Chapter One

For Friends of the George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida Spring 2002

African American History Archives Enhanced by Cunningham Collection

The Smathers Libraries recently acquired the business papers of the Cunningham Funeral Home located in Ocala, Florida. To be known as the A. L. Cunningham, Sr., Cunningham Funeral Home History, the collection documents the largest minority-owned business in Marion County. Brothers Albert and James Cunningham founded the company in 1955.

Besides burial records, the collection contains photographs, financial transactions, oral histories, maps, letters, secretarial notes, political history, and notes on dress and life in Florida — all of which form the legacy of the Cunningham Funeral Home Collection. As African-American morticians in Ocala, Florida from the 1950s through the 1970s the brothers and their business document a colorful, professional life that has become a quilt of southern history.

Part of the collection's significance is due to the fact that until the 1970s the only comprehensive listing of African-American communities in any Florida county is to be found in morticians' records. For instance, if a researcher wants to know where African-American churches and schools were located, that information can be found in the records. Morticians have been — and continue to be — the means of knowing what was happening in the community: they knew everyone, and they could give directions to houses in obscure locations. They were truly the heart of the community.

The Cunningham Funeral Home records have become a part of the Department of Special and Area Studies Collections at UF because of of their diverse subject matter. In addi-

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L to R: Bruce Chappell, archivist, Algernon Cunningham, Albert L. Cunningham, Sr., and Joel Buchanan, archivist, look over some of the Cunningham Funeral Home records donated to the Department of Special and Area Studies Collections.

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Leading With New Electronic Technology is Tradition at UF Libraries

The University of Florida libraries have a history of being on the leading edge with use of new technologies. When the online "chat" reference service, RefeXpress, was introduced in the spring of 2000, UF was one of the first in the United States to offer such a service, thus staying with the trend.

The UF libraries have been an early adapter to technology. In 1989 the Humanities and Social Sciences Reference Department was the first member of the Association of Research Libraries to create an e-mail based reference service as a way to reach out to the campus community. The first library home page was put online as a demonstration in February 1994. According to Suzy Covey, systems librarian, "Ours was one of the first library Web sites in the country, and even was featured in a CNN news story."

Other examples of early electronic public services are numerous, including book renewal and inter-library loan request forms that have been able to be submitted via e-mail since 1994; electronic access to periodical articles put on reserve by professors; subscription to netLibrary so that students and faculty can read approximately 300,000 books online; and digitized collections put online as a way to preserve and distribute rare materials to a wider range of users.

RefeXpress is an interactive reference service that allows users to consult online with a UF librarian on the Web without leaving their computer. RefeXpress offers a chat, or conversational feature that allows the user and the librarian to discuss the question, as well as the time frame for getting an answer. As the librarian starts to work on answering the question, RefeXpress has powerful features that allow him or her to help while online. The librarian can push a Web page that displays on the user's computer or the two can collaboratively search the Web and certain databases together. The librarian can demonstrate how to perform a search by typing keywords in the blanks in a database. When finished, the user has the option of receiving a transcript of the chat.

RefeXpress often reaches students and faculty who have not previously used the reference department. When using their computers for research, it's convenient for users to log on to RefeXpress and "chat" with a library staff member in real time.

From a survey sent to each user after they disconnect from the service, one person had this to say: "I needed an answer fast and I was in the class that I teach. I was able to get online while my students were working on a group activity and find the answer that I needed." Another user said she has small children and can do

Jana Ronan, RefeXpress coordinator, left, Alice Primack, science librarian, and Mimi Pappas, E-mail reference coordinator and instruction librarian, demonstrate RefeXpress interactive reference service.

research while they are napping. And many use the service because they are on off-campus research facilities or live far from the university.

Currently 28 librarians and paraprofessionals staff RefeXpress an average of two hours each per week with some working from home in the evenings. RefeXpress offers the same flexibility as the reference desk inside the library and the two are staffed separately to allow for faster, more personalized service. Staff can offer a quick answer or use the opportunity to teach the user how to find the information for themselves.

Readers are invited to try RefeXpress. To connect, go to http://refexpress.uflib.ufl.edu on your Web browser.

Anyone may use RefeXpress. Undergraduates make up the largest group of users, with graduate students and faculty following in number. How to obtain online full text articles, how to get into databases, and which resources to use are frequently asked questions by users. RefeXpress staff will continue to extend their outreach to encompass distance learners, including those who have been using the chat reference from the recently closed Florida Distance Learning Reference & Referral Center that was based at the University of South Florida.

