

# CANAL GATOR TALES

November 2022

## 10-Week Fundraising Campaign Underway

There is still time before the end of the year to contribute to our special 10-week fundraising campaign to raise \$10,000 to support our Oral History program. 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 and also because we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the PCMC at UF. Thanks to everyone who has already contributed to the 10-week campaign. We will report on the results of the campaign in January.

We kicked off the 10-week campaign on October 10th with a special curator talk webinar in which PCMC 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. In case you weren't able to participate live, the Curator Talk was recorded and is available at <https://pcmc.uflib.ufl.edu/curator-talk/>.



We also are spotlighting our oral history interviews throughout this 10-week campaign with a series of special ["10 For 10" posts on the PCMC Blog](#). Associate Curator Betsy Bemis has selected brief excerpts from ten interviews which feature memories of life in the Canal Zone and Panama from various interview participants. Each post includes a short interview clip along with a transcript and one or more images relating to the topics covered in the clips. We have received some terrific feedback on the posts, which are released weekly.

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. We are happy to report that as of November 15th, **we have raised just over \$150,000 in our Oral History Campaign**, which began in Spring 2020.

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](#).

## Nahmad Panama Canal Gallery Anniversary

As we mentioned in the last *Gator Tales*, we also are celebrating the 5th anniversary of the [Albert H. Nahmad Panama Canal Gallery](#), which opened on April 1, 2017 in the Smathers Library Building on the UF campus. We thought you might enjoy a trip down memory lane with some photos of the ribbon cutting ceremony and the first visitors to interact with our opening exhibition, [Between Two Oceans](#).



Ribbon Cutting



**Al Nahmad with other members of the Balboa High School Class of 1958 who attended the opening of the Gallery**



**First visitors to the Nahmad Panama Canal Gallery**

Our current exhibition in the Nahmad Panama Canal Gallery, *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.

---

## 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](mailto:lori@condortt.com)) and Pat Pritchard ([pat@condortt.com](mailto: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.  
Contacts: Lori Snow ([lori@condortt.com](mailto:lori@condortt.com)) and Pat Pritchard ([pat@condortt.com](mailto:pat@condortt.com)), or via phone at 770-339-9961.

#### 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](mailto:mickeyftz@aol.com)), Carole Miller ([czmiller345@gmail.com](mailto:czmiller345@gmail.com)), or Kathy Egolf ([Pannee@aol.com](mailto:Pannee@aol.com)) if you have items to donate or if you want to volunteer to help out.