

# CANAL GATOR TALES

June 2022

## Celebrating 10 Years at the Panama Canal Society Reunion



The celebration of our 10-year anniversary of the Panama Canal Museum Collection (PCMC) at the University of Florida is ongoing, and the next activities will occur at the Society's Reunion in Orlando July 6-10, 2022. We have created a special commemorative 10th anniversary lapel pin available to anyone who donates at the \$125 Gorgas level or above, so stop by the Museum room at the reunion to make your donation and pick up your pin.

The PCMC exhibit on display at the reunion, *Transiting Ten Years with the Panama Canal Museum Collection*, will highlight important acquisitions and milestones from the decade. We're also producing a special book to accompany the exhibit, so be sure to grab your copy. We had a great time selecting objects for this exhibit and book, and we hope that everyone will enjoy learning more about the development of the collection and the diversity of our activities over these ten years.

Of course, we also hope to see you at the Silent Auction held by the Friends of the PCMC. The auction organizers are still looking for volunteers to help out in a variety of ways. Please contact Mickey Walker Fitzgerald ([mickeyftz@aol.com](mailto:mickeyftz@aol.com)) if you want to volunteer.

We also hope that you will join us for a very special and very tongue-in-cheek ceremony to observe the anniversary. Back in 2010 when the Panama Canal Museum

and the UF agreed to merge the collection, the two institutions held a ceremony to exchange vows for the union. Dean Judy Russell represented UF and Joe Wood represented the Museum, and two years later in 2012 the PCMC was officially established at UF. We thought that it would be fitting to renew these vows as part of our anniversary celebration, and we hope that you will join us on Thursday, July 7, at 5:00 in the Museum room (Gatlin Rooms A2 and A3) for the ceremony. Please see the formal invitation below.

We hope that you will join us in celebrating this anniversary at the reunion. Looking ahead to the Fall, we are also planning an online curator talk in October for our exhibition in the Panama Canal Gallery entitled *The Digging is the Least Thing of All: Health & Medicine at the Panama Canal*. The exhibition examines the tremendous public health infrastructure necessary during Canal construction, which evolved into an equally monumental system designed to keep the people operating it safe from injury and disease. Our curators will share photos, documents, and artifacts, and discuss the objects selected to tell the story of health and medicine in Panama and the Canal Zone.

Thank you for an incredible decade! The PCMC is successful because of the broad community of people who are dedicated to preserving and sharing information about the American era of the Panama Canal. We thank you for your support over the past ten years, and we look forward to working with you for many years to come.



## SAVE THESE DATES

**July 6-10, 2022**

Exhibit, Auction and Cultural Seminar at the Panama Canal Society Reunion at the Shingle Creek Resort, Orlando, FL. Please contact Mickey Walker Fitzgerald ([mickeyftz@aol.com](mailto:mickeyftz@aol.com)) if you want to volunteer during the auction.

The George W. Smathers Libraries  
at the University of Florida  
and  
the Panama Canal Museum Collection at UF  
request the honour of your presence  
at their renewal of "wedding" vows  
in recognition of the  
10th anniversary of the union  
of these two prestigious institutions

Thursday, July 7, 2022  
at 5:00 in the afternoon  
PCMC Room  
Rosen Shingle Creek Resort  
Orlando, Florida



Consider making a 10th anniversary renewal “wedding” gift to support the  
Panama Canal Museum Collection at UF  
by joining the Friends of the PCMC at  
<https://pcmc.uflib.ufl.edu/friends-of-the-pcmc/>

