

STETSON UNIVERSITY

duPont-Ball Library

Message from the Library Dean

Susan M. Ryan, Betty Drees Johnson Dean of the Library & Learning Technologies

It is hard to believe that another academic year is winding down and another group of seniors will head off into the world. The class of 2022, of course, has had a college experience unlike most others, and they will enter an environment in which the definition of “workplace” has evolved more rapidly than any of us could have imagined. We hope that the skills that they have learned at Stetson, including information literacy and critical thinking, will serve them well as they venture out to find their futures.

All over campus, we see more students, faculty, and staff out and about. The students have reappeared in the Palm Court outside the library building, taking advantage of Florida’s spring weather. In the library, we have enjoyed seeing more students in the building all semester, but especially now as they finish assignments and papers—and prepare for final exams.



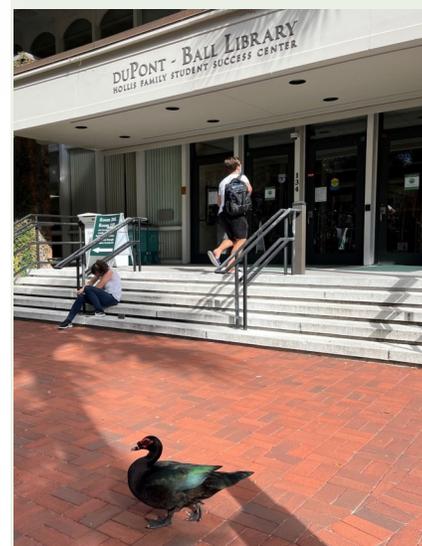
We hope to see even more students in the fall as our first-year students discover the library with its many types of student spaces, its physical and online collections, and the variety of services they can find in our building. Students can receive help with their assignments and research, find peer writing tutors in the Writing Center, and take advantage of subject-based tutoring in the Hollis Family Student Success Center.



Newsletter Spring 2022

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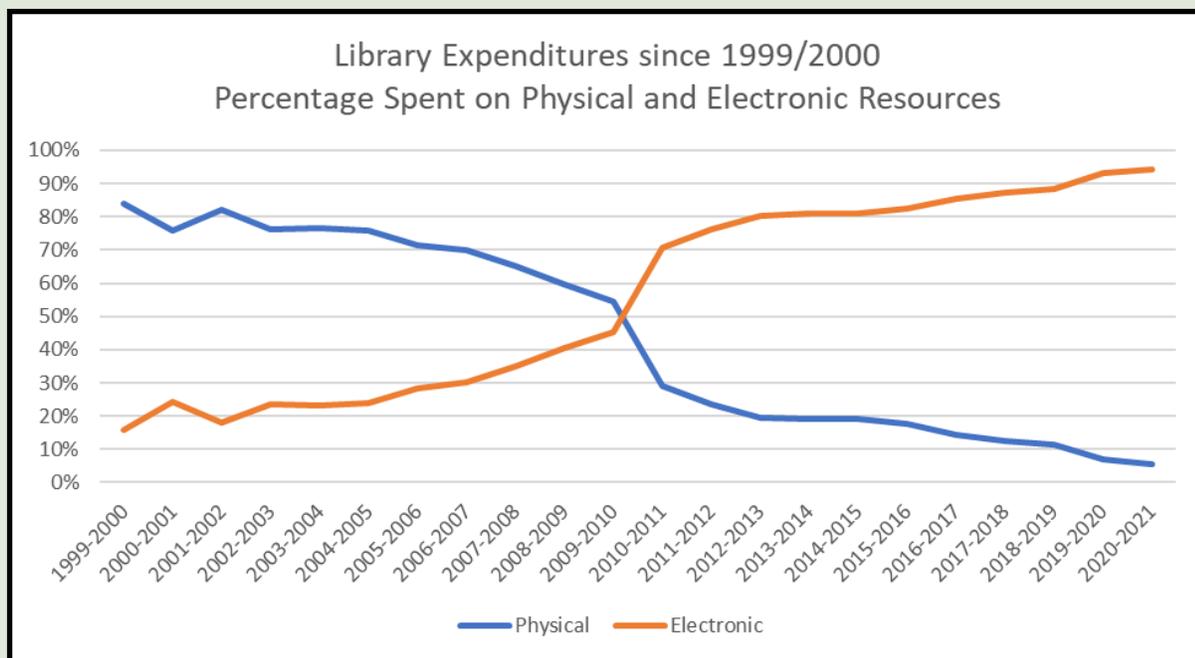