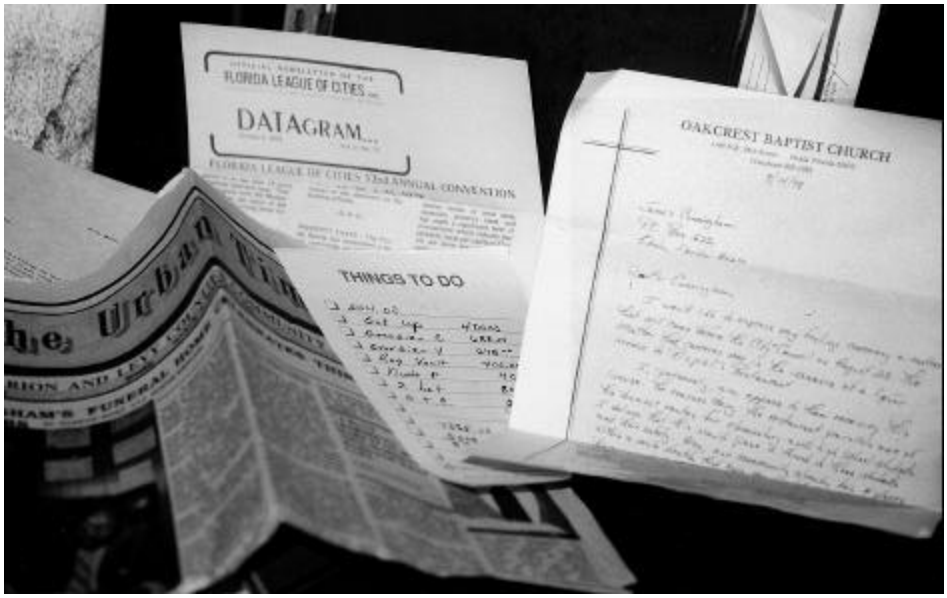
Cunningham *(Continued from page 1)*

tion to their intrinsic value for research in African-American social history, the records are also valuable because they retain Albert Cunningham's organizational scheme for the records and thus open an all too often obscured window into the pragmatic arrangement of minority business papers.

A reception was held Sunday, November 18 in the Research Room of Smathers Library to commemorate the donation and to honor Mr. Cunningham. A diverse audience from Marion and Alachua Counties attended, including two other morticians from Marion County who apprenticed under Mr. Cunningham.

Albert Cunningham is a man who is highly respected and liked among family, friends and the community, and his influence continues to reach far beyond the borders of Marion County. He has always felt that his place is to be of service to those who need him, and his high level of commitment to people has earned him his special position in the community.

The Cunningham Collection will be processed over the next two years and once cataloged will be available for generations of researchers interested in the many facets of the African-American community in Marion County.



Top left: Albert Cunningham at the reception in his honor. Above: A portion of the donated materials were displayed at the reception. (Photos by Earnest C. Williams)

Who uses the libraries for research?

Professor Kevin McCarthy: Frequent Researcher of the Collections

During the academic year, the University of Florida Smathers Libraries welcome 4,500 individuals per day through the doors of Library West, Marston Science Library, Smathers Library, the Education, Music, Architecture and Fine Arts, and Journalism and Communications libraries. Not surprisingly, most are members of the campus community — undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff. The primary role of an academic research library on a campus of a major research university is to serve the academic mission of teaching and research.

One faculty researcher, English professor Kevin McCarthy, Ph.D., has been a frequent user of numerous Smathers Libraries collections and resources since he began teaching at UF in 1969. He teaches linguistics, modern English structure, history of the English language, writing about football, and the teaching of English as a second language. He is executive director of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society and also a prolific writer and editor with 26 published books. He takes his interests in Florida topics, themes and areas of the state, researches and writes about them.

McCarthy says that because the University of Florida is a land grant university, he feels some responsibility to write for the people of Florida. He enjoys writing books that will appeal to a wide range of the public.

Kevin McCarthy reads through microfilmed newspapers with assistance from Jo Talbird.

