Panama Canal Centennial Celebration set for August 15-17 at UF

In 2014, the University of Florida will mark the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Panama Canal with a series of exhibits and a special weekend of activities. The Panama Canal Centennial Celebration will be held August 15-17 on the University of Florida campus in Gainesville. All events and exhibits are open to the public.

Highlights of the celebration include:

• Chamber Orchestra Performance, Summerfest 2014
• Panama Canal Zone Day at the Florida Museum of Natural History
• Centennial Celebration Banquet
• Multiple exhibits across campus
  The exhibits will display select items from the Smathers Libraries, including the Panama Canal Museum Collection. The Smathers Libraries have one of the largest and most respected collections of Latin American resources in the world.
• Exhibit at the Harn Museum of Art and gallery presentation on molas by author Edith Crouch

READ MORE →
WEEKEND SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15

Presentation: Health Issues During Canal Construction
Dr. Richard Cheville (practiced medicine in the Canal Zone)
12:00 - 12:50 p.m.
Health Science Center, Room TBA

Chamber Orchestra, Summerfest 2014, produced by Symphony of the Americas
7:30 p.m.
Phillips Center for the Performing Arts; Tickets $15

Featuring award-winning artistic director, Dr. James Brooks-Bruzzese, international symphony conductor and recipient of the 2005 Hispanic Heritage Foundation Kennedy Center award to honor Hispanic leaders and role models. Several signature pieces will be composed by Panamanian Juan Castillo and pianist Lorenzo Tuchi-Flores, director of the Mission Chamber Orchestra of Rome.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16

Panama Canal Zone Day at the Florida Museum of Natural History
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Panama Canal Zone Day will include a variety of family friendly entertainment and the opportunity to enjoy exhibits, traditional pollera dancing, story-telling, butterflies, art activities and more. Multiple exhibits will feature the fossil fauna and floral of Panama.

Centennial Celebration Banquet
6:00 p.m. hors d’oeuvres with cash bar; 7:00 p.m. dinner
Price: $40 per person
Register for the banquet at http://bit.ly/1I4aGb0

Enjoy a special evening of Panamanian food with friends at the beautiful Paramount Plaza Hotel. Entertainment will be provided by “Theodore Roosevelt” portrayed by Joe Wiegand, the nation’s premier reprise of Roosevelt. The banquet is co-sponsored by the Friends of the Panama Canal Museum Collection, Panama Canal Society and the Space Coast Panazonians.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

Patterns Past and Present: Arts of Panama exhibit with Gallery Talk by author Edith Crouch
1:15-2:15 p.m. with reception and book signing to follow
Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art

Presentation by Edith Crouch, the author of The Mola: Traditional Kuna Textile Art, a book exploring the visual power of Panama’s mola art as one of the world’s most evocative and transcendent indigenous art forms. Her interest in Panama and the mola extends from her formative years in Panama and her family’s collection of this unique fabric art. View the related exhibit featuring highlights from the more than 1,200 molas in the UF collection as well as items from public and private collections.

EXHIBITS

Patterns Past & Present: Arts of Panama
Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art
August 12, 2014 – June 7, 2015
Tues-Fri 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun 1-5 p.m.

From Microscopic to Massive: Worker Health Challenges in the Construction Era
Health Science Center Library
August 11, 2014 – February 1, 2015

Voices from the Panama Canal
Smathers Library Gallery (2nd floor)
August 4, 2014 – October 24, 2014

Panama Canal Model
Smathers Library, Room 100
October 2013 – December 2014

Big Business: The Panama Canal Expansion
Gerson Hall Commemorative Gallery (Fisher School of Accounting)
July 24, 2014 – November 24, 2014
Hours: Mon-Fri 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Building the Canal
Marston Science Library
August 2014 – December 2014

Revealing the Right Route: Cartographic Evidence of Early Canal Plans
Map & Imagery Library (in Smathers Library)
August 2014 – November 2014

Legal History of the Panama Canal
Lawton Chiles Legal Information Center
August 2014 – December 2014

Panama: Tropical Ecosystem
Florida Museum of Natural History
August 2014 – May 2015
Mon-Sat 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun 1-5 p.m.