*Puddle time over....
time to hit the books!*

Find Us in the Cloud

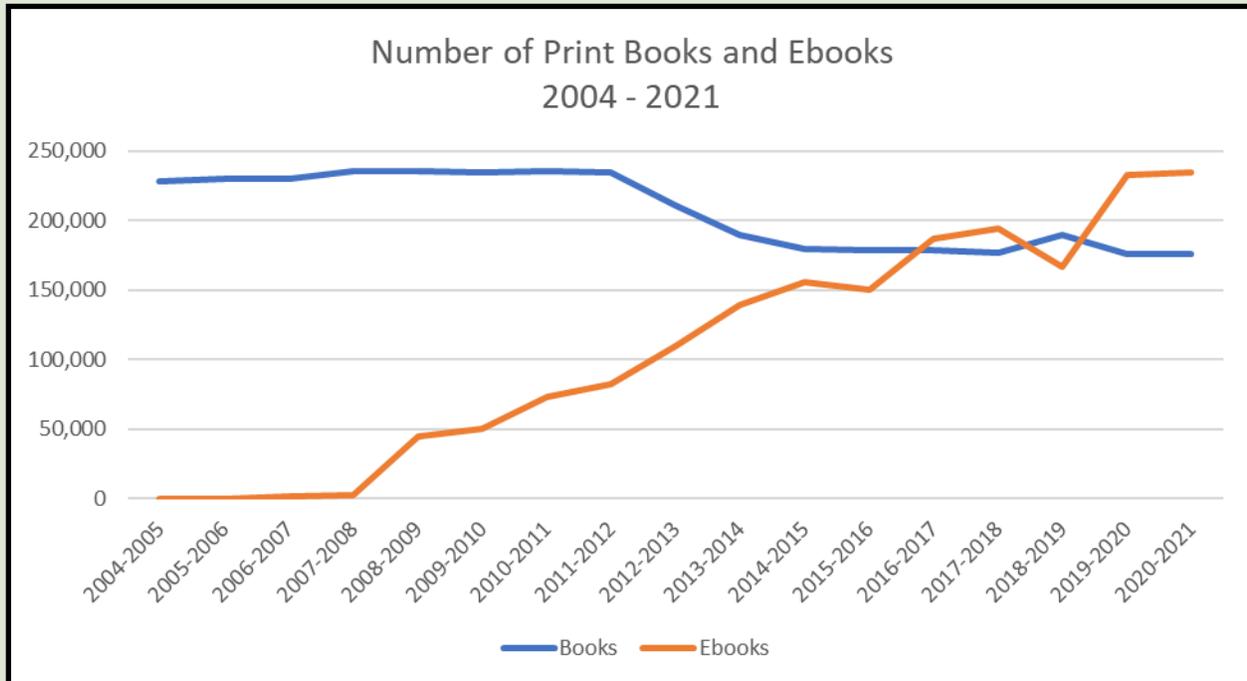
I recently wrote an article about e-books for a library journal. In order to write the article, I looked at old duPont-Ball Library annual reports to find the dates when the library began subscribing to electronic resources. Things that happened 20 years ago sometimes seem like only yesterday, and that was true in this case. We began buying electronic resources in the 1999-2000 academic year.

I was amazed as I tabulated the numbers for expenditures and for number of titles. The number of library electronic resources grew quite quickly. The chart below compares the percentage of the library's total resources budget spent on physical resources (in blue) to the amount spent on electronic resources (in orange). Electronic resources include e-books, electronic journals, databases, streaming video, and streaming audio.



As you can see, our resources expenditures were evenly split on electronic and physical resources in the 2009-2010 academic year. Since then, expenditures on electronic resources have outpaced physical resources every year. In the last academic year, we spent less than 10% of our resources budgets on physical resources. Since the courses were mostly taught online in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19, it is not surprising that the library spent most of its budget on electronic resources that could be accessed from anywhere. But even in years before the COVID-19 outbreak, the library only spent 10% of its resources budget on physical resources.

