

Chapter One

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

Winter 2005

Howe Society annual dinner to feature author Nicholas A. Basbanes

by Barbara Hood

The 2005 Howe Society annual dinner on March 5, 2005 will feature keynote speaker Nicholas A. Basbanes, noted book collector and author of books about books. Basbanes' dynamic story-telling speaking style has won over audiences around the country.

His first book, now in its eighth edition with more than 80,000 copies in print, *A Gentle Madness: Bibliophiles, Bibliomanes, and the Eternal Passion for Books*, was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award in nonfiction for 1995, and was named a New York Times Notable Book of the Year.

A companion volume, released in 2001, *Patience & Fortitude: A Roving Chronicle of Book People, Book Places, and Book Culture*, prompted

the two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer and historian David McCullough to write that "Nicholas Basbanes has become our leading authority of books about books and this, his latest, is a jewel."

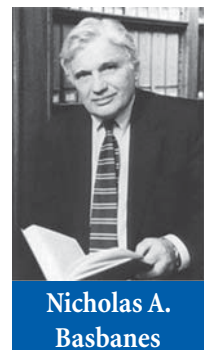
Basbanes' third book, *Among the Gently Mad: Perspectives and Strategies for the Book-Hunter of the 21st Century*, was released in 2002. His latest book, *A Splendor of Letters: The Permanence of Books in an Impermanent World*, was released in the fall of 2003.

Michael Dirda of *The Washington Post* said, "A *Splendor of Letters* is itself splendid and will appeal to any serious reader or book collector."

In addition to his books about books, Basbanes has written for numerous newspapers, magazines, and journals, *The New York Times*,

Los Angeles Times, *The Washington Post*, *Smithsonian*, *Civilization*, and *New England Quarterly* among them, and lectures widely on book-related subjects.

With his wife, Constance Basbanes, he writes a monthly review of children's books for Literary Features Syndicate, which they established in 1993. They are the
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Nicholas A. Basbanes

I am obsessed with books in every imaginable sense and nuance of the word. I am fascinated by their history and composition, by the many shapes and forms they have assumed over time. I want to know everything I can about the people who write them, make them, preserve them, sell them, covet them, collect them, fear them, ban them, destroy them, and most of all, about those who are moved, entertained, instructed, awed, and inspired by them.

Nicholas A. Basbanes, from the preface to *A Splendor of Letters*

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New Endowments

by Barbara Hood

H. Anson and Lilla S. Moye Endowment

Anson and Lilla Moye have established a \$20,000 H. Anson and Lilla S. Moye Endowment to be used for the libraries' greatest needs.

Dr. Moye earned his doctorate in chemistry at the University of Florida and was a research scientist with the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition. He said that he has seen first hand from the viewpoint of a UF student and as a faculty member how hugely important it is to have resources available that allow researchers to collect background material for research.


"My observation is that the science of doing this has advanced dramatically and will advance even faster with high tech tools being developed. Hard copies and software programs have to be bought and shared. The success of any scientist – any researcher – depends on gathering information accurately and quickly. Keeping up to date has to be difficult for libraries in today's fast-paced world. The resources that the libraries have touch all students in all departments," said Dr. Moye.

GLBT Film and Resources Endowment

Gilbert Vansoi and Darren Roesch, Ph.D., both UF graduates, have established a \$30,000 GLBT Film and Resources Endowment at the George A. Smathers Libraries. Gay and lesbian cinema as a discrete genre dates from the early 1970s, emerging in response to societal changes and a general loosening of censorship. But it has a long pre-history dating back to the silent film era involving gay directors, screenwriters, and actors.

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Gender issues are generally taught in the Women's Studies program at the University of Florida. There is a growing demand from faculty for gay and lesbian films, but this demand has been hard to meet during the past several lean budget years. This endowment will allow the purchase of many of the feature films and documentaries listed in the 1996 documentary film, *The Celluloid Closet*.


Vansoi said, "Without the invaluable support of Sandy Melching of UF's George A. Smathers Libraries and Cody Helmer of the UF Foundation, this project would probably have never seen the light of day. As University of Florida graduates, Darren and I are forever grateful for UF's commitment to diversity and look forward to a continued association with the university and particularly with the George A. Smathers Libraries." 

Howe dinner

(Continued from page 1)

parents of two daughters, Barbara and Nicole, and live in North Grafton, Massachusetts.

Well known for writing about books and bibliophiles, Basbanes has worked as an award-winning investigative reporter, a literary editor, and a nationally syndicated columnist.

The Howe Society is a support organization of the Department of Special and Area Studies Collections. The black tie optional dinner is open to the public. For more information on the Howe Society or the dinner, please call (352) 392-0342 or visit <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/admin/giving/howesociety.htm>. 

