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Nelson Poynter Memorial Library.

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SAPL at sunset

Kathy Arsenault’s clever title, “SAPL at Sunset,” for our annual General Membership Meeting on April 27th was very appropriate for our setting. It was a beautiful, mild evening on the Poynter Library Terrace as members gathered for a delicious reception and a report from Vice President Bill Heller on what the future holds for USF, in light of decisions being made by the Florida Legislature at that time.

As required by our bylaws, a brief business meeting was held to elect officers and new members to the Board of Directors. Following brief reports by me and Kathy Arsenault regarding the achievements of SAPL during the past year, Sally Poynter, chair of the nominating committee presented the following slate of officers for the next year, which was approved by unanimous consent: President is Margaret Tappan; Vice President is Marci Jacobs; Secretary is Marlene Mock; Treasurer is Sally Poynter; and Historian is Teddy Aggeles. One new member, Najwa Hahn, was elected to the Board of Directors.

All Board members present were asked to stand and be recognized. We continue to seek new members for the Board of Directors, and if there are any volunteers among our readers, please

See TAPPAN on page 3

Director named for Poynter Library

Campus Executive Officer Bill Heller, USF St. Petersburg, has appointed Kathy Arsenault as director of the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library.

Arsenault, a seasoned academic librarian who has served as interim director since 1999, will oversee the nearly 200,000-volume library and its distance learning studio as well as 20 staff members. Poynter Library serves 3,800 USF St. Petersburg students, 500 St. Petersburg College students, 101 faculty and dozens of scientific researchers. Its electronic holdings include 3,500 e-journals, and 400 databases.

“Kathy is a gem and definitely is the right person to lead our library at this important juncture,” Heller said. “The library is the heart of a university, and she is making it the heart of USF St. Petersburg for our students.”

Arsenault said she plans to focus building the library’s special collections in local history, marine science and journalism, areas of particular distinction at USF St. Petersburg. It also is an area of special interest to Arsenault, who served as collection development librarian since coming to Poynter Library in 1982. A new librarian will be hired for expanded programs in special collections.

The library continues to develop resources for the many new programs added to accommodate freshmen and sophomores, a relatively recent addition to the student body that traditionally comprised only junior, senior and graduate-level students. The library is increasing its holdings in math, sciences, languages, graphic design, visual communications, art

Newly appointed library director Kathy Arsenault helps Bojana Ostojic, a USF St. Petersburg sophomore majoring in economics, find a book.

history and social work.

Unlike public libraries, academic libraries support university curriculum and the research needs of its faculty and graduate students. However, the Poynter Library is open to the public and also serves as an intellectual resource for the community. USF St. Petersburg’s library is linked to the Pinellas County library system and anyone can request books from the Poynter Library through their public libraries.

Arsenault, who earned a master’s degree in library science from Simmons College in Boston, also worked in the libraries at Princeton and Brandeis universities and the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. She continues to keep abreast of her field, publishing research on children’s literature.

Arsenault is the fifth library director at USF St. Petersburg since its inception in 1965. She is married to Ray Arsenault, the John Hope Franklin Professor of Southern History at USF St. Petersburg.
With gratitude and delight

I am honored and delighted that my fourth column for the Library Connection is now titled “From the Director.” In early July, a search committee that included SAPL member Oscar Blasingame concluded its work.

After the committee’s careful evaluations and candidate interviews with various campus groups, VP Bill Heller, I am pleased to report, selected me as Poynter’s fifth library director.

My two years as interim director coincided perfectly with the most exciting period in the history of the campus. After Lanny Greaves’ retirement in July 1999, one of my first adventures as a new interim director was a trip to Tallahassee with staff, students, and community friends to convince Gov. Jeb Bush and the Cabinet that USF St. Petersburg should become a full four-year university. The legislation happily passed; freshmen and sophomores joined our upper-level students in fall 2000; and in spring 2001 we began the process of establishing a more autonomous relationship with the University.

Our application to the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges to become a separately accredited institution has been completed, and the lengthy process of visits from evaluators, planning studies, and assessment will soon begin. I am confident that our library will pass their scrutiny with flying colors.

I look forward to continuing as library director in the exciting years ahead. Already we have doubled our faculty and student enrollments are increasing by double digits every semester.

