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Dick Pope and his wife Julie opened the very first theme park in Florida on January 2, 1936—over seventy years ago. The self-described ‘Salesman of Sunny Florida’ carved a lakeside garden out of a swamp during the Great Depression. By 1938, Cypress Gardens had over 8,000 varieties of tropical and subtropical plants from all over the world, and electric boats that toured the carefully landscaped park on the shores of Lake Eloise.

Over time, Pope’s publicity talents helped to build central Florida into the tourism mecca it is today.

To learn more about Dick Pope, and to view photographs and artifacts related to his life and legacy, come see the full display in the Library. The exhibit is scheduled to run through the middle of December.
Fall Student Assistants

Katelyn Mosley
Born in Colombia and raised in South Florida, Katelyn is currently a senior at Rosen. She has worked with several other on-campus organizations such as LEAD Scholars and both the Rosen and Hercules Area Councils. She has just returned from studying in Angers, France with the UCF/Rosen Study Abroad Program. Katelyn hopes to revisit Europe after she graduates to do more touring!

Elise Ng
Yan (Elise) Ng is a Sophomore from Hong Kong Polytechnic University, where she received her Associates degree in Tourism Management. Elise recently spent a year working at Walt Disney World in Epcot’s China Pavilion. She is majoring in Hospitality Management and would like to go into Hotel Management after graduation.

Chen Tian
Chen is an International student from Wuhan, China, spending her sophomore year studying here at Rosen College. Chen hopes to continue her undergraduate, and eventually graduate, studies at Griffith University in Australia.

Meet Sandra Varry, our new Sr. Library Tech Assistant

Sandra grew up in Indiana and moved to Southwest Florida at 16. She received her undergraduate degree in Art from the University of South Florida. In May of 2002 she graduated from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a Master of Fine Arts in Photography. After teaching photography and art appreciation for seven years, she returned home to Florida last year.

She most recently worked for the library at Edison College in Ft. Myers and also taught photography. Sandra is currently responsible for periodicals, interlibrary loan, organizing the stacks, and training library and student assistants. Sandra’s outside interests include collecting antique photographs, books, and papers and which she also uses in her personal photography. She is interested in pursuing another Master’s degree, this time in Library Science.