EXHIBITS

Department of Special and Area Studies Collections
Smathers Library second floor gallery
Open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.

THE BROADWAY MELODY: Musical Theatre Highlights from the Great White Way 1900-1950
Through April 30, 2010

At the turn of the 20th century, the Broadway musical theatre was an amalgam of European operettas, minstrels and ethnic stereotypes. Eventually this innocent patchwork quilt of entertainment would evolve into a more sophisticated product and, by the second decade, Broadway was the entertainment capital of America, and possibly the world. The creators, performers and productions of the period are showcased in a series of exhibit cases representing Florenz Ziegfeld (who epitomized the flamboyant Broadway impresario) and a handful of the legendary composers (George, M. Cohan, Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Richard Rodgers, Lorenz Hart, Oscar Hammerstein II, Eubie Blake and Thomas “Fats” Waller) who, with their poetic words and lilting music, shaped the modern musical theatre into the taste maker of the nation.

The milestones of the era beginning with Cohan’s “Little Johnny Jones” (1904) through the theatrical masterpieces of “Showboat” (1927) and “Porgy and Bess” (1935), the smash hit all-black musicals such as “Shuffle Along” (1921) and “Hot Chocolates” (1929), the audience’s shocked reaction to the antihero of “Pal Joey” (1940) and culminating in the impact of “Oklahoma” (1943), which redefined the Broadway musical and set the stage for the “Golden Age of Musical Comedy” (1943-64), are all displayed in a collection of vibrant and vintage souvenirs from the history of the “street of dreams.”

This iridescent, melodic and entertaining exhibit will run through April 30. For more information call the Department of Special and Area Studies Collections at (352) 273-2759 or visit the Belknap website at: http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/spec/belknap/belknap.html

Jim Liversidge
Popular Culture Collections

Marston Science Library
Second floor
Places & Spaces – Mapping Science
Through April 30, 2010

Curated by Dr. Katy Börner, Victor H. Yngve Professor of Information Sciences, School of Library and Information Science at Indiana University Bloomington, the exhibition features a variety of maps, diagrams and globes designed to create a navigable landscape charting developments in science. “Places & Spaces” is meant to inspire cross-disciplinary discussion on how to best track and communicate human activity as well as scientific progress on a global scale.

The “Places & Spaces” exhibit demonstrates the power of maps to navigate and make sense of physical places and abstract topic spaces. University students might use maps to see how well a syllabus covers a field’s major topic(s); researchers may be inspired by the maps to seek out different avenues of obtaining scholarly information, thus enhancing their research activities; and faculty members may see teaching opportunities on a scale they had not previously envisioned.

Each year since 2005 ten new maps have been added, which will result in 100 maps by the year 2014. MSL is displaying the first 50 maps which includes “The Power of Maps,” “The Power of Reference Systems,” “The Power of Forecasts,” “Science Maps for Economic Decision Makers,” and “Science Maps for Science Policy Makers.” The “Illuminated Diagram” display combines the high data density
of two large prints – a map of the world and a map of science – with the flexibility of an interactive program driving a touch panel display and two projectors that illuminate the maps. Touching a science area on the lectern’s touch screen leads to an illumination of the origin of all papers on the selected scientific topic in the geographic map.

The World processor globes bring dimensionality to three diverse views of scientific inquiry and global diffusion. Foreign U.S. patent holders are represented in a relationship scaled by productivity; worldwide patent grants are plotted on a global scale through history, and geomorphic representations of areas of exceptional innovation and productivity; finally, science itself is shaped into sculptural form that is generated from the proximity of scientific fields of research to each other.

A reception serving light refreshments will be held at MSL on Thursday, March 18 from 3:15 to 6:00 p.m. During the reception “The Story of Science Maps” will be presented by Börner. Also featured are Dr. Robert Hatch, UF associate professor of history, and Jason Harrington from the UF graduate school of mathematics.

“My dear foolish Zelma”: Smathers Libraries acquires important early letter from Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings to Cross Creek Trial nemesis Zelma Cason

An important letter detailing the nature of the tumultuous relationship between Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and Island Grove resident Zelma Cason has been donated to the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Papers in the Department of Special and Area Studies Collections at George A. Smathers Libraries.

The letter was donated by Lakeland resident Billy Townsend, the grand-nephew of Kate Walton who was part of the legal team that represented Cason in her 1943-1947 libel/invasion of privacy suit against Rawlings. In her 1942 best-selling memoir Cross Creek, Rawlings had characterized Cason as: “an ageless spinner resembling an angry and efficient canary,” which precipitated the suit. Townsend is planning to write a book relating his aunt’s perspective on the famous Cross Creek trial.

My dear foolish Zelma, the thought of coming back to another long grind of hard work with you refusing to be a friend, is very painful to me… It doesn’t seem like Alachua County with you looking at me as if you wished I would drop dead….

This letter is a significant addition to the Rawlings Papers in that it is the only piece of direct correspondence between the two women to be found in the archive. Predating any of the legal squabbles between them by almost ten years; it indicates that the seeds of contention between the two women may have been sown long before the unflattering characterization published in Cross Creek came out in print.

For more information, and to read this fascinating letter in its entirety, please contact the MKR Collection curator, Florence M. Turcotte at turcotte@ufl.edu, or visit the Department of Special and Area Studies Collections on the second floor of Smathers Library.

Elegance of Science art contest winners announced

Winners of the second annual “Elegance of Science” art contest were announced at a reception on February 25 at Marston Science Library. The winning artworks will be on display in the Marston Science Library and the Health Science Center Library. All of the entries can be viewed at www.uflib.ufl.edu/msl/art/slideshow2009.html. The contest is sponsored by the Marston Science Library and the UF Alumni Association, in partnership with the Health Science Center Libraries and the Architecture and Fine Arts Library.

1st place: Mycorrhizas in Full Color by Megan M. Smith
2nd place: Orderly Destruction by Hannah Vander Zanden
3rd place: Fatal Attraction: When the Immune System Goes Bad by Yaima Luzardo and Clayton E. Mathews
Honorable Mention: Roads of Graphene by Victor V. Albert
Alumni Award: Lightning Over the Rappahannock by Wes Marston