Twenty-one of his books are about Florida topics, including recently published *Outhouses in Florida* (2002) and *Ocala* (2001). Others include *Florida Lighthouses* (1990), *African Americans in Florida* (1993), *The Gators and the Seminoles* (1993), *Baseball in Florida* (1996), *Guide to the University of Florida and Gainesville* (1997), *Alligator Tales* (1998), *Native Americans in Florida* (1999), and *Christmas in Florida* (2000).

He has also edited books of short stories such as *Florida Stories* (1989), *More Florida Stories* (1996), and *Nine Florida Stories by Marjorie Stoneman Douglas* (1990).

Whether he's searching for photos in the University Archives of the Department of Special and Area Studies Collections; looking for Jewish sites in Europe at the Price Library of Judaica; tracking down military histories in Library West or Florida ballads in the Music Library, McCarthy sometimes seeks out the help of librarians and staff at the Smathers Libraries to complete his research.

"The nice thing about working at the libraries is there are so many good resources here," he says. For example, he spent countless hours reading pre-1900 newspapers on microfilm with the assistance of Jo Talbird.
"For the book I did on Ocala, I read every issue of the Ocala newspaper that was relevant spanning 10-12 years. Jo has done a remarkable job of keeping that collection in really good shape.

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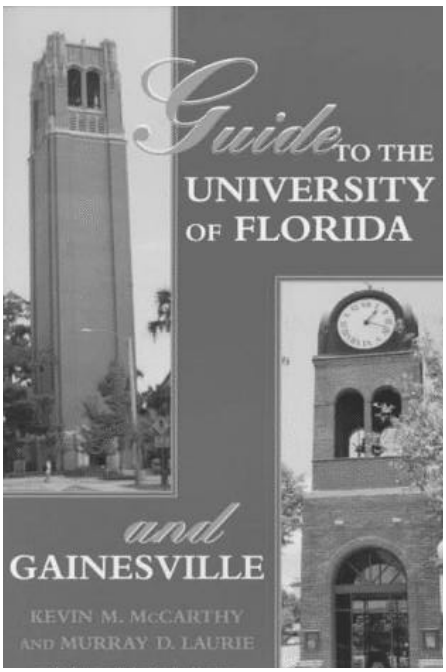

McCarthy *(Continued from page 4)*

"And Robena Cornwell [head of the Music Library] has been a tremendous resource for tracking down old songs. I would have a hard time finding the information without her help. The Documents Department is an incredible storehouse of information and maybe a lot of people don't know how much is there. The Interlibrary Loan Department was very helpful when I was researching Lighthouses of Ireland. The people in Special Collections — Jim Cusick, Carl Van Ness, Joyce Dewsbury, and others — have been very helpful in many areas of my research."

Robena Cornwell says that Dr. McCarthy is a frequent and welcome user of the Music Library. "He always does preliminary research on his own, so when he presents us with a question, we know it will be challenging and thought provoking."

Jim Cusick says "Kevin ranks among the library's ideal researchers — an author who writes about Florida for the popular audience and brings home to people the magnitude of the state's fascinating heritage."

McCarthy uses the Map and Imagery Library for researching sites in and around Europe where he and his wife spend time each summer lecturing on cruise ships. They point out to the sightseers what they can see as the ship docks in locations such as Lisbon, Malta, Gibraltar, or Istanbul so they get a good orientation of what is in store for the next day on land. To do that he often goes to the Map and Imagery Library to study location maps.

McCarthy, who grew up on an island off the coast of New Jersey, praises his mother for taking him to the library at an early age.

"The only library we could get to was a bookmobile. So every Tuesday we would walk up to the bookmobile and get books. Because I would see my mother reading so much I really came to appreciate how much you can learn from books and how you can open up the world through reading the books."

With a half dozen more books in progress — *Aviation in Florida, Apalachicola Bay: A History Through its Places, Fish Tales of Florida*, and *Babe Ruth in Florida* — Kevin McCarthy will surely continue to enlighten and entertain those of us interested in Florida's heritage. And surely he will continue to use the libraries' collections and services.

For a listing of additional books by Kevin McCarthy, see his Website at www.clas.ufl.edu/users/kmccarth/

University Athletic Association Donates $40,000 to Libraries

The University of Florida Athletic Association has donated $40,000 from proceeds of last season's pay-per-view televised football games to the George A. Smathers Libraries.

Over the years, Athletic Association donations helped the libraries provide computers for student access to the Internet and helped maintain the libraries' ability to purchase books and journals when state budgets fell.

