The Friends of the George A. Smathers Libraries

The Friends of George A. Smathers Libraries is an expansion of the Howe Society at the George A. Smathers Libraries. The Howe Society was founded in 1980 to commemorate the acquisition by the University of Florida of the Parkman Dexter Howe Library of New England authors.

The mission of the Howe Society is to encourage and help to support the development of the Department of Special and Area Studies Collections at the University of Florida's George A. Smathers Libraries.

During the University of Florida’s Capital Campaign, Florida Tomorrow, it is important for the University of Florida Libraries to achieve the campaign goals of the University of Florida. The new name, The Friends of George A. Smathers Libraries, invites friends, alumni, and faculty and staff with various subject interests to help the UF Libraries to create a better place for our current and future students.

The George A. Smathers Libraries at the University of Florida is a vital and exciting entry to a world of discovery and creativity for individuals and communities of scholars at the University of Florida. The Libraries strive to be at the forefront of providing unlimited access to information in a customer-centered environment where traditional and technology to bring information to the world.

In the past decade, the rapid pace of change in academic libraries has been breathtaking. New methods of discovering, retrieving, and using information have led to increased expectations from library users. Technology has changed the way materials are purchased, accessed, utilized, and stored. As we look to the future, the Friends of George A. Smathers Libraries will engage in activities that enhance the ability of the libraries to stimulate learning and research through your annual membership and gifts. The Friends' contributions are used to:

- Acquire materials in emerging areas of teaching and research interest
- Strengthen access to electronic, digital, and other non-print resources
- Protect and preserve rare and scarce library materials
- Recruit and retain expert librarians who can guide users through the complex information environment
- Provide well-designed spaces that are conducive to learning and study

We invite you to join us to help UF Libraries become a better place for Florida Tomorrow. Please join the Friends of George A. Smathers Libraries and invest in Florida Tomorrow.