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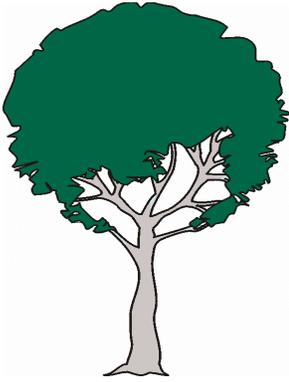


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Society for Advancement of Poynter Library
THE LIBRARY CONNECTION

University of South Florida St. Petersburg

Spring 2006



David Hubbell,
SAPL President

President's Column

Being a member of the Society for Advancement of Poynter Library has proven to be an effective and pleasant way to participate in the activities assisting the growth of Poynter Library, a part of USF St. Petersburg, one of the major assets of the Bay area.

Following is a report on some of SAPL's major activities:

Annual Fiction Contest for any USF student has been a very productive program. The 2005 manuscripts were of high quality and were published on the Library's web site. The contest, with cash prizes, will be held again in the spring of 2006, and will be open to any graduate or undergraduate student enrolled in the USF St. Petersburg campus.

Library Development. The Board authorized expenditures for donation to the library for purchase of Audio Classics and for purchase of four new laptop computers for use within the library.

Book Fair – donation of books. The hands-on sale of donated books has grown less profitable, but used books, in good condition, are still welcome. Those books not needed by the library are now sold to an internet dealer, Better World Books. Many thanks are due to Marion Ballard for managing this important activity over the years.

See **PRESIDENT** on page 3

Walking Along a Harbor with Class and History

by Jim Schnur, Special Collections Librarian

Throughout the fall semester, USF St. Petersburg celebrated its fortieth anniversary. Poynter Library, with its expanded archival collections, played an important role in documenting and preserving the history of our campus and its surrounding harbor. Jim Schnur led the team that spent the summer months developing a signature exhibit that captures this impressive history.

The exhibit, "From Fiddler Crabs to a Harbor with Class: A History of Bayboro Harbor and the University of South Florida St. Petersburg," opened in early September. Thirty-two panels tell the story of how a sparsely populated estuary known as "Fiddlers' Paradise" grew into a cultural and educational beacon surrounded by a rejuvenated city. Sponsored by USF St. Petersburg Town & Gown, this exhibit became the showcase of a September 30 reception and walking tour.

Many SAPL members attended this event, along with representatives from Town & Gown and the university community. After enjoying the exhibit and hors d'oeuvres, all were invited to take a forty-minute walk from the Poynter Library to the tip of the peninsula. Jim Schnur, Special Collections Librarian, described the "stations" of the campus and how the vistas have changed over time.

Even before leaving the library, the group learned that the landscape seventy-five years ago differed greatly from today. At that time, the first floor study rooms served as the footprint for an upholstery business and "The Shack," a liquor joint that opened after Prohibition came to an end.

See **WALKING** on page 2



*View of Poynter Park (l) and site of the Poynter Library (r), early 1950s.
(Donald Saxer USMSTS Collection)*

From the Dean



Kathy
Arsenault,
Library Dean

Happy New Year! As 2006 begins, we look back with satisfaction over the accomplishments of 2005. We can watch the daily progress of the new student residence hall and parking garage and book store, and enjoy the multitude of student and community events now occurring on campus. Reference librarians are pleased with their new and more user-friendly service desk, and increased workloads resulting from our growing campus have been eased by a new library employee. The media staff has designed and installed new projection equipment for multi-media teaching in most of our campus classrooms so that our faculty members can explore new ways of teaching. For me, one of the most gratifying things of the past few months has been serving as chair of the USF St. Petersburg Fortieth Anniversary Committee. It has been fun and instructive to look back over the history of the Bayboro area and the campus. Jim Schnur, Special Collections Librarian, has been instrumental in researching and organizing exhibits and events focusing on campus history. We are proud to have had these opportunities to honor our past and look to the future.