Last year, with the approval of the Athletic Association, the libraries endowed some unexpended funds from Association gifts. The purpose of the endowment is the libraries' greatest needs. This year's gift was added to the endowment, which now stands at $340,000.

"We will continue to use the proceeds where we have the greatest needs. In this period of rapid technological change, when state budgets lag far behind the need for electronic equipment to make information readily available to students and faculty, this source of funding makes the difference between being unable to keep up with the best schools nationwide or being a leader in applying the new technologies to UF's academic programs. As you can see from the article on page 2, UF is a leader and this source of funding is a big help."

Tax Law Change Follow-Up

What Gift Plans Work Best Now?

The tax law is always in a state of change. And with each change, some things are taken away. The good news is that some changes bring us better opportunities! That's a strong signal from the passing of the new Federal tax law.

There are a few gift planning ideas which might fit most situations. In keeping with the sense of possible opportunity, consider the following options, using $100,000 as the amount of each planned gift amount:

- **Option 1**: Would you like a raise? Would it be to your advantage to now do something different with one of your appreciated assets? Think about an example, say, of $100,000 of stock, or closely held C-corp. stock, or unmortgaged real estate. You could transfer $100,000 of appreciated stock, say, into a UF lifetime income plan which would pay out to you 7% of its value annually. Initially, that would be $7,000 for you to spend. As the UF plan principal increases in value, the payout does too.

- **Option 2**: For your heirs surviving you, you could have your UF plan (in Option 1) continue to pay them for 15 years after your lifetime. They might receive nearly the entire value of the principal over that 15-year period as payout.

- **Option 3**: You could set up a separate UF plan funded with $100,000 to provide your heirs 5% income for their lifetimes. You could do that now or testamentarily (after your lifetime.)

- **Option 4**: You could set up under your will (or design your IRA program) to create a testamentary charitable trust to pay 5% annual payout to your children or grandchildren for a term of 20 years. This UF plan would provide professional management for this part of their inheritance, protect the principal from lawsuits and liens, and make a wonderful endowment gift at UF 20 years after your lifetime.

- **Option 5**: The best possible UF plan for your grandchildren is to set up a testamentary trust. Then, after your lifetime, assets go into a special trust that pays out 6% income to UF for a 20-year term until your grandchildren reach a responsible age. Then they get all the principal (with any appreciation) outright with no additional estate or generation-skipping tax.

- **Option 6**: Some people are considering a combination of Options 4 and 5 to benefit their heirs. They can put both trusts under their will to run for a term of 15 years after the parents' lifetimes. The trust in Option 4 pays the heirs income for 15 years. Then that stops and the trust in Option 5 pays the heirs all the principal free and clear – no more estate tax due.

Each option can have specific benefits to you under the new tax law.

For more information contact the Offices of Planned Giving and Major Gifts at the University of Florida by calling (352) 392-5516 or (352) 392-5512.

Easing of IRA Rules Makes Gifts of Assets Easier

Private support of the George A. Smathers Libraries has always been paramount to maintaining and enhancing its mission. Estate gifts are extremely important. If you are planning to include the Smathers Libraries in your estate plan, you may now, more than ever before, wish to consider a gift using retirement assets. This includes donating your 401(k) plan, 403(b), IRA, or other qualified retirement plan.

Libraries can now be named in the qualified retirement plan agreement as a successor beneficiary to all or part of the plan's assets, without causing an increase in the minimum amount the participant is required to withdraw each year. Tax lawyers, accountants, and financial planners are praising these new rules as being very favorable to both donors and charities.

Using qualified plan assets to make a contribution to charity has always been a smart move for another reason. If you have a choice between giving a non-spouse beneficiary the assets from a qualified plan or from other appreciated estate assets, you will almost certainly want to avoid giving the non-spouse beneficiary qualified plan assets. Currently, your heir receives a stepped-up basis on the appreciated estate assets equal to their fair market value at date of death. As a result of the higher basis, the heir can sell the estate assets without recognizing any gain (unless the assets have further appreciated after your death). Conversely, if you bequeath the qualified retirement assets to a non-spouse beneficiary, not only might your estate have to pay estate tax on the assets, but your heirs would also have to pay income tax on the assets received.

One word of caution is cited, however. A participant's beneficiary designations are effective as of the date of death. This means the charity cannot be named as a beneficiary after the participant's death through post-mortem planning.

