled “Focused Attention” and was sculpted by Florida artist David Price.

“The Burnett Foundation is honored to have ‘the gator fearless’ placed at the libraries. The strength and prowess of the gator will enlighten the academic community. We are all one Gator Nation!” said Mary Ellen Burnett of the A. H. Burnett Foundation.

To learn more about the planned Colonnade, see the brochure at http://uflib.ufl.edu/colonnade.pdf. If you would like to donate to the Colonnade Fund, see www.uflib.ufl.edu/colonnadedonate.
Message from the Dean

Students are coming to the libraries more than ever and seating fills up quickly. Their usage may have changed over the years but students, faculty and other researchers still come to the libraries to seek knowledge and expertise in a variety of ways. Our librarians and professional staff are available and eager to assist them in locating research resources. They work one-on-one at the research help desks, by phone or chat; they teach classes in the libraries and in classrooms; and some have office hours in colleges for easy access for students in specific majors.

The libraries are such a valuable resource to education, they must be continually improved to ensure our resources stay up-to-date. A few of the recent updates and planned improvements include:

- Four new group study rooms with more improvements to follow in the Education Library
- Opening up a section of the fourth floor in Library West to add additional comfortable seating and tables
- Planned improvements for the upper floors of the Marston Science Library
- The Panama Canal Gallery will open April 1, 2017 in the Smathers Library and materials from the Canal Zone will be on display.

As you will read on page 5 of this issue of Chapter One, our Digital Services Department continues to mark new milestones by digitizing rare and fragile materials for global online access.

As always, we are proud to show you our libraries and collections. Please let me know if you would like to schedule a visit to the libraries. Contact me at (352) 273-2505 or jcrussell@ufl.edu.

Judith C. Russell
Dean of University Libraries
Madagascar from A to Z

Students produce alphabet book for librarian’s (Un)Common Read class

When sophomores Grace Gibson and Soleil Nguyen enrolled in the Honors Program’s (Un)Common Read class last year to study the book Thank You, Madagascar: The Conservation Diaries of Alison Jolly, they had no idea they would embark on a class project together to write and illustrate a children’s book. Michele Tennant, Ph.D., a librarian at the Health Science Center Library, teaches the class and shares her passion for Madagascar with her students.

Gibson, an environmental science major, wrote the book and Nguyen, an architecture major, created the illustrations. Over 80% of the animals living in Madagascar are endemic (live nowhere else in the world). The rich and diverse fauna and flora made animals and plants an excellent choice of subject for a children’s alphabet book.

Tennant is hoping for financial support to help with the $27,000 cost of printing the books and sponsoring travel for Gibson and Nguyen to distribute the books to children in Madagascar. The children are being taught English and the book will also include a translation in Malagasy.

Madagascar is one of the poorest countries in the world. There is interest among non-governmental non-profit organizations to assist with distribution of the books to children, local schools and safety net organizations.

“I love the idea of combining education and environmental issues because I think education is an essential part of encouraging environmentally conscious behavior,” said Grace. “Being able to travel to Madagascar would mean experiencing the unique culture, people and landscape of a country I’ve spent nearly a whole year learning about first hand. Meeting and interacting with children who receive our book would be such an incredible, moving experience that I would treasure for the rest of my life.”

Soleil said, “In class we talked a lot about conservation and increasing awareness of the unique biodiversity in Madagascar, and I really believe that education is the way to better conservation and a more sustainable future.”

Friends since high school, the two students are taking another class with Tennant again this year and studying The Eighth Continent, which is also about Madagascar.
What is it? *La única*, a 1938 novel by Guadalupe Marín (1895-1983). Marín’s novel gives the reader access to a historical figure rarely mentioned in detail. Marín, born in 1895 in Jalisco, Mexico, is well known for being one of the wives of renowned Mexican artist and muralist Diego Rivera. She is depicted in several works by Rivera, and even in some of the works of Mexican surrealist, Frida Kahlo, who would become Rivera’s next wife. However, outside of the context of these two grand figures, not much is discussed of Marín. A novelist and a witness to the happenings of Post-Revolutionary Mexico, Marín is a figure worth mentioning and deserves a more thorough investigation.