The chart below shows the number of print book titles (in blue) and the number of e-book titles (in orange) held by the duPont-Ball Library. The number of titles within each format was fairly even from 2015-2016 to 2018-2019. In 2019-2020, however, the number of e-book titles surpassed the number of print titles and has stayed at that level.



Why are we moving our book titles to the cloud? Many reasons guide the transition, but foremost are accessibility and library space. E-books are more accessible to students and faculty wherever they may be - from dorm rooms and offices on the Stetson campus to studying abroad. E-books are easily searchable and most that we offer can be accessed on mobile devices.

If you have visited the duPont-Ball Library lately, you probably noticed a change in the appearance of the building. We have designed many more places for students to study and collaborate, including the Hollis Family Student Success Center and the Writing Center. We have spaces in the library devoted to the archival history of Stetson University as well as to student innovation and creativity. As a result of student input, librarians and library staff have made it a priority to create more student spaces—which means fewer spaces devoted to shelves of books and periodicals. To make that happen, we have embraced electronic resources. We still have more than 175,000 print books and many print popular magazines and journals. More and more, however, our library information resources are in the cloud.

Egyptology in the Archives: Showcasing a Rare Jewel from the Treasure Collection

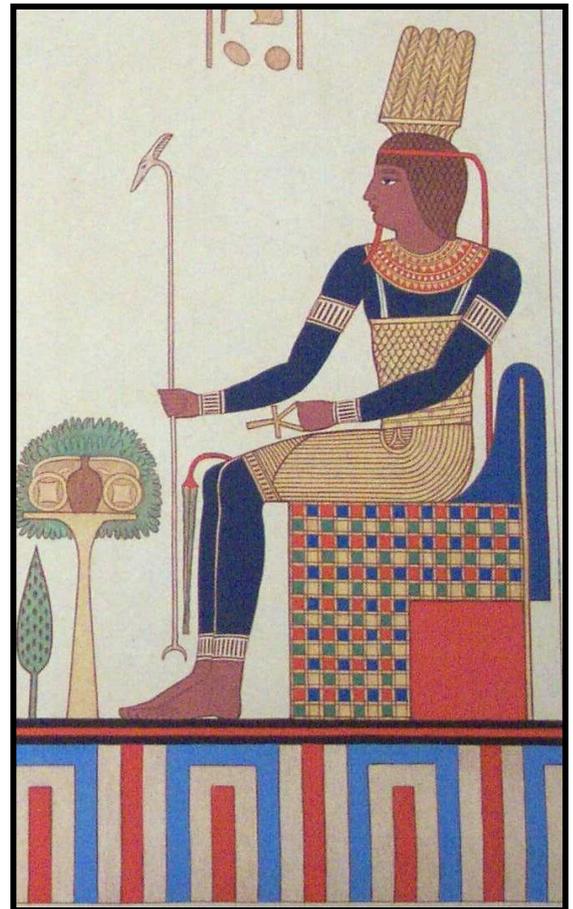
By Kelly Larson, Archivist