Bigger Better, Best: the Panama Canal through American Children’s Literature
Smathers Library, Special & Area Studies Reading Room (2nd floor)
August 1, 2014 – October 10, 2014

Libraries Hours:
http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/ps/hours
ACCOMMODATIONS

The Hilton University of Florida Conference Center at Gainesville, 1714 SW 34th Street, has reserved a block of rooms at the special rate of $129 per night. The hotel is a comfortable walking distance to the Cultural Plaza where many of the events take place. Call (352) 371-3600 or register online at www.uf.hilton.com. The group code is PCC814.

The Paramount Plaza, 2900 SW 13th Street, has reserved a block of rooms at the special rate of $82-92 per night. Call (352) 377-4000 to register and mention the Panama Canal Centennial Celebration to receive the discounted rate. Amenities listed at www.paramountplaza.com/accommodations/. The Centennial Banquet will be held at the Paramount Plaza on Saturday night, August 16.

Celebrating the Centennial 1914-2014

A special commemorative book, 100 Years of the Panama Canal can be viewed at http://bit.ly/PanCanalCentennial

For details about the Centennial Celebration: http://library.ufl.edu/PanamaCanalCentennial
New Judaica Suite in Smathers Library
features rooms for classes, seminars, lectures and events

By Rebecca Jefferson
Curator of the Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica

A new suite of reading rooms on the second floor of the Smathers Library was officially opened by President Bernie Machen on Sunday, January 19, 2014. The Judaica Suite was designed by renowned architect and artist, Kenneth Treister.

SUITE OF ROOMS AND ALCOVES

The approach to the rooms is through a foyer which features a large stained-glass window representing one God. In an alcove to the right is a bronze sculpture symbolizing the parting of the Red Sea. In the main reading room, several abstract paintings depicting creation and four tapestries all work in unison to complement the beauty of the dark-stained wood furniture. The warm-colored chairs in the alcoves draw the eye into these inviting study niches. Chairs in the alcoves are positioned side by side to reflect the Jewish tradition of studying with a partner.

Each alcove contains a quotation from famous thinkers, such as Moses Maimonides, carved in gold plate. Each quotation corresponds to the subject-matter of the books within the alcove.

Samuel Price and Charles Price of Jacksonville provided funding for the fabrication of the art, furniture, lighting fixtures and window grills. The foyer is named in memory of Samuel’s son, Todd Carroll Price.

The new rooms are available to the university community for classes, seminars, lectures, research and other events. For more information about the suite contact the curator, Rebecca Jefferson, at rjefferson@ufl.edu.

Artist/architect Kenneth Treister and University of Florida President Bernie Machen cut the ribbon at the dedication ceremony.
ARTIST/ARCHITECT KENNETH TREISTER

An alumnus of the University of Florida, Kenneth Treister has spent his life creating, writing and lecturing on architecture. He is the sculptor and architect of Miami Beach’s world-famous Holocaust Memorial. His work is recognized throughout the United States, Israel and the Caribbean. His most famous designs include Mayfair, the up-scale retail and mixed-use development in Coconut Grove; Temple Emanu-El of Greater Miami; Yacht Harbour Condominiums in Coconut Grove; Gumenick Chapel of the Temple Israel in Miami; and the Elizabeth Virrick Park in Miami. He has also designed numerous private homes throughout the Miami area. Treister was recently awarded a Gold Medal (2013) by the Association of the American Institute of Architects Florida for his profound impact on the architectural profession.

The new Judaica Suite features Treister’s handmade furniture, artwork and sculptures, as well as his collection of rare chess sets. He designed the suite very carefully with each element working in harmony with another to create a gesamtkunstwerk, a total work of art.