Where is it? Harold and Mary Jean Hanson Rare Books Collection, Sam Huang, huang888@ufl.edu, (352) 273-2817; Margarita Vargas-Betancourt, mvargasb@ufl.edu, (352) 273-2692.

What is it? *Scheeps togt van Jamaica gedaan na Panuco en Rio de las Palmas aan de Golf van Mexico gelegen*  
By Pieter van der Aa, published 1706 in Leiden, Netherlands  
Map of a voyage from Jamaica to Panuco showing settlements along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, Cuba, and Jamaica  
http://ufdc.ufl.edu/UF90000053  

Where is it? Map & Imagery Library, Carol McAuliffe, carolmc@uflib.ufl.edu, (352) 273-2825.
What is it? This special album recently acquired by the Price Library of Judaica was assembled in 1941 to commemorate the first anniversary of the founding of the Dominican Republic Settlement Association (DORSA), and the establishment of a colony in Sousa for Jewish refugees. Three years earlier, President Roosevelt had convened a 32 nation conference at Evian to discuss the resettlement of German Jews. It was a difficult task as most nations refused to receive more than a few thousand people. One exception was the Dominican Republic, which offered to take as many as 100,000 Jews provided they agreed to work in agriculture. The uptake was slow, initially only 50 Jews made it across the Atlantic, arriving in May 1940. They were given eighty acres of land and ten cows and received instruction in farming from kibbutzim in Palestine. The population peaked in October 1941 at about 500 before the Third Reich suspended Jewish emigration. The album contains 66 photographs, newspaper clippings and printed ephemera including a menu, concert program and letters. It probably belonged to James N. Rosenberg, president of DORSA as it contains letters addressed to him from President Rafael Trujillo, and a presentation inscription which reads: “To the ‘Chief’ with deepest affection faithfully Alfred Wagg 3rd April 17th 1941.” Alfred Wagg served as the Secretary to the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees.

Where is it? Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica, Rebecca Jefferson, rjefferson@ufl.edu, (352) 273-2865.

What are they? The 12 millionth digitized page milestone has been reached by Digital Services with the 1933 flyer for the festival of Ecce Homo, the patron of the town of Noreña in Asturias, Spain. From the UF Digital Bragga Brothers Collection, this piece also represents an important contribution to the Digital Library of the Caribbean (www.dloc.com). In addition, the 500,000 item has been loaded into the Digital Collections. The item is the Práctica de los juzgados de paz de las islas de Cuba y Puerto-Rico (Practice of the peace courts in the island of Cuba and Puerto-Rico), printed in Havana, Cuba in 1866 by the colonial government of the time. UF digitized this item for inclusion in the Cuban Legal Patrimony Project, which involves a library cooperative specializing in legal information and the National Library of Cuba. It is part of a growing digital collection online at http://ufdc.ufl.edu/cubanlaw.

Where are they? The digital items can be viewed at http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00048016 and http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00048290.
The libraries of the University of Florida form the largest information resource system in the state of Florida and include seven libraries. Six are in the system known as the George A. Smathers Libraries, and one (Legal Information Center) is attached to the law school's administrative unit. Over the past 100 years, faculty and librarians have built hundreds of specialized collections, now totaling more than five million volumes, printed in practically every written language by publishers throughout the world.

The George A. Smathers Libraries at the University of Florida include specialized collections in science, architecture, art, history, languages, music and health sciences. The collections cover all areas of contemporary knowledge, from agriculture to zoology and from philosophy to history. The libraries serve all of the university’s faculty and students, but each has a special mission to be the primary support of specific colleges and degree programs. The libraries support the very best educational, research and service performance by university faculty and students, using the latest online technology and time-honored methods of collection and preservation.

For more information on giving to the George A. Smathers Libraries at the University of Florida contact the Office of Development at (352) 273-2505.

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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this report. Please accept our apologies if we are in error. Contact the Office of Development at (352) 273-2505 so that we can adjust our records.