The Society for Advancement of Poynter Library has been active for more than half of USF St. Petersburg's existence. As the oldest surviving support organization for the campus—and possibly for all of USF—SAPL has been an invaluable partner in Poynter Library's advancement. We are grateful for your memberships, donations of used books for book sales, memorial or honor books, and other financial gifts, and we hope that continuing your support for Poynter Library was among your New Year's resolutions!

WALKING from page 1

An auto repair shop occupied the area near the elevator and copy machines. This business sat alongside a boat dealer that covered the area near the microfilm cabinets. Ralph Davidson opened the St. Petersburg Potato Chip Company near the entrance to the library in 1931 (and it seems that ever since, librarians have had to work diligently to keep food and drinks on the other side of the door!).

The parking lot in front of the library included businesses such as the Sanitary Mattress Company. Owner Sam Shapiro's ads promised that his company would "renovate and rebuild your spring mattress." A Canada Dry soft drink bottling plant was nearby, and down the road near the Tavern and Bayboro Books, earlier generations of USF St. Petersburg students and faculty rubbed elbows with locals at the Stick and Rudder Bar.

Those on the tour learned about the large shell mound once located along Poynter Park, the 25,000-gallon water tower and Crescent Tile Company that rested on the site of Davis Hall, and crowds that gathered along Asbury Street South—near present-day Coquina Hall—for music and camaraderie during the early 1970s at USF St. Petersburg's Mushroom coffeehouse.

The tour came to an end at the cenotaph, a memorial to those who protected American shipping interests as members of the United States Maritime Service. Memories of the Maritime Service Training Station (1939-1950) and the early years of the campus were enjoyed by all.

During your next visit to the Poynter Library, please take a moment to see the exhibits and displays celebrating our fortieth anniversary. SAPL and its members have been an important—and vital—part of our history. We also encourage you to share your stories about USF St. Petersburg so that they will become part of the archives. You may either contact Jim Schnur at schnur@nelson.usf.edu or submit your stories to <http://www.nelson.usf.edu/40>.

Poynter Gets Graphic!

by Karilyn Jaap, Collection
Development Librarian

Graphic novels, the new, grown-up version of your dad's old comic books, became part of Poynter Library's collection about 2 ½ years ago. Tucked away behind the more traditional recreational reading books on the first floor of the library, these titles have proved popular with a wide range of patrons. In fact, a survey of graphic novel readers conducted this past summer at a Montreal library found that a fairly even balance of both men and women regularly checked out this genre and, in an age breakdown, 20% of them were over forty years old.

The impetus for the formation of Poynter's collection came from two sources: the creation of a graphic arts major on this campus and my personal exposure to the format while "doing research" at DragonCon, a science-fiction and comics convention I attend each year in Atlanta. I discovered that graphic novels have moved old-style comics to a new level of literary interest. Not only is the physical presentation more attractive and more stable (hardcover bindings, colorful dust jackets, and a high level of artistry), but also the writing and storylines present the same focus as more mainstream novels, with ethical dilemmas wrapped around action and a flawed hero. Poynter's collection, while still in its infancy (we have about 80 titles), carries representative selections from some of the genre's best writers: Neil Gaiman, Peter David, Will Eisner, and Art Spiegelman, who won the Pulitzer Prize for *Maus*, the graphic novel of his father's Holocaust experiences.

Graphic novels can trace their ancestry back to the origin of comics with the birth of the "Yellow Kid" in 1895 at the *New York World*, but the format began to reach its maturity with the superhero comics in the 1950s and, most importantly, with the explosive popularity of "manga" in 1980s Japan. There are several manga titles in Poynter's collection (for example, Rumiko Takahashi's *Inu-Yasha* series or Higurashi You's *Seimaden* epic tales). Hollywood has recently embraced several graphic novel characters; Batman and Spiderman have landed on the big screen, as well as the Justice League and the Fantastic Four.

Try sampling some of our titles; we have enough of a range of works to please just about every literary taste.

