



NEWSLETTER Fall 2007

Message from the Library Director

This past summer was especially busy as we embarked on several renovations to make better use of existing space. These summer projects extended into fall, and the last of the furniture was not in place until late October.

We reassigned use of some spaces on the main floor and completely redid them.

The new "East Room" (a naming opportunity just waiting for a gift to our Library



Endowment) is in the location of the old Microforms Area. We partially enclosed it with glass and furnished it with new tables, chairs, and additional computers as a space for collaborative learning using technology. The students love it.

We removed some reference shelving to create a space with round tables for small group study and replaced the old metal shelving ends in that



area with matching wood panels, creating an open, attractive place to study and transforming the appearance as you walk into the building.

In the last issue, I wrote of the gift of the congressional papers of alumnus E. Clay Shaw, Jr. '61, who served thirteen terms in Congress. We will celebrate this gift in the spring of 2008 with a special reception in Clay's honor.

In July I received a call from Max Cleland '64, former Senator from Georgia and Administrator of the Veterans Administration during the Carter Administration. I have known Max for many years, and he was one of my late husband's students. Max said that his senatorial papers are at the Russell Library at the University of Georgia and his VA papers are at the Carter Library, but he had a large collection of personal photographs and memorabilia which we could have if we were interested. Of course, we accepted, and these items began to arrive during the fall. We will celebrate this collection in the fall of 2008, after we have had time to catalog the items.

Our third summer renovation project was an area for these new collections.

We will now house materials from two of our best-known politically



active alumni – one a Republican and one a Democrat – as part of our Special Collections in the room I am currently calling the "Politicos Room" (another naming opportunity). Special meetings and student seminars will also be held occasionally in this room.

The funding for these projects all came from our Library Associates – even the infrastructure changes such as electrical work and network cabling came from you, our donors. You make it possible for us to move forward and try to stay ahead of our students' needs.

Betty Drees Johnson, Library Director and Professor

Get to Know Some Special Faculty Members

In August our Library Associates joined us at a reception honoring the university faculty who were promoted and/or granted tenure. We asked each honoree to select an author who had been most influential in his/her life and to provide a statement on that selection. The selections give an interesting insight into our scholars and the importance of books in their lives. Below are the statements of those who participated.

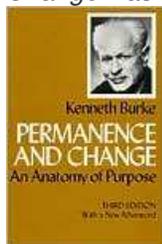
Jesus Alfonso – Music – Awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor

“*The Lives and Times of the Great Composers* by Michael Steen. [In] spring 2006, I found that book in the library. It was on the ‘New Books’ shelf and I opened it right in the middle. Any story about Robert Schumann captured me and I could not resist continuing to read. As a matter of fact, that story has fascinated my Music History students since I mentioned it to them. The author wrote about the most important composers from the early to the late Romantic musical periods in such a way that one can perceive the passion, the culture and the life of the people of that time.”



Michael Barnes – English – Awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor

“A thoroughly erudite book, *Permanence and Change* was a required reading I struggled through as an undergraduate English major at Clemson, rewarding me with a new awareness of intellectual territory apart from both literature (the dominant paradigm in English Studies) and philosophy – rhetorical analysis. Although complex, there is something practical and funny about *P and C*, a text that details the post-WWI attempt of a ‘genius’ to craft improved communicative strategies in a world of conflict, failed compromises, and malevolent propaganda. The domain of rhetoric seemed real, applicable, and imperative, and I began to



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- Favorite term: ‘Occupational Psychosis’ (37-65).
- Favorite quote: ‘Chickens not so well educated would have acted more wisely’ (6). (See book for context.)”

George Glander – Physics – Promoted to Professor

“The books written by Arthur C. Clarke were very important in getting me interested in astronomy and physics when I was in junior high school. My interest was initially more in astronomy, but as I learned about astronomy I realized that it is all based on physics. As I learned more about physics I found that many areas of science and engineering use physics as a foundation so I decided to pursue physics as a career. My favorite book by Arthur C. Clarke is *Rendezvous with RAMA*.”



Tandy Grubbs – Chemistry - Promoted to Professor

“One of my favorite books would have to be *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies* by Jared Diamond, professor of geography at UCLA. On the surface, the book could be viewed as a relatively short history of civilization over the last 13,000 years. But this is not only a history book. Diamond’s approach is to focus on the critical factors that determined why select civilizations thrived over others. Why did Eurasian civilizations expand across the globe and prosper at the expense of, for example, the great Aztec and Inca empires of Meso- and Andean America? Diamond argues that Eurasian dominance had little or nothing to do with inherent genetic or cultural differences, but instead arose from chance environmental opportunities. The availability of a wide range of plant and animal species suitable for



domestication in Eurasia (and absent in the Americas and Africa) was the primary catalyst, leading to higher population densities, which in turn promoted commerce, trade specialization, and the development of enhanced immunity to a number of human pathogens. Rapid technological development soon followed. When Eurasians finally expanded beyond their borders, technological superiority played only a secondary role during conquest; the invaded civilizations were instead ravaged by European diseases like smallpox.

Diamond has that rare gift of explaining complex issues in a way that is both appealing to the masses and satisfying to his scholarly critics. While a book of this nature could be criticized as 'Eurocentric,' Diamond makes wide use of non-Eurasian settings and cultures to make his point. For me, Diamond's methods as a scientist and writing style are appealing expressly for his more global, non-Eurocentric approach to the subject. In 1998, Diamond was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his work. *Guns, Germs, and Steel* was also recently made into a 2005 PBS documentary."

