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Poynter Library’s Jim Schnur honored by Society of Florida Archivists

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Jim Schnur, associate librarian for Special Collections at the USF St. Petersburg Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, received the 2013 Award of Excellence from the Society of Florida Archivists May 9 at the organization’s 30th annual meeting in Tallahassee.

Schnur was recognized “for years of dedication to the archival profession in Florida and outstanding contribution to the preservation of Florida’s documentary heritage.”

Schnur, an association member since 1992 and a USFSP faculty member since February 2002, was recognized for his work as a librarian at USFSP, his teaching and mentoring as an adjunct member of the faculty in the School of Information at USF Tampa, and his efforts to promote and preserve local and Florida history. Often, these categories overlapped.

Schnur manages Special Collections and University Archives at the Poynter Library, including signature collections in local history, rare books and the print and digital archives of USFSP. Since the fall 2003 semester, Schnur has supervised more than 25 fieldwork and independent student experiences for graduate students in the USF School of Information as well as USFSP’s Florida Studies Program. He appreciates Dean Carol Hixson’s support for his initiatives and her leadership in establishing the USFSP Digital Archive.

Schnur has taught a graduate-level course in Archival Management in the School of Information since the fall 2008 semester. The course teaches practical methods for preserving and managing archival collections in cultural heritage institutions. Four students have co-presented with him at regional conferences since early 2012, and three of the six poster sessions offered at the Society of Florida Archivists conferences in 2012 and 2013 were presented by students based on projects completed in Schnur’s class.

The official historian for Pinellas County’s centennial (1912-2012), Schnur is actively involved in many local and state cultural organizations, including the Pinellas County Historical Society. One of his former students, Sandra Varry, is vice president of the Society of Florida Archivists.

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