



NEWSLETTER Fall 2005

Message from the Library Director

There has been a lot written lately regarding the University of Texas decision to "close" their undergraduate library and use the building as a coffee shop and information commons filled with computers and lounge areas. Despite the gloom and doom reports of "a library with no books," the 90,000 books were moved to other libraries on campus. Undergraduates are now urged to use the main research library – really an expansion of what is available for undergraduates, just in a different building.

When you see how our Stetson students "mix and match" print and electronic resources interchangeably, it is clear that this "millennial

generation" is interested in the result, not the medium. They are completely comfortable in this new world and cannot imagine what it was like to research a topic through print indexes one year at a time and being dependent on print copies of journals in their own libraries.

Thanks to our Library Associates who again made it possible for us to enhance our services. Funds from Associates were used to purchase a new and faster hub stack router for the Library's Internet connections, as well as some needed resources, both print and electronic.

University Archives

We have received a number of fine additions for the University Archives, and many are now shown in photos on our alumni web pages: <http://www.stetson.edu/library/alumni.php>.

In October, **Nanette and Tom Lane** gave us the class ring of their son, T.C., who was tragically killed during the 2003 Christmas holidays by a driver who had been drinking. T.C. would have graduated in May 2004. In addition to photos of the ring, we have links to more information on T.C. and what he meant to those who knew him.

Harold Boire '40, donated his 1939 watch fob from Stetson's Phi Delta Alpha legal fraternity and his Sigma Nu fraternity pin. Harold also gave the Library a fine collection of books on Russian art, especially the work of Faberge.

There are many other items of interest, including some fascinating photos. A new document on the web site is a bibliography of Stetson Alumni Authors. Watch this site, as it is constantly being updated with new photos and information.

The Stetson Family Connection

Gail Sherman, great granddaughter of John B. Stetson, gave the Library a cobalt blue and gilt bowl which had been presented to Mr.



Stetson in 1905 and an engraved sterling silver loving cup given to John B. Stetson, Jr. The cup is engraved from his staff at the

Second Aviation Instruction Center in France in 1918.

Lewis Stetson Allen, great-grandson of John and Elizabeth Stetson, was instrumental in converting a trust established for the Library in 1908 by his great grandmother, Mrs. John B. Stetson (later Countess of Santa Eulalia) into the S. Elizabeth Stetson Endowed Library Fund, as a means of increasing earnings. Funds allocated from the endowment will be used to purchase books on the subjects of most interest to Mrs. Stetson, including French language and culture, American history and music.

Get to Know Some Special Faculty Members

At our annual fall reception the Library honored University faculty who were promoted and/or granted tenure. As a lasting tribute to the honored faculty, we asked them to select an author who had been most influential in their lives and to provide a statement on that selection. Special bookplates were placed in the chosen books, and the books were displayed with the statements. The selections and explanations give an interesting insight into our scholars and the importance of books in their lives. Below are the statements of those who participated.



Judy Burnett – Counseling – Promoted to Associate Professor and Awarded Tenure

"The book that directs my life and has been of greatest influence to me is the *Bible* (King James Version). Although there are versions of the Bible that are easier to read, this text was my first exposure to the Bible. Comprehending the text's language and message has been a spiritual, emotional, and academic test and triumph. It has provided me strength and guidance in my personal and professional life. The message on how to live, learn, and love is the most powerful ever told and challenges me daily. It has been a guide to me as to how I should approach students and colleagues as well as how to uphold integrity, practice ethically, and behave authentically. Regardless of one's belief system, this is a book that is recommended for all."

Anna Eire – Spanish – Promoted to Professor



"*The Enigma of Arrival* by V. S. Naipaul, helped me to look closer at the world around me and to peel away myths, preconceptions, and the falseness of many given ideas. It also led me to explore and value the past while leaving behind any nostalgia for it. As always with Naipaul, this novel emphasizes the need to know the historical process that built a society and the work and ideas that sustain it. It is the precondition to understand our personal identity and the possibility for action in our time."