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Libraries welcome new Senior Development Officer Sterling Garcia

Sterling Garcia comes to the University of Florida from Washington, D.C., where he worked in the Development Office at NCLR, the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the U.S. He brings a wealth of experience in academic fundraising from his time at Penn State University and Florida State University. He earned a master’s degree in higher education administration/student affairs with a minor in institutional advancement and a bachelor’s degree in business administration. Mr. Garcia looks forward to engaging with supporters to highlight the important work our libraries do for the University of Florida.
Libraries receive gift of Jerusalem tapestry

Harold and Mary Jean Hanson were honored at a ceremony on August 23 for their gift of “Tapestry Depicting the Old City of Jerusalem” by Isaac Amitai (1907-1984). The tapestry is hanging in the Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica section of Library West.

“When my parents returned to Gainesville, (1991) after my father retired as Head of the Science and Technology Committee for the House of Representatives, the tapestry came with them. It was obtained on an official Congressional trip to Israel. Typically the visiting spouses, with military escorts, are taken to sight see. On this trip they were taken to the art museum in Jerusalem. Some poor Marine gallantly carried my mother’s acquisition back to the transport plane, thus this large tapestry made its way to the United States,” said Barbara Hanson-Herbert, the Hanson’s daughter.

“On one of my family’s visits to my parents’ home, a new (to us) wall hanging appeared. We remarked at the brilliant colors and the ancient buildings, and they told us it was Jerusalem. What I didn’t gather was that it was patterned after a painting by a well-known Israeli artist. On our subsequent visits, the vibrancy of the wall hanging made a lasting impression. My sister and I are pleased that it has now found a good home so that others may appreciate it,” said the Hanson’s son Steve.

Following the ceremony there was a dedication of the Harold P. Hanson Rare Book Room in the Judaica Suite in the Smathers Library.

Carl Van Ness receives Mort Wolfson Faculty Service Award

The 2016 UF Division of Student Affairs’ Mort Wolfson Faculty Service Award was given to Carl Van Ness, the Smathers Libraries curator of manuscripts and archives and UF Historian. As UF Historian, Carl chairs the University History Advisory Council and serves as a permanent member of the Preservation of Historic Buildings and Sites Committee. He frequently writes on the university’s history for campus publications and gives tours and talks to alumni, community, students and faculty groups. He has tirelessly supported students and the University of Florida for over 30 years.

LEFT: Dave Parrott, Vice President for Student Affairs and Carl Van Ness, Mort Wolfson Faculty Service Award recipient.
Dear Friends of the Smathers Libraries:

It has been my distinct honor and pleasure to have served as President of the University of Florida George A. Smathers Library Leadership Board for the past three years. The Board’s purpose, in coordination with our Dean and Senior Director of Development, is to support the Libraries’ mission of excellence in scholarly resources and research services for the University of Florida. The Board achieves this goal through securing financial and in-kind gifts on behalf of the Libraries.

We are now embarking on a new and exciting project, namely the construction of the new Library West Colonnade. This project will coincide with the redesign of the Plaza of the Americas and will provide a state-of-the-art outdoor space for students at the entrance of Library West. This space will have options for lounging, studying and eating. Solar panels will power large ceiling fans, overhead lighting and electricity for charging stations at most tables and benches. There will be seating for 296 people throughout the colonnade, and its terrace and garden areas. The Leadership Board has made a commitment to financially support this endeavor and we invite you to join us by supporting this project and our Libraries.

During these three years, we have seen numerous endeavors come to fruition. The Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica, considered the foremost Jewish studies research collection in the Southeastern United States, opened its Judaica Suite on the second floor of the Smathers Library in 2014. The Libraries have received a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Challenge Grant that will directly support the Judaica Library’s growth and development. This promises to protect, promote and preserve endangered Jewish heritage materials from Florida, Latin America and the Caribbean. The NEH Challenge Grant is a four-year grant, ending in June, 2018. In order to secure the full federal award of $500,000, we have to achieve the NEH’s annual goals through fund raising.

In 2015, the Libraries received the second portion of another NEH grant, bringing the total to $613,000, the largest single direct monetary award in the Libraries’ history. This grant is being used to digitize historic newspapers.

The Board will continue to focus on supporting the Libraries’ endeavors to reach its goals now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Steve Pliskow MD FACOG FACFE