

ABSTRACT: (Provide **one** paragraph describing your proposed FEO project in a way that can be understood by colleagues outside your discipline, alumni, and educated members of the general public.

This Faculty Enhancement Opportunity was conceived as a result of the George A. Smathers Libraries receiving, due to the economic downturn and subsequent closing in 2012, collection materials from the Panama Canal Museum in Seminole, Florida. The museum was the only one in the world founded to preserve the history of the United States in Panama (1904-1999). The Libraries at the University of Florida were awarded a three-year National Leadership grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) that began in October 2012 and will extend through September 2015. The FEO applicant is the co-PI for the grant and will lead project implementation. The IMLS award enables the Libraries to evaluate, preserve and integrate items from the Museum. The items will undergo conservation, select digitization, and have the opportunity to be viewed in national/international exhibitions. The Libraries, along with collaborative partners, will lead a year-long multi-institutional centennial celebration in 2014 to promote the Panama Canal Museum Collection at UF and resources available for scholarly, educational and civic purposes. The FEO will allow the investigator to bring 5 key international personnel to UF and to collect audio and video interviews, to post these (bilingual) interviews in the University of Florida Digital Collections, and to use portions of the interviews in digital and on-site exhibitions for the centennial, particularly to support work/life diversity issues. The key personnel will be invited to present or have their videotaped presentations shown during the Center for Latin American Studies spring 2014 symposium. The central theme for the 2014 symposium is to focus on Panama.

Please submit a 2-4 page *curriculum vitae* / resume with your application. (Please do not submit a longer CV. Failure to include a CV or inclusion of a CV longer than 4 pages may disqualify you.)

GOALS FOR FEO:

(List 3 to 5 succinct goals)

1. Expansion of the collection of oral histories currently available in the Panama Canal Museum Collection to include West Indian origin (Glenroy O. James Grant, President, Sociedad de Amigos del Museo Afro-Antillano de Panamá), and to record family work/life history of involvement in the construction of the Panama Canal.
2. Digitization of interviews conducted at the University of Florida involving exhibition fabricators from the Nationaal Baggermuseum in Sliedrecht (the Netherlands) as they ship and recreate the Baggermuseum model of the Panama Canal for use in the centennial exhibition (Ronald de Heer and Dick Kamsteeg).
3. Engagement of key Panamanian cultural entities through invitations to participate in seminars, presentations and events during the centennial celebration (Angeles Ramas Baquero, Directora, Museo del Canal Interoceánico de Panamá and Raul Castro, Secretario General del INAC (Instituto Nacional de Cultura) and UNESCO Memory of the World Project).