THE ISSER AND RAE PRICE LIBRARY OF JUDAICA

The books in the suite are from the Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica at the University of Florida which, with holdings of over 100,000 volumes, is considered the foremost Jewish studies research collection in the southeastern United States. Many of the Price Library’s late 19th and early 20th century materials are held by just 30 or 40 institutions around the world; a good number of the Yiddish and Hebrew titles from that period are shared by less than ten American libraries.

These semi-rare and rare materials occupy the alcoves in the new suite. They cover a period which witnessed a phenomenal publishing output as Jewish people embraced secular literature, engaged deeply in political life and created new forms of Jewish art, music and belles-lettres. One alcove is dedicated to the end of this vibrant period brought about by the Holocaust. Another contains the Library’s Memorial Book Collection, the largest in the southeast.
George A. Smathers commemorated on the 100th anniversary of his birth

By Carl Van Ness
Curator of Manuscripts and Archives and University Historian

The George A. Smathers Libraries joined the Levin College of Law last November 14 in the Chesterfield Smith Ceremonial Classroom to examine the legacy of one of the University of Florida's most successful and influential alumni. Elected to Congress in 1946 and to the U.S. Senate in 1950 in a storied campaign, the political career of George A. Smathers embraced the emergence of Florida as a modern state and the major challenges of Cold War America. Smathers was designated a Great Floridian by the State of Florida in 1994.

After a reception, the newly-released documentary “A Friends of Presidents: Senator George A. Smathers” produced by PBS affiliate WPBT2 in South Florida was shown. The documentary details Smathers’ close friendships with three American Presidents: John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson and Richard M. Nixon. (http://bit.ly/1iVnEYw) Following the documentary, a panel discussion moderated by Ben Brotemarkle with authors Brian Crispell and James C. Clark, along with Senator Smathers’ son Bruce, explored different dimensions of Smathers’ career and legacy.

The George A. Smathers Papers (http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/spec/pkyonge/Smathers.htm) holds materials from and related to the Senator. Selected materials from the collection are being placed online at http://ufdc.ufl.edu/gas. If you have any questions about the collection or any of the other political papers collection in the Department of Special and Area Studies Collections, please contact Carl Van Ness at carvann@uflib.ufl.edu.

In addition to the Panama Canal Centennial exhibits described on page 2, the Libraries will feature two additional upcoming exhibits.

**Artbound 2014**

*November 3, 2014 – December 12, 2014*

Smathers Library Gallery, 2nd Floor

In its fourth year, *Artbound* presents winning entries by students making books in book arts and/or fine arts programs across the United States. Juried by Jessica Peterson of *The Southern Letterpress* and curated by Ellen Knudson.

**When Uncle Sammy Leads the Band**

*January 9, 2015 – March 6, 2015*

Smathers Library Gallery, 2nd Floor

Featuring original sheet music from The Bernard S. Parker World War One Sheet Music Collection. Curated by Jim Liversidge.

**UF Digital Collections marks eighth anniversary**

April 21 marked the eighth anniversary of the University of Florida Digital Collections (UFDC). The UFDC (http://ufdc.ufl.edu) debuted on April 21, 2006 and now holds over 300 distinctive digital collections, containing nearly nine million pages, across over 78,000 subjects in rare books, manuscripts, antique maps, children’s literature, newspapers, theses and dissertations, data sets, photographs, oral histories and more, for perpetual access and preservation.

UFDC grew out of UF’s many decades of expertise in preservation in microfilm. Experimental digitization was begun in the 1990s, prior to the internet becoming a feasible option for access to the vast digital materials. In just eight years’ time, the collections have seen over 123 million item views. Today, there are 385,763 items in UFDC, representing 125,394 different titles, and new materials are being added each and every day.
New spaces for the Latin American and Caribbean Collection and Map & Imagery Library

BETWEEN: The Latin American and Caribbean Collection, previously located on the fourth floor of Smathers Library (East), has moved to the renovated third floor. Access is by the stairs or elevator. The spacious 6,300 sq. ft. new reading room has seating for 108, a classroom/meeting room, seven public computers, two microfilm readers, a scanner and bilingual services.

