

# CANAL GATOR TALES

July 2019

## Panama Canal Society Reunion



We had a terrific time at the Reunion this year. We had just over 400 visitors who viewed our exhibit on the 30th Anniversary of Operation Just Cause. If you were not able to attend, the exhibit "Immediate Aftermath: Operation Just Cause" featured a photographic series depicting the planning and aftermath of the military operation. We also displayed film footage and artifacts donated or loaned for the exhibit by Kaye Richey, Fran Meyer, Martha Duncan, Brad Wilde, and Peter Copeskey.

The Cultural Seminar was a terrific success. Panelists Joe Wood, Dick Morgan, Kurt Muse, and Bob Rupp, discussed their various perspectives of Just Cause, including the events leading up to the invasion, the operation itself, and the aftermath. Martha Duncan also joined the panelists to discuss the Intelligence activities that led to the capture of Manuel Noriega.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by to donate materials to the collection, to renew your Friends membership, or just to chat. We're already looking ahead to the reunion next year at the Caribe Royale.

## Follow the PCMC Blog

If you aren't a regular follower of our blog already (<https://ufpcmcollection.wordpress.com/>), please do visit. We use the blog to highlight interesting items from the collection, to give information about special activities, and to collect comments from members of our community. We

frequently post images for which we lack good information, including the names of people or places featured in the photos, so we rely on community members to help us out.

The blog is managed by the graduate students in the Museum Studies Program here at UF who are employed to work with the collection. Our current blog administrator, Summer Bias, recently posted several images related to NASA astronauts and missions to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Apollo missions and the moon landing. One of the images is the famous “Earthrise” photo taken by Apollo 8 astronaut Bill Anders. We have a copy in the collection in recognition of his grandfather, Thomas Adams, who was a Roosevelt Medal holder. Other images show Buzz Aldrin, John Glenn, and other astronauts training at the Tropic Survival School at Albrook in the mid-1960s.

Please do follow the blog, and more importantly, please do comment so that we can learn from your memories and experiences.

---

## Consider a Planned Gift

Many of you are already supporters of the PCMC, and your generosity ensures that the historical materials in the Panama Canal Museum Collection will be accessible to future generations. If you haven’t already, please consider including the PCMC in your estate plans. Planned gifts, including bequests and living trusts, support the collection in perpetuity and strengthen our research services and education programs. For more information or assistance, please call the UF George A. Smathers Libraries Office of Development at (352) 273-2505 or visit the UF Foundation Gift Planning home page.

---

## Exhibition Sponsorship

The goal of the Panama Canal Museum Collection exhibition program is to educate and raise awareness about the American era of the Panama Canal. Exhibition sponsorship provides a unique opportunity to support this goal.

Through gallery, online, and traveling exhibitions, we share the memories and stories preserved in the PCMC, and introduce audiences to the treasure trove of distinctive and historically significant objects. Exhibitions are curated in the Albert H. Nahmad Panama Canal Gallery on the University of Florida campus and at the Panama Canal Society Annual Reunion. Online exhibitions are accessible freely at any time to a worldwide audience, and traveling exhibitions enable education in diverse locations.

We invite individuals, groups, and corporations to sponsor PCMC exhibitions. All sponsors receive acknowledgment in exhibition materials, including: invitations, programs, exhibition catalogues, signage, flyers, press releases, the UF PCMC website and e-mails sent to Friends members. Complimentary curator tours are also provided for sponsors and their guests. If you are interested in sponsoring an exhibition or would like more information, please contact John Nemmers, [jnemmers@ufl.edu](mailto:jnemmers@ufl.edu), 353-273-2766.

---

FRIENDS OF THE  
PANAMA CANAL  
Museum Collection  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA



