

CANAL GATOR TALES

September 2024

Fall Campaign to Support Digitization

We are excited to kick off our Fall fundraising campaign in October to support our digitization program for the Panama Canal Museum Collection. As we have done in the past few years, we will have a 12-week campaign running from October through the end of December and we hope to raise \$11,000 by the end of the year. This amount will match the \$11,000 that the Friends of the PCMC raised with the Silent Auction at the Panama Canal Society Reunion in July.

Starting in October, we have planned a series of posts of the [PCMC Blog](#) to highlight our digital content that is available online freely and worldwide in our [digital collection](#). We have already digitized over 10,000 newspaper issues; 3,000 yearbooks and serials; and 3,000 photos, artifacts, and archival records, but that is a drop in the bucket compared to the hundreds of thousands of items that still need to be digitized. These digital materials are used extensively by Zonians, students, scholars, journalists, and documentary filmmakers, among others. We also routinely digitize all objects that we include in exhibits displayed in the [Albert H. Nahmad Panama Canal Gallery](#), which is dedicated to the Balboa High School Class of 1958.

All funds raised during this Fall campaign, along with the auction proceeds already raised by our Friends, will be contributed towards our [Digitization Fundraising Campaign](#) so that we can continue to digitize our photographs, newspapers, maps, and other treasures. We hope to raise \$60,000 in 2024-25 and another \$60,000 in 2025-26 to hire an employee for two years who will be dedicated to scanning materials from the collection. Your contribution of any amount will directly support our digitization program. In addition, a donation of \$26 or more automatically renews your membership in the Friends of the PCMC; and, with a gift of \$100 or more to the Digitization Campaign, you can request a Panama Canal Centennial Medal while supplies last. If you have questions about your membership or renewal date, please contact Susan Harris at susanharris@ufl.edu or call (352) 273-2505.

Thank you for your generosity in supporting the collection!

Cruise with Friends in 2025

We're excited to announce that once again our Friends group has collaborated with Condor Tours & Travel and Lori Snow to plan a terrific cruise that will help raise funds to support the collection. In 2025, set sail on a **cruise to Canada and New**

England with Norwegian Cruise Line to see the changing leaves in Autumn. Departing from New York on September 21, the 7-day round trip cruise itinerary includes stops in Newport, Rhode Island, Portland, Maine, Bar Harbor, Maine, and St. John's and Halifax in Canada.



For every cabin booked through the travel agent, Condor Tours & Travel will make a donation to UF in the name of the PCMC Friends. We are indeed grateful to Lori Snow and Condor Tours & Travel for their generous support of the collection! For more information see the [cruise flyer](#) and contact the travel agent via email at info@condortt.com or call 770-339-9961.

SCN Canal Zone Happy Hour

As we reported in the last issue, John Nemmers and Betsy Bemis, curators of the Panama Canal Museum Collection, and Paul Myers and Patty Myers, members of the Executive Council of the PCMC Friends, were thrilled to be guests on the *SCN Canal Zone Happy Hour* episode airing on September 6, 2024. In case you missed the program, a recording of the live stream is available on the [SCN Canal Zone Youtube channel](#). Hosts Willy Benninghoff and Ricky Royo were terrific and asked great questions about the collection and our activities. The show also featured a regular feature on Canal Zone History by David Dahlstrom.

Share Your Memories as a Canal Employee

The 2025-26 exhibition in the Nahmad Panama Canal Gallery at UF will focus on Canal employees responsible for ship transits, including admeasurers, pilots, line handlers, lock masters, tug operators, traffic controllers, and towing locomotive operators, among others.



If you have objects such as tools, uniforms, papers, photos, etc., please consider donating them for the exhibition. We're also interested in your memories and stories! We always try to incorporate quotes from memoirs, oral history interviews, or publications in our exhibitions so that visitors can learn firsthand from the people who lived and worked at the Canal. If you have a good memory or story (no matter how short or long) about working in one of these positions, please let us know. You can send your contributions to us via email, or we can schedule time to talk on the phone or via Zoom.

If you are interested in helping us out, please contact Betsy Bemis, Associate Curator, Panama Canal Museum Collection, 352-273-2676, ehbemis@ufl.edu.

Friends Memberships

If you haven't done so already, now is a good time to renew your membership in the Friends of the Panama Canal Museum Collection at UF. If you are not a member already, please consider joining!

The funds collected are used to support education and research through the preservation, conservation, digitization, and processing of the collection. Funds also support the creation and development of local, traveling, and online exhibits that increase awareness about the collection, the Panama Canal, and the people of Panama and the Canal Zone.

We maintain these efforts through the support of friends like you when you join or renew your membership. Dues and donations qualify for tax deductions. Thank you for your continued support of the PCMC at UF. To join or renew membership in the Friends of the Panama Canal Museum Collection visit <https://apps.uflib.ufl.edu/pcmembership/> or call 352-273-2505 for more information.

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



SAVE THESE DATES

October-December 2024. Fall campaign to raise funds for the [Digitization Campaign](#).

Ongoing thru March 2024. [Track Changes exhibition in the Albert H. Nahmad Panama Canal Gallery](#) at UF, which examines the history of the railroad and transcontinental travel on the Isthmus.

Visit the Panama Canal Museum Collection home page at
<https://pcmc.uflib.ufl.edu/>.