



## NEWSLETTER Fall 2010

### Message from the Director

Once again we started off the year with the annual reception for Associates and faculty. This year we were worried that our guests would be trekking through mud and a still torn-up quad in front of the library, but thanks to efforts of the Facilities staff and special crews who seemed to work 24/7, the quad, now renamed the Palm Court, was finished about two days before, and it looked beautiful.

Many of you have seen the newly landscaped sections of campus, but the area in front of the library and surrounding Holler Fountain has changed immensely, while retaining its historic beauty. The old library, Sampson Hall, is suddenly displayed in all of its early 20<sup>th</sup> century architectural glory. The new, hardy grass seems



to beckon students to come and play frisbee, lie around and study or talk – I've even seen some hammocks tied between the new palm trees on weekends. Suddenly the campus seems much more appealing to pedestrians.

In the library we completely re-carpeted the main area and added more lounge chairs and drum tables. We removed the large "Starship Enterprise" reference desk from the middle of the atrium area, opening that section for more seating for those who like to lounge while studying or working on their laptops. There is now an Information Desk as part of the front Circulation Desk, and our research librarians are on call via cell-phone.

Since the informational type questions are now handled at the front desk, the research librarians

are working on special projects. Among those is the creation of finding aids for the vast E. Clay Shaw ('61, '66 JD) collection of documents from Clay's 26 years in Congress.

This summer, as Stetson experimented with eleven online courses during



summer session, our research librarians took special training to assist in those online courses as "embedded librarians." We see this expanding as another way to help our students.

The library renovations and updates were funded through special library funds, including income from our recent endowment from the estate of Mary Porter and the Enhancement Fund which is built on individual contributions ranging from \$35 to thousands. All contributions, of any size, add up and make such improvements possible, whether to the comfort and ambiance of the library or to the research resources we are able to add. Thank you to all of our library's friends.

On a more personal note, I notified the Provost in September that I plan to retire September 1, 2011. This will still be about nine years past the "normal" retirement age, but since becoming Library Director eight years ago I've been too busy to consider retiring. As we finish up some major initiatives this year, I decided this was the right time to pass along this great job to someone younger. The university is organizing search plans, and they have plenty of time to find the right person. I'll let you know of their progress in the spring 2011 *Library Newsletter*.

*Betty Drees Johnson, Library Director*

## Get to Know Some Special Faculty Members

Eight years ago, the library began what has become an annual tradition – a fall reception honoring university faculty who have been promoted and/or tenured that year. The honorees are asked to select an author or book which has been meaningful to them and write a brief note to explain their selections. That book is then added to the collection with a special bookplate.

This fall we honored seven colleagues. The books they selected and their statements illustrate the imagination and talents of our faculty. We hope you enjoy reading these.

### Shawnrece Campbell – English Department – Promoted to Associate Professor:

Shawnrece selected Fannie Lou Hamer and her book, *The Speeches of Fannie Lou Hamer: To Tell It Like It Is*, which is to be published January 2011. She quotes from an interview at the time of Ms. Hamer's testimony before the Credentials Committee of the Democratic National Convention in 1964 as she and other African-Americans sought recognition: "I'm sick and



tired of being sick and tired." Shawnrece states: "Ms. Hamer's indomitable spirit continued to shine in the face of all obstacles. She was a fearless advocate of civil rights in particular and human rights in general. Undeterred by the threat of personal injury

and the loss of her job, she organized and encouraged members of her race to register to vote. Ms. Hamer's legacy inspires me to stand up to injustice, regardless of what it may cost me."

### Carol Corcoran – Division of Teacher Education – Promoted to Professor:

"An author who has been very influential to me is Donald H. Graves, one of the originators of the process writing movement. His work helped me to better understand my role as a teacher: to model and mentor students through a set of mental processes writers use when they write, not just to assign and assess the product of students' writing. I have a signed copy of his book, *Writing: Teachers and Children at Work*, which encourages me to write with my students, to allow students to choose their own writing

topics, to use revision as a natural tool of writing, and to teach the mechanics of writing in the context of reading and writing. This approach produces better writers and better products, and it has revolutionized the way writing is taught in schools."



Carol  
Corcoran and  
Julie Schmitt  
at the  
reception

### Julia Schmitt – Communication Studies and Theatre Arts – Awarded Tenure and Promoted to Associate Professor:

"*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. It goes without saying that this particular book is a favorite among many. Any praise that I might have for this book and its author has certainly already been said before. I'd end this statement there except for the fact that I'm choosing this particular book not only because it is inspiring to me as a work of literature, but also because this book serves as the text for one of the most thrilling theatrical productions that I have ever seen. Years ago, I was fortunate enough to see an adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice* at the Stratford Festival in Ontario. This performance illustrated for me the potential that all theatre productions have when a great text is combined with a talented cast and a highly imaginative director. This production was exhilarating and breathed new life into a text that I thought I knew by heart. I look upon this book and that production as sources of inspiration and as reminders for me to pursue the theatre arts with creativity, passion and a healthy dose of wit."

