



NEWSLETTER Spring 2008

MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR

A lot has happened for us since the fall *Newsletter*. Although, like most universities today, we are preparing to work with the problems of the economic downturn, thanks to the support of our Library Associates and



the good work of our library faculty and staff, we continue to provide an excellent array of research

materials and services for our students.

Our Library Associates make the difference for us, and the students benefit. The library suggestion box often has the usual suggestions – longer hours, it's too cold, we need more computers, etc. A few days ago we had another note. It read in part:

"I study in the library for hours on end, five days a week, and I just wanted to say thank you all for doing such a great job at encouraging students. The duPont Ball Library is the icing on the cake at such a wonderful school as Stetson, and I want to let you know that your efforts are appreciated."

In our last *Newsletter* you read about the gift of Congressman Clay Shaw's papers and memorabilia and the use of some gifts to fund the renovation of a room to house this collection and other archival materials relating to our politically active alumni. Last December, Clay offered to write some of his

friends, asking for help with the project. Clay's letter resulted in some very nice gifts, and these funds are being used to provide equipment and other needs to properly handle these special collections. You will read of the celebration of Clay's gift in this issue.

We continue to benefit from several endowments, and in December Sandra Stetson Martinuzzi, great granddaughter of John B. Stetson, established a new endowment for the library, with the income to be used for library materials, furnishings, or equipment. Ms. Martinuzzi had earlier been a generous contributor to our Library General Endowment.

In March we had a visit from Dr. M. Jean Greenlaw ('62, '65 M.A.) who brought a few more autographed first editions of

children's books to add to her special collection of almost 2,000 volumes. A few weeks later the Department of Teacher Education held the sixth



biennial M. Jean Greenlaw Children's Literature Conference. Librarian Jane Bradford was one of the presenters. (For more information on the collection, see: http://www.stetson.edu/library/specialcollections_greenlaw.php)

Betty Drees Johnson, Library Director

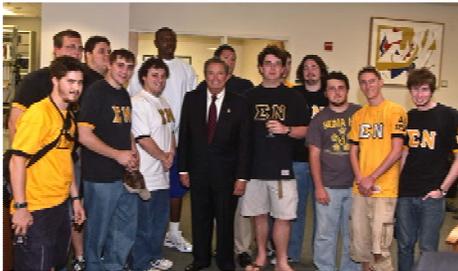
A CELEBRATION

On Thursday, March 13, 2008, we hosted a reception honoring E. Clay Shaw, Jr. ('61, '66 LLB) and his wife Emilie Costar Shaw ('62) and celebrating his gift of papers and memorabilia from his twenty-six years in Congress.



President H. Douglas Lee commented on the importance of this collection for research by our students and scholars from off-campus. This is the first major collection of this type which we have accepted, and it will take several years to index the papers.

The Shaw's four children and their families and some friends joined our campus community and Library Associates in the



celebration. We were pleased that some students also joined us. Clay and his brother John ('63) were both in the Sigma Nu fraternity, and some of the current members attended.

Several current members of Emilie's sorority, Pi Beta Phi, also attended. Clay proudly pointed out that Emilie had been Miss Hatter in 1960. Daughter Mimi Shaw



Carter ('82) is an active alumna member of Pi Phi.

Following the program, guests were invited to view the Politics Room where the collection is housed. Some of the personal memorabilia of former Senator Max Cleland ('64) of Georgia are also in this room, which is dedicated to material on Stetson alumni who have been politically influential. The Shaw's grandchildren especially seemed to enjoy looking at old yearbooks with pictures of their grandparents as college students.



For more information on the Shaw Collection and images of some of the photos and other memorabilia in the collection, see http://www.stetson.edu/library/specialcollections_shaw.php.

duPont-Ball Library Research Prize

The library awarded its 2008 Evans C. Johnson Research Prize to Jeanne Humphrey. The prize, a Hatter Bookstore gift card, is awarded for the English 121 research paper showing the most thorough, effective, creative, and ethical uses of research resources.



Jeanne is a Political Science major from Murfreesboro, TN. Her winning research paper is "Loss of the Traditional Inuit Way of Life: Is Global Warming to Blame?" It may be read at: <http://www.stetson.edu/library/prize.php>.

GENERATION X? Y? Z? OR A? B?...

Academic librarians and many others have spent a lot of time in the last few years trying to pigeon-hole students based on their “generation,” as if they were all the same, with the same learning and living patterns. While there are some commonalities, these attempts to build our libraries and services around a stereotype of “today’s student” are seriously flawed and outmoded before implementation.