Library Leadership Board adds two new members

by Brandy Burgess

The UF Library Leadership Board is proud to announce its two newest members.


Paula King, of Ocala, currently serves as the Executive Director of the Marion Cultural Alliance, Inc. (MCA), and helped launch the MCA's signature project, Horse Fever. She was also on the Marion County Tourist Development Council.

"I see the potential for the UF Libraries to be a great resource for primary and secondary schools around the state, as well as at the college level," she said.

UF President Emeritus **Marshall Criser** also joins the Library Leadership board this spring.

The second UF alumnus to be president, Criser received a bachelor's degree in business administration in 1949 and a law degree in 1951.

At UF, he was president of the Florida Blue Key and president of Sigma Nu fraternity. Before coming to the University of Florida, Criser served as president of The Florida Bar, was a member of the Board of Regents and served as its chairman for four years. Criser recently served as the chairman for the UF Board of Trustees. He resigned that position to become Chairman of the Scripps Florida Funding Corp.

Criser said, "The library is the heart of a great university. As a member of the Association of American Universities, UF must have a library comparable to its peers." 

Anne Haisley

by Brandy Burgess

Anne Haisley loves books. While growing up in New York, she remembers walking to her local library and methodically scouring the rows of childrens' books and checking out the maximum allotted on each visit.

Today she is still involved with books, both as a local Gainesville bookstore owner and as an active supporter of the UF Libraries, serving on the Library Leadership Board and the Howe Society Board.

Haisley and her husband Phil moved to Gainesville in 1989 and opened Books Inc., a bookstore and café. She became involved with the UF Libraries several years ago after attending a Howe Society function. The Howe Society impressed Haisley with its diverse programs that highlight the libraries' special collections. She soon became a member and was asked to serve on the Howe Society board.

A deep appreciation of books and their value in society has strengthened Haisley's commitment to the libraries, especially the special collections.

"The cultural value of books can be lost when people die – special collections save that from happening, from losing that part of history," she said.

In 2003, when the Library Leadership Board was formed, she also accepted the invitation to serve on that board. The idea of promoting the library throughout the state and making contacts with people is important to her.

"People do think of the university

and give to UF, but they think of their own department that they attended, and do not realize that the libraries are the backbone behind it."

Haisley would like to see the UF library system work more with the local public and have the libraries provide more tours. When the Leadership Board went on a tour of the libraries, that made a personal impact on Haisley. She believes that more people should have a chance to take the tour and experience the depth and breadth of materials that the UF Libraries has to offer.

"We need to get more groups touring the libraries." Haisley said. "Start with the administrators and the faculty, and then show the students what magnificent resources are available to them."

Educating people is something that Haisley is familiar with. After receiving a bachelor's degree in home economics from Syracuse University and a master's degree in home economics education from New York University, Haisley taught school for seventeen years in New York.

She then moved to Australia and worked for the Department of Education for the state of Victoria, where she taught English and home economics.

UF athletics are also important to Haisley, and she is a member of both the Gator Tip-off Club and the Gator Dugout Club. She is also the educational foundation chair of the Gainesville branch of American Association of University Women and a board member of the University Park Neighborhood Association. ☺

For more information on the George A. Smathers Libraries Leadership Board, please contact Director of Development Sandra Fox Melching at sfmelching@uflib.ufl.edu or (352) 392-0342.



Anne Haisley

Friends of the Libraries

Donations received by the Smathers Libraries between November 1, 2003 and January 4, 2005

The libraries of the University of Florida form the largest information resource system in the state of Florida. Nine campus libraries reflect the university's increasingly broad research and instruction programs. Over the past 100 years, faculty and librarians have built hundreds of specialized collections, now totaling more than four million volumes, printed in practically every written language by publishers throughout the world.

The George A. Smathers Libraries of the University of Florida includes specialized collections in science, architecture, art, history, languages, and music. Our collections cover all areas of contemporary knowledge, from agriculture to zoology and from philosophy to history. All of the libraries serve all of the university's faculty and students, but each has a special mission to be the primary support of specific colleges and degree programs. The libraries support the very best educational, research and service performance by university faculty and students using the latest on-line technology and time-honored methods of collection and preservation.

For more information on giving to the George A. Smathers Libraries at the University of Florida contact Sandra Melching, director of development, at (352) 392-0342.

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The Rare Book Collection on and off campus

The Rare Book Collection in the Department of Special and Area Studies Collections is widely used in the research room by scholars in many different fields. One frequent user is Dr. Linde Katritzky, adjunct professor in the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies.