### David Hill – Political Science Department – Awarded Tenure:

David attended with his wife Amy and daughter Bethany, pictured on the next page. "As a political scientist, I am principally interested in democratic decision-making, and I consider democracy to be the vehicle through which ordinary citizens decide their collective fate. As a result of that perspective, my main area of interest has always been the study of mass

political behavior, and I can think of no other scholar who personifies my approach to political



behavior more than Sidney Verba. Over his long and productive career, Professor Verba sought to understand citizen political behavior through rigorous empirical analysis, while always

keeping a keen eye on how class, racial/ethnic, and gender based differences in participation result in political inequality. As one author noted, the central question throughout his career has been “whose voice counts.” Sydney Verba built the foundation for the study of political participation, and I have always tried to follow the path he blazed by studying citizen behavior through systematic empirical analysis and exploring the forces that shape the ways in which citizens can exercise their voice.”

#### **Hari Pulapaka – Mathematics and Computer Science – Promoted to Associate Professor:**

“The life and story of Mahatma Gandhi has left an indelible impression on my own way of life. From an early age, I was inspired by Gandhi’s lifelong fight against human indignity, social injustice, discrimination, and prejudice.”



#### **Greg Sapp – Religious Studies – Awarded Tenure:**

“The most influential author for me has been Immanuel Kant. His *Critique of Pure Reason* changed the way I think about knowledge and what we think of as universal truth. A brief, simplistic summary of his position is that we do not know a thing as it is in itself (the Ding an Sich); we only know it as it appears to us. That means that the knower is the determiner of what is real, making knowledge subjective. For me this means that while I may think I know something, I have to realize that it is I who am making the judgment of the reality or truth of something and that my knowing process may be flawed. Kant effected an epistemological humility in me that allows me to listen to the position of others, open to the possibility that they may have a better perception than I of the reality we are discussing.”

#### **Nathan Wolek – School of Music – Awarded Tenure and Promoted to Associate Professor:**

“Barry Truax is an electro-acoustic composer whose work has had a profound impact on my research. I first became aware of him because of my dissertation on granular synthesis, a topic for which he is well-known. However, it was through his book, *Acoustic Communication*, that I gained an even deeper respect for Truax. The book deftly blends many disciplines to gain fresh insight into the way sound impacts contemporary culture. From radio commercials to urban sprawl to voice mail to hearing loss to electronic music, he touches on so many topics and blends them together in a way that makes you wonder why more people are not discussing these connections. It convinced me that an interdisciplinary approach to sound is the only way to truly understand and appreciate the impact sound has on our lives. This thinking has permeated my teaching, composition and research.”



*Greg Sapp and Nathan Wolek at reception*

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At the reception, we also honored Stetson faculty who had published books during 2009: Dan Hale, Robert Leahy, Megan O’Neill, Susan Peppers-Bates, Joshua Rust, Betty Thorne, and Nancy Vosburg. For information on those books and a compilation of the articles and creative activities of our faculty, see *Faculty Review*, at [http://www.stetson.edu/library/publications\\_facreview2009.pdf](http://www.stetson.edu/library/publications_facreview2009.pdf).

It is important to remember that in order for these faculty members to reach this stage in their careers, they had to demonstrate excellent teaching and scholarly expertise. The library provides the information needed by them in their research and the information they require their students to find and analyze in class. Our Library Associates are critical in helping provide the necessary funding to make those informational resources available. You make a difference in the life and work of both our students and our faculty.

## Stetson University College of Law – Libraries Connecting Across the State

With the College of Law and its library in Gulfport, 150 miles from our campus, there was a time when our cooperation existed primarily through exchanging information by phone, mail, or fax. With

the advent of web-based databases, we and our distant colleagues saw opportunities for a closer



connection. Several years ago, we began to meet and to email each other about areas for collaboration. When database licenses allow access for the other campus without extra cost, we include it. In a few cases, one library pays an extra fee for databases we consider of value for both campuses.

We currently share access to 26 databases – some we pay for, some they pay for. The most recent joint acquisition is *JSTOR Arts and Sciences III and IV* for which we share costs. The College of Law subsidized collections I and

II about two years ago. JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that is building a digital archive of a wide range of older scholarly journals, designed for long-term archival storage and easy-to-use indexing and access for our students and faculty.

Several of us recently attended the naming ceremony in which the twelve-year-old law library was named for Dolly and Homer Hand. The library is a beautiful, Spanish style facility, which still looks brand new. Dolly earned the LLB from the College of Law in 1949, when it was still in DeLand. The Homer and Dolly Hand Art Center on the DeLand campus was named for them in 2009. Dolly is a university trustee, and she and Homer are devoted to the university, giving both funds, time, and seemingly limitless energy.

Our next big collaboration will be opening our archives website, <http://archives.stetson.edu>, to include the developing archives of the College of Law. Our local experts, Susan Ryan and Kai Armstrong, will be going to Gulfport in December to train their staff. This will then be truly our University Digital Archives.

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### News from Special Collections and Archives

We completed digitization of the remaining University Bulletins and student handbooks (which outline rules and regulations for each year), and added them to the Archives. Go to <http://archives.stetson.edu> and take a cruise down memory lane at "University Documents." Did you know that in 1956 girls had to sign out if they were to be out past 8:30 pm – even if they were going to the library?

An alumnus is funding the digitization of the student newspaper from the 1930s to date. This will complete that collection which displays student attitudes and interests over the years. Exact copies will be displayed and searchable, "warts and all." The project will probably take several months to complete and add to our website.

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### A Closing Thought:

Carved above the doors of the old library, Sampson Hall, are the words "Education Is Power." The more common phrase is "Knowledge is power." A modern take on this sentiment is: "Knowledge is free at the library – just bring your own container." (Author unknown)

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