Jean Finks – Library – Awarded Tenure

"While a teenager, the books I encountered on yoga, meditation and mysticism intrigued me. It became clear to me that one's beliefs, thoughts, and attitudes affect one's experience, sometimes quite directly and obviously. Long intrigued with questions about health, longevity, and how humans fit into the universe, I read Dr. Dossey's *Space, Time, and Medicine* with great excitement. His descriptions of the interrelatedness of life which he called the 'biodance' continues to inspire me to ask questions and look for the broadest view of reality: 'it is dervish dance, animated and purposeful and disciplined; and it is a dance in which every living organism participates ... Our roots go deep; we are anchored in the stars.'"

Jamil Khader – English – Promoted to Associate Professor and Awarded Tenure

"The late Edward Said's remarkable life, as a prolific academic and a committed worker for justice, as well as his innovative and trend-setting oeuvre have been very influential in shaping my professional career and personal beliefs about the interconnections among literature, history, culture, and politics. In his magnum opus, the ground-breaking *Orientalism* (1978), Said unravels the Manichean, ideological system that underpins Western representations of other cultures around the world, especially Islamic and Middle Eastern societies. These representations do not only pit Christianity against Islam, us-against-them, but also abrogates the humanity of the Other and reproduces the supremacy of Western culture. Said's solution to this impasse in the historical encounter between the East and the West was articulated in his magnificent book, *Culture and Imperialism* (1993). In this book, Said calls for re-reading the historical encounter between the West and the East, in their diversities and multiplicities, not as a 'clash of civilizations' but as a 'cooperative venture' foregrounding thus the subtle intimacies between colonizers and colonized as competitors and collaborators. His unwavering faith in the power of 'secular criticism' (in his *The World, the Text, and the Critic*), which examines all cultural and political expressions within their worldly context without succumbing to the distractions of transcendent ideologies, will always guide my work as a teacher, concerned citizen, and a human being."

Cynthia Irizarry – Communication Studies – Promoted to Associate Professor and Awarded Tenure

“This dedication is premised on the idea that one teacher can make a difference in the life of a student. My first mentor and advisor, Dr. Matthew Seeger, introduced me to the scholarship of organizational communication. His research, teaching and guidance inspired my own exploration of this field and set me on a path I still walk today. Many of our communication majors have expressed interest in studying the intersection of crisis communication and organizational communication. I hope Dr. Seeger’s insights will be as useful to them as they were for me.”

Michael King – Biology – Promoted to Professor

“Dava Sobel has written books about the planets, Galileo and the solution to the longitude problem. I have selected Dava Sobel because her books are about the process of scientific discovery, the people who have solved important problems and the impact of their work on society. I particularly enjoyed *Longitude: The True Story of a Lone Genius Who Solved the Greatest Scientific Problem of His Time*, which describes the work of John Harrison who constructed clocks that could keep time accurately at sea. Mr. Harrison’s technical ability and the politics surrounding his inventions are amazing.”



Laura Kirkland – Library – Promoted to Associate Professor and Awarded Tenure

“The countless hours I spent in the library during my childhood were central to my decision to become a librarian and to study literature. I read many books, but one I read over and over is Madeline L’Engle’s *A Wrinkle in Time*. Various elements of this book influenced my way of thinking and even my outlook on life. At the beginning of the story, Meg, the protagonist, feels like a misfit and wants nothing more than to be just like everyone else. But after traveling to a place where everyone is made ‘exactly alike’ in the name of ‘complete equality,’ she realizes the value of her own unique talents and abilities. As Meg asserts, ‘Like and equal are not the same thing.’ The book also taught me that even the



greatest of evils can be overcome by the power of love.”

Lloyd Linney – Music – Promoted to Associate Professor and Awarded Tenure

“It has been difficult for me to select one book which has had a strong influence on my life. Although there are many, I think one which has influenced both my teaching [and] my singing, and my living in general is *A Soprano on Her Head: Right-side Up Reflections on Life and Other Performances* by Eloise Ristad. Although Ristad’s book came out of her work with musicians who often felt ‘stuck’ in their performing, her wisdom can be applied to all aspects of life in which we seek to be authentic, creative, and whole.”