Camille King – Psychology – Awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor

"*The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat* by Oliver Sacks. At its most simple level, *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat* is a collection of 'case histories of patients lost in the bizarre, apparently inescapable world of neurological disorders.' Some of these patients are no longer able to recognize people or objects; others are stricken with uncontrollable tics; some can no longer recognize their limbs as their own; and others have lost the memories of their entire



lifetimes. The reader comes to imagine what it must be like to live and think and feel as these patients do. From these compelling and compassionate stories emerges insight into the remarkable working and potential of the human brain. Because I am a biological psychologist, I am captivated by these stories and by the struggles of these neurological patients. Because I am a teacher, these stories, which I often read to my class, make the seemingly boring study of neuroanatomy and neurophysiology more engaging and relevant to the students I teach."

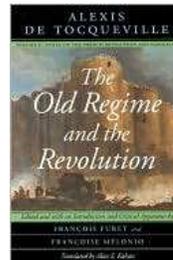
Routa Kroumavitch – Music – Promoted to Professor

"*Johannes Brahms: Life and Letters* by Johannes Brahms, but translated by Styra Avins and Josef Eisinger. I found this book inspirational and illuminating – it gave me a better understanding of Clara Schuman (pianist) and Johannes Brahms (composer) – [their] true honesty to art and their complex personal relationship."



Eric Kurlander – History – Awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor

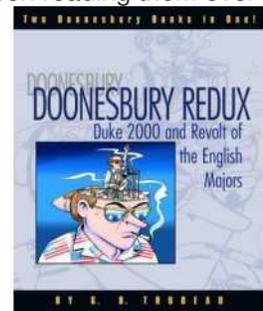
"*Alexis de Tocqueville, The Old Regime and the French Revolution*. Contrary to generations of scholars before and since, Tocqueville proposes the fascinating argument that the Revolution was merely a continuation of trends toward political centralization, economic modernization, and intellectual radicalism already extant under the Old Regime.



Blinded by fanaticism, Tocqueville argues, the French Revolutionaries sentenced more citizens to death through War and Terror than all the Bourbon kings put together, yet ultimately achieved very little. Perhaps the first 'revisionist' history of the Modern era, Tocqueville teaches us the importance of questioning conventional wisdom, in history and in life."

Rob Lenholt – Library – Awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor

"Reading G.B.Trudeau's *Doonesbury* has been part of my daily regimen since my undergrad days at the University of Florida. I began reading his strips in the UF *Alligator*, the campus newspaper... and have been reading them ever since. When I started reading his strips at UF, I did so because they were not only funny, but also because they seemed to reflect the thinking of most of the college students at the time; they poked fun at the college administration (his strips began while a student at Yale and first appeared in Yale's campus

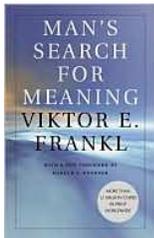


newspaper), but were also self deprecating. They evolved into a broader satire on the U.S. administration and seemed to reflect the philosophies of a generation of Baby Boomers. He became our (mine, anyway) *vox populi*. He created a cast of characters that the reader either loved or loved to hate. He also married Jane Pauley: what a guy!”

Brigid Noonan – Counselor Education – Awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor

“It is extremely difficult for me to choose one book; however, one of the first that came to mind is Viktor Frankl’s *Man’s Search for Meaning*. Dr. Frankl’s autobiography of his three years at Auschwitz and other concentration camps during the war has always been inspiring and is one of the reasons that I became a clinician and later an educator. In particular, Frankl wrote:

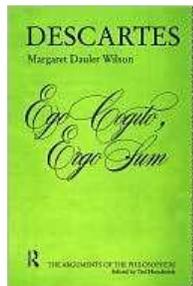
‘... Then I spoke of the many opportunities of giving life a meaning. I told my comrades that human life, under any circumstances, never ceases to have a meaning, and that this infinite meaning of life includes suffering and dying, privation and death. ... They must not lose hope but should keep their courage in the certainty that the hopelessness of our struggle did not detract from its dignity and its meaning.’



How can one read that and not be inspired? My work as a clinician and educator attempts to help my clients and students give meaning to their lives in some small way.”

Susan Peppers-Bates – Philosophy – Awarded tenure

“At a time when the dearth of women in the history of philosophy (and my graduate program) made me feel isolated, the discovery of Margaret D. Wilson’s work felt providential. Her creative and analytical work on Descartes and other early modern philosophers set the standard for several generations of young scholars, as well as



quelling any lurking fears of my own that – pace Plato – I would find no women philosophy queens. I had the privilege of auditing her last course on Descartes at Princeton, before her untimely death. Her intellect was matched only by her warmth and sense of humor. She encouraged me and read my work, even though I attended another university. When I finished my degree at the University of Pennsylvania, I dedicated my dissertation to the memory of her and 2 other women who had inspired me. I am proud to be able to extend that homage by dedicating her book to celebrate my tenure.”

Elisabeth Poeter – Modern Languages and Literatures – Promoted to Associate Professor

“I discovered bell hooks’ work during my years in Graduate School and have engaged with her writings ever since. She is a strong and inspirational writer, a feminist theorist and cultural critic. Her topics range from movies to popular culture, feminist politics, global feminism and feminist spirituality to name just a few. In particular, her book, *Teaching to Transgress*, has become an invaluable resource for teaching critical thinking and consciousness. I read it for its richly layered analysis of curriculum transformation, feminist pedagogy, and her reflections on questions about authority, safety, community and differences in the classroom.”



The Gift-Giving Season

Are you looking for that special gift for the person who has everything? Consider a donation to the the library in that person’s name. For each gift of \$35.00 we can purchase a book in honor of your friend or loved one, and a special bookplate will be put in the book. You can also give to the Library Endowment. In all cases, we will notify the honoree of your gift. If you really want to make an impression, contact Betty Johnson (386-822-7178 or bjohnson@stetson.edu) about a donation to name one of our newly renovated areas in that person’s honor – or in your own.