Soon, if all goes well, we will be serving residential students for the first time. The library strategic plan, completed this year, calls for continuing our standards of excellent service to the rapidly growing campus, working with our students to make the library a center of campus life, and reaching out to the community to publicize and expand the wonderful intellectual resources that we have to offer.

I am grateful to members of SAPL for their support and encouragement over two busy and challenging years. I have had many occasions to appreciate the wonderful things that you do to make Poynter Library the special place that it is, and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Rare book expert to visit and assess special collections

Poynter Library will receive a special “Christmas present” in December: A nationally recognized expert on the preservation of rare books and archives will visit the library’s special collections department and prepare a report on its collections and policies and procedures for their care.

The consultant’s appraisal will help us ensure that the security, environmental conditions and conservation measures given our valuable materials meets the highest standards.

This preservation assessment is made possible through a grant from the National Endowment of the Humanities. The selection of Poynter Library for this competitive award recognizes the national significance of its prized collections.

SAPL donates to fiction collection

SAPL gives the Poynter Library up to $1,000 to augment its fiction collection, a sum that buys as many as 40 books.

The titles are chosen from “books of the year” lists such as the New York Times, Publisher’s Weekly, and the American Library Association’s “Notable Books.”

Among the purchases last year were:

The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay, by Michael Chabon
Ben, in the World, by Doris Lessing
A Conspiracy of Paper, by David Liss
Disobedience: A Novel, by Jane Hamilton
The Hill Bachelors, by William Trevor
Jim, the Boy, by Tony Earley
Lying Awake, Mark Salzman
The Married Man, by Edmund White,
The Night Listener, by Armistead Maupin
When We Were Orphans, by Kazuo Ishiguro

All new students at USF St. Petersburg attend a student orientation. These freshmen participated in a summer orientation, part of which included a tour of the Poynter Library.
Video Corner

One of the many exclusive benefits to being a SAPL member is access to Poynter Library's Circulating Media Collection. The media collection is much different than your typical Blockbuster, Hollywood Video, or even the local public library.

Much of the collection directly supports the curriculum of the classes taught and contains items that other collections might consider obscure.

It is the unique nature of the collection that is its most valuable asset. In addition to the PBS series, travel, history, and instructional titles, we have the silent greats, American classics, foreign, opera, National Geographic, and children's titles.

DVDs have been added recently, which add many additional viewing options of format and languages. The library owns 350 sound CDs, mostly current offerings, and for those of you who love vinyl and turntables, more than 100 records.

Although the library does not concentrate on collecting "talking books" in its cassette collection, it has almost 400 titles, which include poetry readings, interviews, plays, old radio shows, and language instruction.

Many of these were donated by SAPL members who want to share their items with all library users. Your current SAPL card entitles you to check out any titles from our exciting media collections. — Jerry Notaro

Weekly TV show filmed at Poynter Library

Poynter Library's Audio Visual Department manages the campus's distance learning services. Some 66 classes are broadcast from USF St. Petersburg, as well as a weekly television show called Project Oceanography.

Produced by the College of Marine Science with technical support from Audio Visual personnel, the program is seen in 40 states and nine countries. Cable stations pick up the signal and broadcast the show to various school districts and towns across the country. Project Oceanography has an estimated viewing audience of 2.5 million. Locally, the program is shown on Channel 15.

Project Oceanography is a live interactive science program that is taught and filmed in the television studio located on the second floor of the library. Below are photographs of the show being taped, with an audience of schoolchildren in the foreground. These pictures were produced from video clips rather than being taken in the studio.

TAPPAN from page 1

contact me.

I am happy to announce that Marci and Earl Jacobs, long-time SAPL members, have agreed to be Newsletter Coordinators for the coming year.

Under their guidance we expect that the Library Connection will reach new heights for content and style! Marci is also our new Vice President.

Many thanks to the Planning Committee for the Annual Meeting — Betty Jean Miller, Marlene Mock and Teddy Aggeles — who made the necessary arrangements. Our gratitude also goes to the Library staff, without whom we could not function: Barbara Reynolds, Eleanor Shafer, Jackie Jackson, Tina Neville, Anita Lindsay, and Jackie Shewmaker.
Society for Advancement of Poynter Library

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- Guest privileges
- Free copies of SAPL newsletter
- Participation in activities sponsored by the Library and SAPL
- On-line bibliographic searching service at reduced cost

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The $50 membership is not tax-deductible; all gifts over that amount are tax-deductible.

USF University of South Florida
St. Petersburg

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