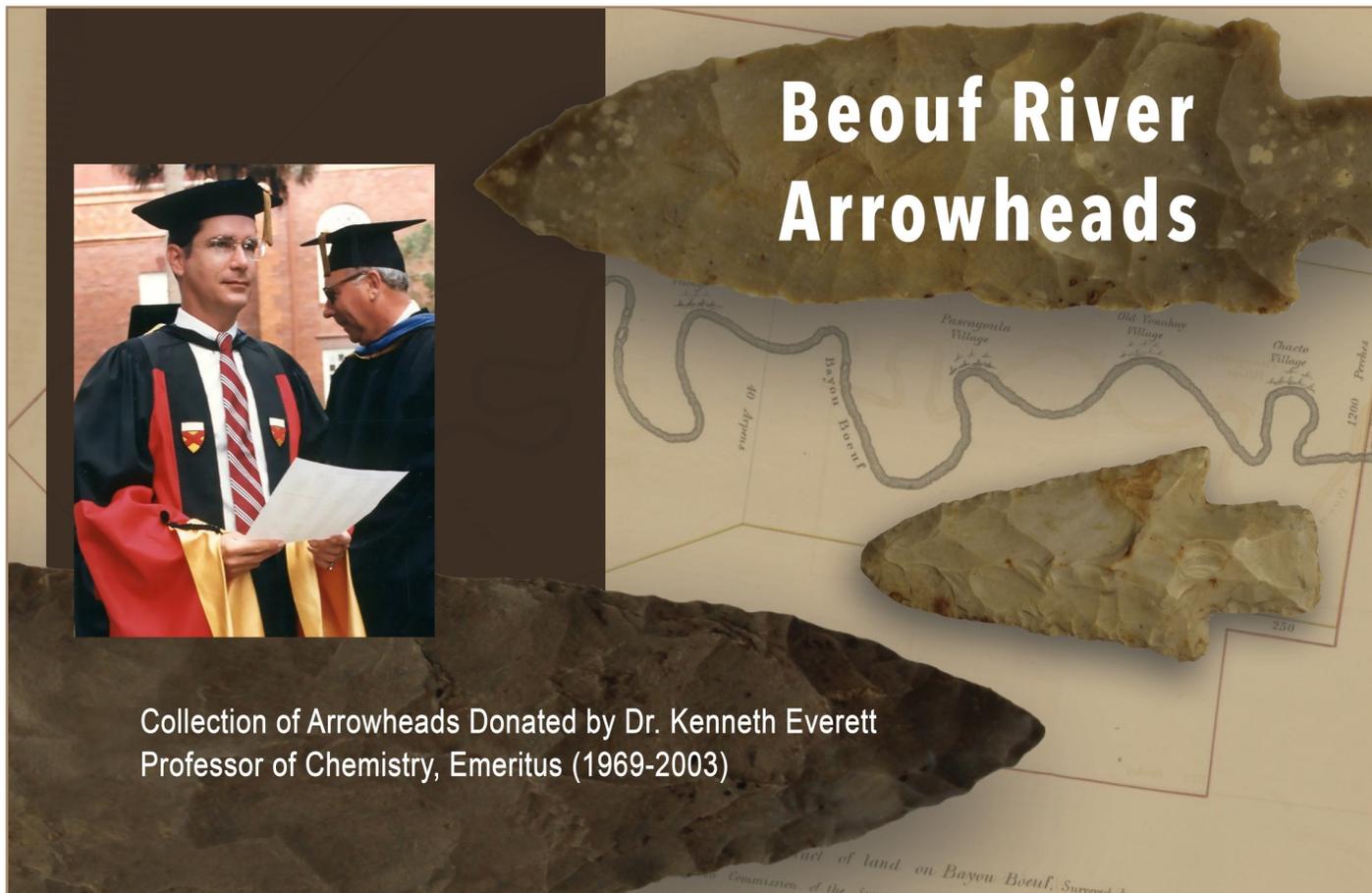
Our library received an exceptional gift in 1956: a rare book collection consisting of twenty-three volumes so unusual in size that they required their own uniquely constructed bookcase. The *Description de l’Egypte*, an encyclopedic work published between 1809 and 1829, is widely known for its unconventional formatting (the largest volume measures 1m x 0.81m), but that is not the only reason it is celebrated among rare book experts the world over.

A donation from Stetson alumnus and U.S. diplomat Bert Fish (1902), the *Description de l’Egypte* was commissioned by Napoleon Bonaparte himself, following an expedition he led into Egypt and Syria in 1798. The twenty-three volumes of descriptive texts and intricately engraved plates compiled the findings of Napoleon’s *savants*, a group of about 160 scientists, engineers, artists, scholars, and technicians who accompanied him on the Egyptian campaign. Once they established the Institute of Egypt in Cairo, the *savants’* duty was to study and catalog everything they possibly could about a land where few Europeans in their time had ever set foot.

Their discoveries caused a sensation back in France. When the *Description de l’Egypte* made its way into the libraries of the intellectual elite, it sparked a craze known today as *egyptomania*. Popular styles of the day reflected Europeans’ fascination with ancient Egyptian civilization, inspired by the *Description’s* hundreds of true-to-life illustrations depicting ancient ruins along the Nile, pyramids, crocodiles, mummies, hieroglyphs, and even the Rosetta Stone. Thus, the modern-day discipline of Egyptology was born.