ABOVE: The Map & Imagery Library is now part of Special and Area Studies Collections and has relocated to the first floor of Smathers Library (East). Computer workstations all have Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software. An 11x17 inch scanner and color printer are also available for public use.

Friends of the Libraries

Yes, I support the George A. Smathers Libraries at the University of Florida!
I want to join the Friends of the George A. Smathers Libraries at the following level:

- $15  Student Friend
- $50  Friend
- $125 Contributing Friend

I would like to use my annual membership in the following:
- The Howe Society  #004773
- Stewards of Florida History #013861

OR

- Smathers Libraries Purchase Fund #008813
- Special & Area Studies Collections #005433
  - Latin American Collection #016045
  - Price Library of Judaica #000013
  - African Studies Collection #01223
  - Asian Studies Collection #016271
  - P.K. Yonge Library of FL History #013861
  - Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature #004010
  - Popular Culture Collection #016107
  - Hanson Rare Book Collection #011265
  - Architecture Archives #017459

- Architecture & Fine Arts Library #008597
- Education Library #005967
- Health Science Center Libraries #04361
- Humanities & Social Sciences Library (Library West) #012623
- Journalism & Comm. Collection #017260
- Map & Imagery Library #017267
- Music Collection #005387
- Marston Science Library #008591
- Digitization of UF Collections #014781
- Preservation #016209
- Panama Canal Museum Collection at UF #016629

I want to leave a legacy:
- Please send information about making a planned gift/bequest
- I would like to know how to create a library endowment
- I would like to learn more about charitable annuity in my estate planning
- I would like to include the University of Florida Libraries in my bequest

Method of Payment:
- I have enclosed a check payable to the UFF/Friends of the Libraries #000223 OR designate the fund of your choice from the list at the left.

Employees of the University of Florida may wish to take advantage of the payroll deduction process to provide their level of support.
- I would like to use my annual membership in the following:
- The Howe Society  #004773
- Stewards of Florida History #013861

To make a gift with a credit card, please call the UF Foundation's Gift Processing toll-free number: 1-877-351-2377 OR fill in the information below and mail directly to UF Foundation, Gift Processing Department, P.O. Box 14425, Gainesville, FL 32604-2425.

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Thank you for your support!
Katie Boudreau recently joined the George A. Smathers Libraries as the director of development. Katie has years of fundraising experience, starting with her work at Gainesville Harvest, the Catholic schools of Gainesville and more recently in the College of Medicine at the University of Florida. At UF, Katie will plan and direct the major fundraising activities and manage the development and public information of the libraries. Seeking support from alumni, parents, friends, private foundations, corporations and organizations is a primary goal, while working collaboratively with the library deans, chairs and librarians. Katie has the primary responsibility for directing library efforts that encompass major gifts, donor stewardship, development of public support groups, fundraising event coordination and relations between the libraries, its development council, the University of Florida and the UF Foundation, Inc.

“Establishing relationships with new donors is a challenge for the libraries, but exposing the public to all of the exciting things that are happening here at the Smathers Libraries is one of the greatest aspects of the job,” she says. “The library offers so much, not just to students, but to faculty, staff, outside researchers and the general public. I look forward to spreading the word.”

James and Leslie Rutherford library student assistant scholarship winner

The spring 2014 James and Leslie Rutherford library student assistant scholarship essay competition was won by Diego Amaya, who works in the Education Library. Diego is from Hollywood, Florida and is a third year mathematics major with a statistics minor. He endeavors to become an actuary, but his dream is to become a fully realized musician with his band.

The $500 scholarship is awarded during the fall and spring semesters to a student assistant employed by the George A. Smathers Libraries.

Diego Amaya is presented a certificate by Dean of University Libraries Judy Russell, along with Director of Development Katie Boudreau.