

# Stringed instruments, George Bernard Shaw dramas hold appeal for Sandy D'Alemberte

Special to the Democrat

A few artful questions from COCA for Sandy D'Alemberte, President Emeritus of Florida State University.

**Q: Can you play a musical instrument?**

**A:** I can no longer play a trombone but I played in the Chattahoochee High School Band, like most of my classmates. In that small high school, most of us also played sports.

**Q: Do you own any original art?**

**A:** My wife, Patsy Palmer (who is responsible for so much of our cultural life), has collected some wonderful pieces of outsider art from all over the country, but largely in the South.

**Q: What was the first concert you ever attended?**



**Former Florida State University President Sandy D'Alemberte and his wife, Patsy Palmer.**

**A:** I am not positive. Probably a band concert in Tallahassee, but perhaps an orchestra concert in Boston during World War II.

**Q; What book is on your nightstand right now?**



**A:** "Make No Law: The Sullivan Case and the First Amendment," by Anthony Lewis.

**Q: What was the last time you danced?**

**A:** The last time I remember was in 1990 in the Kremlin. The occasion was the concluding dinner of a very successful conference of Soviet and U.S. lawyers and judges.

**Q: What was the last live performance you saw?**

**A:** I believe it was Shaw's "Heartbreak House," but it was definitely one of the Shaw plays at the Niagara Festival in Canada.

**Q: What movie has most affected you?**

**A:** Probably "Inherit the Wind," for its reminder of how ignorance can bring even decent people to do evil things.

**Q: When was the last time you were on a stage?**

**A:** Apart from speeches, it would go back to my time as (university) president and a short appearance in an opera cast.

**Q: What artistic talent do you wish you had?**

**A:** Many, but at the top would be the talent to play stringed instruments, with violin and banjo competing for first place.

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