Desiderata

Students, faculty and librarians are always looking for the perfect resource to complement their research. While we do our best to be responsive to special needs, there are always a few titles or equipment needs that lie beyond our grasp. If you are interested in helping the Smathers Libraries acquire any of the following, please contact the director of development at (352) 392-0342.

Margarita, Anton, *Der gantz Jädisch Glaub* [The Whole Jewish Faith]. Frankfurt am Main, 1544. Includes wood engravings. An influential anti-Jewish work, first published Augsburg, 1530, by a Jewish apostate. Frequently cited by Martin Luther in his *Of the Jews and Their Lies.* *$3,800*

Johannesburg, South Africa. *Mail & Guardian* (formerly *Weekly Mail*) newspaper 1985-Sept. 1989. South Africa's leading independent weekly newspaper. In its early years, the paper built up an international reputation as a vocal apartheid critic, leading to a number of clashes with the government, culminating in the paper's brief suspension in 1988. It remains a must read for anyone interested in South African politics and as an archive and beacon for recent South African political, social, and economic developments. *$500*

"Viage y sucessor…contra los costarios piratas. Barcelona, 1621. A rare relation of Spanish naval missions against British & French pirates in the Caribbean. (For Latin American Collection) *$7,500*

Astronomical Society of the Pacific Conference Proceedings Series for 1993-1999 and 2001. *$7,400*

Afghanistan Strategic Intelligence: British Records 1919-1970. Four print volumes issued in Jan. 2002. Essential for research on Central Asian history and politics, and helpful in gaining an understanding of recent events in Afghanistan. *$1,295*

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- __ P.K. Yonge Library of Florida History
- __ Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature
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Chapter One is published quarterly and distributed to friends of the Libraries and selected institutions. Questions and comments should be addressed to the editor, Barbara Hood, Public Information Officer, George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida, P.O. Box 117001, Gainesville, FL 32611-7001, (352) 392-0342. Email: bhood@ufl.edu

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A message from the director

Library West Addition

It's an exciting time for the library; we are busy designing a new addition for humanities and social science students! Library West, completed in 1968, had needed additional space for growing collections and expanding electronic services for 15 years. However, the university had just finished the Marston Science Library in 1987, so a second major library project was out of the question. In the meantime, university-wide, our collections grew by 1.2 million volumes and public access computers grew from 0 to 350. We were desperate for more space to house expanded collections and services.

A 100,000 net square foot addition has been approved, planning funds received, and we expect construction to begin in the late autumn. The selected architects are Ross Barney + Jankowski of Chicago partnering with Long & Associates of Tampa. Ross Barney +Jankowski have recent experience working on main library renovation with the University of Chicago, Northwestern, and the University of Illinois.

The concept for our library project is that the new building will house the collections in environmentally controlled space while the current Library West will be renovated to provide state-of-the-art user space. The goal is to create, in the heart of the humanities and social science part of campus, a library designed to emphasize support of the scholarly needs of faculty and the learning needs of students.

We expect the expanded building to house a collection of four million volume equivalents (books, journals, microforms, electronic, and multi-media formats) and provide space for 3,500 readers, creating an environment where scholars can move easily between books and journals and electronic, micro and multi-media formats by providing readily available service space for each, so that the flow of ideas and research need not be interrupted. In increasing the amount and diversity of reading space for students and faculty, we hope to create habitats suited to learning and research in multiple disciplines by diverse users. The new "Library West" will have a stack area closely related on each floor to reading areas with combinations of carrels, tables, group study rooms, and closed studies so that scholars at every level will find appropriate working conditions as they use the needed collections.

We plan to have the main service areas on the first and second floors, leaving the upper floors for quiet study and reflection. There will be well-designed workspaces for the use of online databases, digitized images, video and audio formats and micro-formats. All of these formats are permanent parts of UF's research library collections because they provide information that cannot be stored and accessed in traditional ways and they are essential to meet university requirements for access to information. There will be training facilities for group instruction in the use of electronic information or use of library collections.Upper floors will have quiet reading areas, wired group study rooms, carrels and tables for the use of personal computers, centrally located photocopiers, etc. Noise producing activities will be isolated insofar as possible from study areas. We anticipate that this building will create library conditions genuinely supportive of UF's faculty and students.