Emily Mieras – American Studies – Promoted to Associate Professor and Awarded Tenure

“Nancy Cott’s *The Bonds of Womanhood* was the first women’s history book that I read in college, where I was a history and government major. This book changed how I thought about history, women’s roles in American society, and my own intellectual interests. Through reading the book, I became interested in the concept of gender identity, in gender history, and in social history that documents the lives of those often left ‘voiceless’ by traditional histories. I also became alert to historical paradoxes – such as Cott’s formulation of the way women’s distinct ‘sphere’ limited their power and agency, but also created spaces in which they influenced their society. Perhaps most important, through reading this book, I experienced – for the first time – an intersection between feminism and scholarship that shaped my college honors thesis, my graduate school work in American Studies, and my ongoing scholarship and teaching today.”



William Nysten – Political Science – Promoted to Professor

“...I’d like to suggest as my influential book Hunter S. Thompson’s *Fear and Loathing: On the Campaign Trail '72*. While not exactly a scholarly book, it served as a bridge between my high school readings of Tom Wolfe (*Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test* and *The Kandy-Kolored Tangerine-Flake Streamline Baby*) and Ken



Kesey (*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *Sometimes a Great Notion*), and my later interest in politics and social science. When I read the book, I was a teenager in the San Francisco Bay area in the 1970s, more interested in the Grateful Dead than political issues. Thompson's approach to the Nixon years made national politics entertaining and lively. And it contained just the right amount of passionate commitment to time-honored ideals of justice and honesty to connect up to the counterculture mindset I'd been weaned on from birth. Ideals-based outrage and over-the-top humor: what an attractive mix!"

Cindy Lovell Oliver – Teacher Education – Awarded Tenure



"During my 4th grade year our teacher, Mr. Ronald Riece, read aloud one day from *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. He read the most well-known chapter where Tom nearly bankrupts every boy in the village while they pay for the 'privilege' of doing the whitewashing for Tom. I was mesmerized. Mr. Riece stopped and explained things as he read, putting into context for a bunch of Pennsylvania farm kids the value of such items as "a glass stopper of a decanter, a tin soldier, a couple of tadpoles... and a dilapidated old window-sash." I was in love! With Tom, sure, but even more with the author, Mark Twain, who I later learned really was Tom Sawyer. I couldn't get enough. When I learned that this was just one chapter I then feasted on the entire book. And imagine my delight when I learned there was a sequel, *Huckleberry Finn*. Where *Tom Sawyer* celebrated the delightful innocence of childhood, *Huckleberry Finn* took this innocence in a new direction. When I read it as a child I found the vernacular difficult and the story literal. But during the many subsequent re-readings I discovered Huck's naiveté and wisdom and decency. His intuition about the human conscience spoke volumes to me. Tom and Huck and their rabble of supporting characters have been constant companions. For me, Mecca is Hannibal, Missouri, the still-

sleepy town where these events originated. But for that one read-aloud I might never have gazed upon Athens bathed in moonlight in *The Innocents Abroad* or eavesdropped on Twain's meeting with God and Satan in *Following the Equator*. Mark Twain is my favorite author, but for me it all began with that one chapter in that one book."

Dan Plante – Computer Science – Promoted to Associate Professor and Awarded Tenure

"The book that probably most influenced my life is *Siddhartha* by Herman Hesse. Having been raised in a Catholic home and struggling with issues pertaining to religion and the existence of God, I read it first when I was a freshman in high school and was completely absorbed by it. After the nearly fatal electrocution of my best friend, an attempt at suicide by another friend, and the divorce of my parents, all during the spring semester of my freshman year in college, I exhaustedly trekked out to Yosemite National Park to work for the summer and 'to find myself.' There, I read the book again, with the main character searching for enlightenment and understanding and struggling with issues of body versus soul, physical versus spiritual, life versus death. So engrossed was I by this book that I spent the next three months hiking, rock climbing, running, biking, and reading six other books by Hesse. (Oh, and I cleaned LOTS of tents too.) While most likely the effect was largely due to the state of my being at the time, the impact that Hesse's books had on my view of life was tremendous."



Harry Price – Biochemistry – Awarded Tenure

"The following book proved pivotal to me. It is entitled, *Enzyme Structure and Mechanism*. When I was a graduate student, an area of chemistry that focused on the molecular details of biochemical reactions captured my interest. This text served as a reference source for me, and clearly revealed to me the interdisciplinary character of biological chemistry (known affectionately as biochemistry)."

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<http://www.stetson.edu/library/>