In March, I gave a presentation on the history of this remarkable work to an audience of students, faculty, staff, and other guests. Afterward, attendees enjoyed a rare, firsthand glimpse at the largest volume in the collection, known as the *mammutfolio* (above right). Archives staff put the giant tome on display, and turned its pages to show some of the *Description de l’Egypte’s* most stunning engravings (right). In case you missed it, future programming centered around this collection is already in the works. The *Description de l’Egypte* is an integral part of the Bert Fish exhibit, which includes a number of intriguing items acquired by one of our most distinguished alumni, whose diplomatic career took him to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Portugal. The collection is on permanent display in the duPont-Ball Library. For inquiries about the *Description de l’Egypte* or the Bert Fish Collection, please contact the Archives (archives@stetson.edu).





Collection of Arrowheads Donated by Dr. Kenneth Everett
Professor of Chemistry, Emeritus (1969-2003)

The library received a number of wonderful and interesting donations to our Archives recently. Dr. Ken Everett, emeritus Professor of Chemistry, gave us a collection of arrowheads that were found in the 1950s in cultivated fields along the Boeuf River in Louisiana. By that time, the land was mostly farmland, and the farmers permitted arrowhead searching. The artifacts complement our Native American canoe, featured in an earlier Newsletter, donated by Jim Cara. Both the arrowheads and the canoe are displayed on the library's main floor.

Other notable recent donations:

- Stetson Centennial Watch belonging to Mary Waller ('59) donated by Mary's daughter, Cathy Ervin
- Thoughts on Vietnam (manuscript) donated by Dean Bunch ('69)
- Ned Ricks' Vietnam Oral History donated by Ned Ricks ('68)
- Boyhood portrait of G. Prentice Carson, early long-time Stetson professor and dean, donated by Chris Sullivan (right).



Library Research Prizes

Evans C. Johnson Prize:

Audry Berlie

R. Neil Scott Prize:

Skyler Gipson

Honorable Mention:

Allyson McLendon

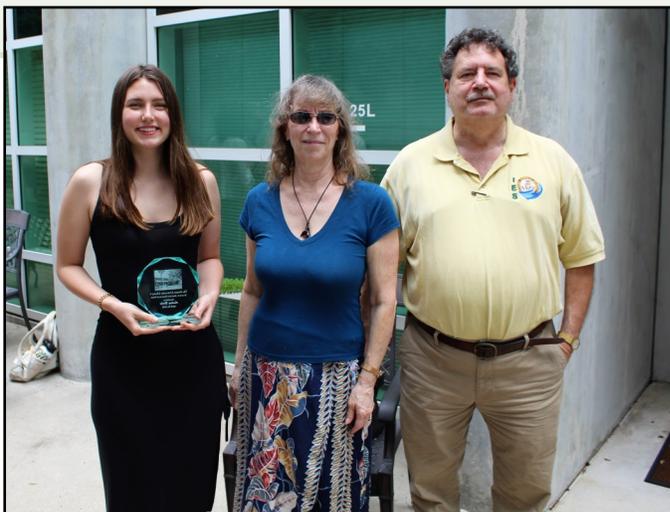
Martine Petion



Each spring the library awards two research prizes: The Evans C. Johnson and the R. Neil Scott research prizes. The contest is sponsored by the library (and funded by donors in memory of the prizes' namesakes) to encourage the thorough, effective, creative, and ethical use of research resources in first year student papers. Winners receive a monetary award and an engraved plaque. The 2022 Evans C. Johnson Research Prize went to Audrey Berlie for her paper *Scotland: The Sick Man of Europe*, written for the course *English Landscapes* taught by Dr. Kimberly Reiter and Dr. Michael Reiter (below left). Skyler Gibson won the R. Neil Scott Prize for her paper *The Environmental Impacts of the Carbon Dioxide Problem on Coral Reefs*, written for her *Sustainable Energy Choices* class taught by Dr. Tandy Grubbs and Dean Sue Ryan (below right).

The entries this year merited two honorable mentions as well: Allyson McLendon for *Gender Discrimination in Sports* (Dr. Stuart Michelson's *Social Justice in Film* class, bottom right) and Martine Petion for *Coral Reefs vs. Extinction* (*Sustainable Energy Choices* taught by Dr. Grubbs and Dean Ryan, below right).