PRESIDENT from page 1

SAPL-USF sponsored book group for SAPL members and their guests, with participation of USF SP faculty, is planned for fall 2006, or whenever an appropriate site can be secured with adequate parking. It should be fun to discuss the ideas in a popular book with an expert in that field. For further information, please see the announcement below.

Annual Meeting of the Membership on April 22, 2005, featured author Lee Irby. His recent book, *7000 Clams*, is about Babe Ruth, baseball, and the roaring 1920's. His talk was informative, funny, and much enjoyed by a good audience. He was introduced by Professor Ray Arsenault, author and historian.

The next Annual Meeting and reception will be April 28, 2006. The featured speaker will be Gary Mormino, author of the book *State of Sunshine, State of Dreams*. As usual, prospective members are welcome.

SAPL functions are facilitated greatly by library staff, especially Barbara Reynolds, Administrative Assistant to Library Dean Kathy Arsenault. The Board also wishes to recognize the fine work of: Jean Ferguson in coordinating SAPL functions; Jerry Notaro, for his assistance with the fiction contest; Jim Schnur, head of special collections and campus historian; Karilyn Jaap, for her work with the book donations and the Book Fair; and Berrie Watson for maintaining SAPL information on the library's web site.

Sleepers in the Library

by Jerry Notaro, Media Librarian

Throughout the years, SAPL members have been avid supporters of the Poynter Library's Media Collection, especially the videos. They appreciate the documentaries, foreign films, and classics not found in many other places. In a continuing series, I offer "Sleepers in the Library," new titles in our Video Collection of high quality and interest with which SAPL members may not be familiar, but would certainly enjoy viewing.

The Dreams of Sparrows DVD – DS79.76.D74 2005

The first historic documentary from the iraqEYE GROUP, a collaboration between American and Iraqi filmmakers. First time Iraqi director Hayder Mousa Daffar and four other directors had incredible access to Baghdad and Falluja following the War in Iraq. They interview artists, cab drivers, militia, retired military and others and get reactions to the Coalition forces and the removal of Saddam. Remarks and reports are illuminating and surprisingly well balanced, exactly the type of film academic libraries should have.

Vera Drake DVD – PN1997.2.V47 2005

If you missed this at the Beach Theater, now is the time to view it. Though an uncomfortable subject, the story is compelling and Imelda Staunton's portrayal is riveting. Set in 1950's England, Vera has been helping poor, working-class women terminate their unwanted pregnancies. When she is arrested and put on trial, her son turns against her and her world collapses.

Angels in America DVD – PN1992.77.A52 2004

Previously only available on HBO, this is the Emmy and Golden Globe awards television version of the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning drama by Tony Kushner. Directed by Mike Nichols, starring Meryl Streep, Al Pacino, and St. Petersburg native Patrick Wilson. *Angels in America* marks the age of AIDS in a world of fear.

Broadway, the American Musical DVD – M1500.B76 2004

The definitive three-DVD documentary on one of America's original contributions to the world of art: the Broadway musical. First broadcast on PBS, the historical narrative begins with the minstrel show and ends with the mega-musical *Wicked*, headed for Tampa Bay this February. The series is always entertaining as well as informative.

Also look for a new collection of Books on CD, started through the generosity of SAPL. The titles will contain mostly unabridged compact disc recordings of classic and popular books.



Looking for a Book Group?

The SAPL Board of Directors is looking for members interested in meeting for book discussions several times a year. USF St. Petersburg faculty members or community experts would be asked to suggest significant titles and lead conversations. If you would like to participate, please contact the library administration office at (727) 873-4401 or 873-4978, or e-mail arsenaul@nelson.usf.edu.

Society for Advancement of Poynter Library

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- Guest privileges
- Free copies of SAPL newsletter
- Participation in activities sponsored by the Library and SAPL

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- Family*..... \$ 100
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* Family memberships include two adults and children aged 14-18. Corporate memberships provide library privileges for up to five employees.

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Please call Barbara Reynolds at (727) 873-4401 for additional information.*



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