Although we have a number of computer workstations in the open area on the main floor, we spaced them out to avoid the “lab look.” We also added a number of study



tables and some lounge chairs. We have observed that students

like the flexibility of comfortable places to study alone or with each other. We have learned to “not get up-tight” when the furniture does not remain where we planned (as you will note from some of these photos). We also have learned that student preferences do not remain static.

When we reconfigured space for the East Room on the main floor last summer, we furnished it with tables and computers designed for collaborative learning.

Sometimes students work together, but we found that they also find this a good place to work alone.

The space is flexible enough to provide for either. We also designed it so it can be used for occasional group instruction in research.



We removed a section of reference book shelving last summer and used this open space for three lounge chairs and some small, round tables. The result? We find students moving these chairs and tables around to meet their desires of the moment.



Sometimes we find students have pulled three oak chairs and one lounge chair up to a small round table, even though we have larger tables in other areas. A few hours later, the configuration will have changed (see above) as different students arrive.

An article in the April 2008 issue of *Campus Technology* (p.54) quotes Yale University Librarian Emeritus Scott Bennett as noting “although classrooms are where *teaching* happens, private spaces that students control is where *learning* happens.” We have observed that students make their own “private” spaces if they feel at home and comfortable. The students make the spaces work for them if we allow it.

Students latch on to each new technical marvel faster than we can catch up. The one thing of which we as librarians can be certain is that we must remain flexible and not make long-term, expensive decisions based on what quickly becomes yesterday’s technology or academic fad. As we continue to make good use of this 1960s facility, we try to keep in mind three major purposes of the library:

- house a core collection of print resources and give access to valuable electronic resources
- provide research assistance
- provide flexible, quiet study/learning spaces where students feel welcome

New Archives Treasures

The library's Archives contains papers, books, university publications, press clippings, photographs, yearbooks, the campus newspaper, and many other items relating to Stetson University and its history. We have received a number of great donations recently. One of the most surprising was Edith McNeil's gift of a pair of



buttoned men's shoes made by the Stetson Shoe Company in the late 1800s. While the university's namesake, John B. Stetson,

owned the Stetson Hat Company during that time period, we discovered that the Stetson Shoe Company was founded by one of John B. Stetson's distant cousins, Ezra "Ed" H. Stetson. The companies participated in cooperative advertising, and the shoe company was eventually acquired by the Stetson Hat Company in the 1960s.

The Stetson hats have always been a part of the university's heritage (thus, the "Hatter" mascot), and the Archives contains a number of beautiful examples. Some of the vintage hats in the collection are quite valuable and have been lent to museums for display. This year we added a unique hat – the very first Junior Stetson Ranch hat to come off the production line in the 1940s.

The junior hat was donated by John G. Fletcher II and Verna Fletcher May, whose father, John Greenwood



Fletcher, was a production manager for the Stetson Hat Company. Modern ranch-style hats are often given to special campus speakers or donors. Jimmy Jordan ('51) received a Stetson hat from the university

and has recently donated it back so that it can be displayed for all to enjoy.

During homecoming, we displayed a very different kind of Stetson hat -- the five "rat caps" in our collection. If you are a Stetson

alumnus from the 1950s or 1960s, you will remember wearing your rat cap and



enduring the demands of the upperclassmen. Our caps are from Rat Marilyn Jean Stuart Sullins ('55), Rat R. Grady Snowden, Jr. ('57), Rat Max Cleland ('64), Rat Terry Grieb ('68), and Rat Ned Ricks ('68). You can read Marilyn Sullins' vivid description of rat week on our website: http://www.stetson.edu/library/alumni_donations.php.

We have received some wonderful recent additions to our collection of Stetson jewelry. Jimmy ('51) and Johnnie ('53) Jordan entrusted us with their Sigma Phi Epsilon and Alpha Xi Delta pins, as well as Johnnie's Theta Alpha Phi theatre honorary pin. Former Senator Max Cleland ('64) gave us his Stetson class ring, along with his Lambda Chi Alpha pin. Dr. M. Jean Greenlaw ('62, '65) gave us four lovely pieces, all representing the Phi Mu sorority.

Do you have any Stetson memorabilia hiding in your closet? Why not donate the items to the university? The Archives is always looking for all things Stetson. Your donations will be carefully preserved as a part of the history of Stetson University. For more information, contact: Susan Ryan, Associate Director, sryan@stetson.edu or 386-822-7181.

Susan M. Ryan, Associate Director