

CANAL GATOR TALES

October 2022

10-Week Fundraising Campaign Underway

Thank you to everyone who joined us on October 10th for our special Curator Talk webinar, in which we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the PCMC at UF and also kicked off a 10-week fundraising campaign to raise \$10,000 to support our Oral History program.

We set October 10th as the date for the webinar and start of the 10-week campaign because it seemed fitting to hold it on the 10th day of the 10th month in our 10th year. Curators John Nemmers and Betsy Bemis shared excerpts from oral history interviews, presented recent and upcoming exhibitions, and discussed PCMC acquisitions and highlights from the past decade. The Curator Talk was recorded and is available at <https://pcmc.uflib.ufl.edu/curator-talk/>.

We selected \$10,000 as our target amount in order to match the \$10,000 raised by the Friends of the PCMC during the Silent Auction at the Panama Canal Society Reunion in July. All funds raised during this end-of-year campaign will be contributed towards our Oral History Campaign, so that we can continue to conduct interviews and share them globally in our digital collection.

If you haven't done so already, please visit <https://pcmc.uflib.ufl.edu/oralhistory> to learn how you can support our campaign and help us to continue to document stories of life in the Canal Zone and Panama. Also, please read our special 10th anniversary booklet, [Celebrating Ten Years](#). Starting the week of October 10th and continuing once a week for the next ten weeks we will post an oral history excerpt to the PCMC Blog (<https://pcmc.domains.uflib.ufl.edu/>).



Nahmad Panama Canal Gallery Anniversary

In addition to celebrating the 10th anniversary of the PCMC at UF, we're also celebrating the 5th anniversary of the [Albert H. Nahmad Panama Canal Gallery](#). The Gallery opened in 2017 in the Smathers Library Building on the UF campus with our first exhibition, [Between Two Oceans](#). In the intervening years, we held exhibitions on the topics of World War II, food, and the Canal Treaty and U.S.-Panama relations. Our current exhibition, *The Digging is the Least Thing of All: Health & Medicine at the Panama Canal*, 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. The exhibition opened in March 2022 and will be available to the public through March 2023. An [online version of the exhibition](#) is available.

Visit our [Exhibits](#) page for information about current and past exhibits, including online exhibits. The exhibition planned for the Nahmad Panama Canal Gallery in 2023-2024 will focus on engineering. Curator Betsy Bemis is already hard at work selected themes and objects for the cases.



Join the Friends of the PCMC Cruise!

Join the Friends of the PCMC for a 15-Day Ocean to Ocean Panama Canal Princess Cruise, January 17-February 1, 2023. The cruise will originate in San Diego and end in Fort Lauderdale with ports of call in Mexico, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Colombia -- PLUS a day on the Pacific side of Panama and a transit of the new locks. Prices start at \$1859 per person. Contacts: Lori Snow (lori@condortt.com) and Pat Pritchard (pat@condortt.com), or via phone at 770-339-9961.

SAVE THESE DATES

Jan. 17-Feb. 1, 2023

Friends of the PCMC 15-Day Ocean to Ocean Panama Canal Princess Cruise.

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April 22, 2023

Panama Canal Society/Friends of the PCMC Spring Luncheon at Smathers Library, Gainesville. Join us for the Spring Luncheon with the Panama Canal Society in Gainesville at the Smathers Libraries starting at 11am. We will open the new exhibition in the Nahmad Panama Canal Gallery which will focus on engineering. Also,

if you have any items you would like to donate to the 2023 silent auction, you can bring them to the Luncheon.

July 5-9, 2023

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), Carole Miller (czmiller345@gmail.com), or Kathy Egolf (Pankee@aol.com) if you have items to donate or if you want to volunteer to help out.