We congratulate these talented students!

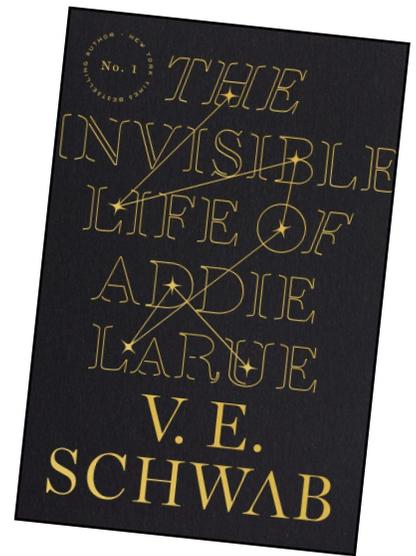


Young Adult (YA) Book Club

By Colby Cilento, Circulation Services Coordinator, and Elizabeth Martino, Acquisitions/Interlibrary Loan

The library's YA Book Club held its spring 2022 meeting on April 6, facilitated by staff members Elizabeth Martino and Colby Cilento. Members read and discussed *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* by V.E. Schwab, a *New York Times* bestseller and Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA)'s Teens' Top Ten pick for 2021.

The novel follows a young woman who makes a bargain that causes her to become immortal, but also curses her to be forgotten by everyone she meets. Student participants enjoyed the book's fantasy elements and compelling characters. The group discussed the title character's complicated existence, as well as the impact of circumstances on the characters' relationships to one another. The attendees were glad to have the opportunity to discuss the book with each other and look forward to participating in future meetings. The YA Book Club was seeded in 2019 with funding from alumna Dr. M. Jean Greenlaw ('62, '65) who had a long and successful career in the field of children's literature and reading both in the public schools and at the University of North Texas.



M. Jean Greenlaw was born in St. Petersburg, Florida and grew up in Pennsylvania. She received a B.A. and M.A. from Stetson University; she earned her doctorate at Michigan State. Jean has had an outstanding career as an educator and author.

The library is pleased to hold the M. Jean Greenlaw Collection of more than 1,700 children's books—many of them signed first editions. In 2017, the University dedicated a renovated area on the library mezzanine as the *Greenlaw Children's Literature Corner* thanks to Jean's generous donation that funded the renovation. We thank Jean for her long-time friendship and her support of Stetson and our library.



Dr. M. Jean Greenlaw ('62, '65)

Welcome New Library Staff

Welcome Kellie!



Kellie Pait is our new part-time research librarian hired in January to assist with library support of the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) that is an integral part of our 10-year accreditation process. Kellie received her B.A. in History from Stetson and went on to earn a Master of Library and Information Science from the University of South Florida. Kellie continues to hold a part-time position as a Research and Instruction Librarian at Seminole State College. Her academic library experience is a welcome addition to our team.

Welcome Chris!



Christopher Johnson joined us in February as our Night Library Technology Specialist. Chris holds a B.A. degree in Computer Science and Studio Art from Rollins College where he served as a library student assistant during his four years at Rollins. At the Olin Library, Chris honed his skills on databases and library marketing. After graduation, Chris worked for the Volusia County Public Library system. Chris has said that 'libraries have always been a home to me' and we are pleased to be Chris' new library home.

Are You Interested in Supporting Our Library?

We would not be the innovative library that we want for our students if not for our supporters.

If you are interested in making a financial contribution to the library, we encourage you to consider a donation to either the duPont-Ball Library Enhancement fund, or one of our endowments.

- (1) **Enhancement Fund:** Go to stetson.edu/administration/development/library.php
- (2) **Endowments:** Go to stetson.edu/administration/development/library.php and use the drop-down designation menu to choose one of our endowments.
- (3) **Other Gifts:** Go to stetson.edu/administration/development/library.php and use the drop-down designation to choose "other" and specify how you would like your gift used.
- (4) **Gifts by Mail:** Make check to "Stetson University," specify the gift, and mail to the address below.

**Want to share a Stetson memory with us?
Send us a note:**

duPont-Ball Library
Stetson University
421 N. Woodland Blvd., Unit 8418
DeLand, FL 32723
Phone: 386-822-7181
E-mail: sryan@stetson.edu

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