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## In Development

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### ALA Gathers UCF Friends & Donors in Seattle



While in Seattle to attend the American Library Association Mid-Winter meeting, Barry B. Baker, Director of Libraries, hosted *The UCF Libraries...Past, Present, and Future*, an event that provided library updates to UCF alumni and donors. Attendees enjoyed discussions with members of the library faculty, flipping through yearbooks, and reminiscing about time spent in the library. Special thanks are extended to Jeff Lehman, UCF Alumni Chapter Leader for the Seattle area, for his assistance in the planning and execution of the event.

If you would like to have the UCF Libraries represented at your event or gathering, please contact the Library Development Office at (407) 823-5982 or e-mail [Dwain Teague](mailto:Dwain.Teague@ucf.edu).



Dr. Linda Colding, Associate Librarian; Jeff Lehman, Seattle Chapter Leader; Barbara (UCF Class of '79) & Herman Lanier; and Carole Hinshaw, Head of Reference



### Did you know . . .

The UCF Libraries delivers documents to UCF students living as far away as Switzerland, in support of UCF's distributed learning programs.

### Alumni Spotlight

#### *Elisabeth DeVos*



Elisabeth DeVos, UCF Class of '86, presenting a signed copy of her novel (*Seraphim Rising*) to Barry Baker, Director of Libraries

Elisabeth DeVos majored in computer science at UCF, graduating summa cum laude at age twenty in 1986. "I wanted to get a degree that I knew would be marketable so that when I figured out what I really wanted to be when I grew up, I would be able to afford to change careers." As it turned out, four years post-graduation, she decided that software development was not her cup of tea. Elisabeth went back to UCF and took a creative writing course. That course was the beginning of her fiction career.

Following a move to Seattle in 1993, Elisabeth enrolled in the University of Washington Extension Writers Certificate Program and earned a certificate in science fiction and fantasy writing. Her first novel, *The Seraphim Rising*, was begun in that program, and sold shortly after completion two years later.

Since the publication of her first novel, Elisabeth has had short fiction appear in *Talebones* magazine and the anthology *Imagination Fully Dilated*. Her first essay appeared in the anthology *Mapping the World of Harry Potter*. She is currently working on the second draft of a new novel.

Although Elisabeth didn't stay in the software field, as a speculative fiction writer working in the information age, she is very glad for her computer science background. "My experiences at UCF feel very fortuitous to me. When I originally enrolled, admissions had been kept open due to some last minute funding, so I was able to decide in August I wanted to attend and start right away. When I returned as a post-baccalaureate, there just happened to be some space in a senior-level creative writing seminar and the instructor let me stay even though I lacked the prerequisites. Because my stories combine elements of both science fiction and fantasy, it's always struck me as delightfully appropriate that my alma mater's seal combines the fantasy element of Pegasus with the futuristic motto **'Reach for the Stars.'**"

Thank you, Elisabeth, for your support of the UCF Libraries!

### Giving to the UCF Libraries

It is now easier than ever to show your support for the UCF Libraries! A few clicks of your mouse will enable you to make a tax-deductible gift that will greatly impact the UCF Libraries, and all of the students, faculty, staff, and friends that utilize our resources.

To make your gift online, go to our [Online Giving](http://library.ucf.edu/giving) site. You may designate your gift to specific funds within the library, and you may also designate gifts "In Honor" or "In Memory" of friends or family.

A gift of \$50 will enable you to honor someone with a personalized book plate. The illustration on the right is an example of a book plate. A personalized note will be sent to the honoree notifying them that you have honored them at the UCF Libraries.

Please contact the Library Development Office at (407) 823-0564 for instructions on how to make a gift.

As always, thank you for your support of the UCF Libraries.