Dr. Katritzky said, "As my research interests center on eighteenth century studies, I have found our university's Special Collections invaluable and have been using them more or less intensively for over 20 years. My latest article was published in 'Swift Studies' 19 (2004), 86-109: 'Subtle Satire: Gottlieb Wilhelm Rabener and the Influence of English Satirists,' and it would have been impossible without the Rabener volumes in Rare Books. At the moment I am trying to establish connections between one of my main research interests, Georg Christoph Lichtenberg, professor of astronomy and natural history in Goettingen and of the Royal Society in London, of which he was a Fellow, and in this Special Collections are again of the greatest value.

"I need hardly mention that though staff has changed over the years, everybody has invariably been so helpful and supportive, that using Special Collections has always been a special treat!"

One of the more important books in the rare book collection, the third edition of Isaac Newton's *Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica* is currently on loan to the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI) in Tampa. The exhibit is titled Space: A Journey to Our Future and was created by Clear Channel Exhibitions as a traveling exhibit.

The third edition is particularly important as it is the last edition edited by Newton himself and contains many corrections, emendations, and additions. The 1967 catalog for the stunning and all too brief British Museum exhibit *Printing and the Mind of Man* describes the *Principia* as "the greatest work in the history of science" and as revolutionary as Darwin's *Origin of Species*. It is the first formulation of the three laws of motion, from which Newton derived the principle of gravity. He demonstrated that all physical events, whether celestial or terrestrial, were based upon the same mathematics. This edition was edited by Henry Pemberton, contains a poem by Edmond Halley, a preface from the second edition by Roger Cotes, and the frontispiece portrait of Newton was engraved by George Vertue after a painting by John Vanderbank.

In consideration of the loan, MOSI is giving a discount to University of Florida ID holders — two people for one entrance fee. The Web site for MOSI is: <http://www.mosi.org/>

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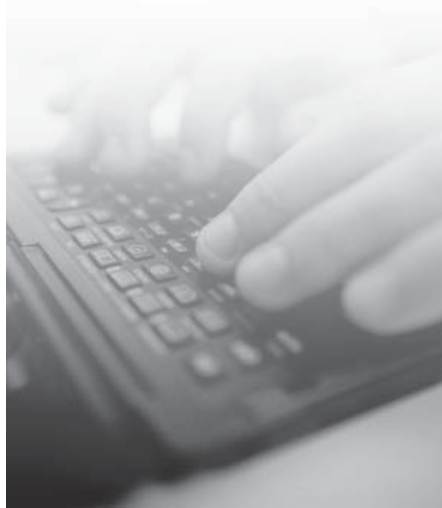
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A message from the director

This issue of Chapter One profiles two people who are very much engaged with books. This “gentle madness” can be interpreted as a fascination with the transfer of ideas and knowledge over generations and certainly it is a madness that libraries confirm through their very existence. “But what about Google Scholar?” I am being asked more and more these days. Surely there’s no need for libraries any more now that Google Scholar will make available all those books from Stanford and Michigan and Harvard.

Well actually, there is still a need for libraries. If you’ve read the announcements carefully, Google will not allow people to copy or download pages from the books they digitize, they will simply allow the books to be read online. And that’s for the books that are out of copyright. For books still under copyright, people may only be allowed to read a page or two – that isn’t yet clear. This situation creates problems for students wanting to quote portions of the material in term papers or scholars

wanting to quote for articles or anyone just wanting to read the entire argument being made by the author in a chapter or book.

University libraries are important as places. Today’s students need access to a variety of academic support services. For some students and under some circumstances, they need the traditional quiet space to study. In addition, to support today’s joint learning assignments, students need access to small group study rooms, equipped with electronic access, where they can work on group assignments without disturbing anyone else or being disturbed by others. They need access to high end computing facilities to create digital class projects as well. While most students have their own computers that handle normal academic projects, few of them are equipped to deal with making video/sound presentations. Also, students need content. They can get some of it off the Internet, but not all of it. Some materials still reside only in printed formats. Too, the library “vets” material; that is, when it comes from the library,

it is accurate. In other words, just as the library always has provided academic assistance

and support for student academic assignments, it continues to do so.

And finally, people want books. Librarians have noticed that when we purchase and make available electronic books, suddenly the print copies of those books circulate heavily. What’s going on here? The more we digitize older materials, the greater the demand to use them. It seems clear that search engines pick up keywords and other metadata describing the digital works so that many more people find out about relevant books, journals, or manuscripts than would otherwise. But why do they then want the printed book? Although we can speculate, we don’t know for sure. But we still circulate almost one million books per year and expect we’ll continue to circulate books for years to come. ☺

