FROM THE DEAN’S DESK – Dr. Celine Lang

It all started with a paper airplane. Emeritus Professor John Russell, a tireless advocate for Library resources, was chair of the Faculty Library Committee for many years, and devoted member of that committee for many more years. I had the opportunity to thank Dr. Russell at the time of his retirement. Reading a 4-page, single-spaced letter from a parent taught me a lot more – about how Dr. Russell has guided her two young sons over a long period of time. Learning in 1998 that one of these young men wanted to do a science project on a paper airplane, Dr. Russell began meeting with them and their mother at the beginning of each school year, and continued the discussions by email. Their mother writes: “We always took notes and even taped the ‘lectures’ as we called the meetings . . . Dr. Russell always made time out of his busy schedule to see the children and always made us feel welcome. . . Dr. Russell always had some references for us to check, a book in his office or a reference at the FIT Library.” The first project, “Paper Airplane and Dihedral Angle: Does the Dihedral Angle of a Paper Airplane Affect Flight Performance?” took first place in the school physical sciences division and a third place at the district science fair. A later project, “Does the Surface on Which the Euler’s Disk Spin Affect the Length the Disk Will Spin?” took first place for the 6th grade in the district science fair and was awarded the Outstanding Project in the Physical Sciences Division for the district. This young man’s brother, under Dr. Russell’s guidance, has won first place in the physical sciences division at his school every year, first in the district for four consecutive years, and Outstanding Physical Sciences Project for the last 3 years. His 2003-2004 project, “Axial and Angular Displacement: Does the Distance Between the Rods of the Shoot the Moon Affect the Distance the Ball Will Roll on the Rods?” drew the attention of one of the judges, a NASA scientist, who invited further discussion. This tribute to Dr. Russell rightly comes to focus on two exceptional young students, and on their mother, who has been their coach and an active partner in their learning. Of their meetings with Dr. Russell she said they “learned every year a little more and were able to build on their knowledge year after year.” The judge told one of her sons: “You almost won last year but another boy got it,” to which her son replied, “I know . . . it was my brother!” It is a pleasure to honor these young men, their mother, and Dr. Russell, and to extend a warm invitation to the Evans Library at Florida Tech, at any time.

DISPLAYS, DISPLAYS, DISPLAYS

“Rediscovering Lewis and Clark” continues in the Evans Library lobby. Accompanied by a four-minute multimedia presentation created by the Library’s instructional programs technician Joanne Savage, this first-floor display features books, government information, Internet sites, journal excerpts, and much more information about the so-called “Corps of Discovery” appointed by President Thomas Jefferson in the early 1800s. Of particular note is a journal replica that contains excerpts from each expedition day that parallels the days of this exhibit’s run. Also continuing is the Library’s third-floor Federal Depository display on readily available genealogical information. Featured are findings from U.S. Census Records, Bureau of Land Management documents, the National Archives and Records Administration, the U.S. Social Security Death Index, and The War of the Rebellion, as well as references to resources available through the nearby Central Brevard Library and Reference Center in Cocoa. Details about the Library’s “Cook It By The Book II” cookbook are located in another lobby display. Still available for just $10, this 2002 publication may be ordered by sending an email message to Natalie Madden at nmadden@fit.edu, calling 321-674-8086, stopping by the Library, or completing an online order form on the LINK.

July 27, 1804, William Clark (from his expedition journal)

“...as we were Setting out to day one man Killed a Buck & another Cut his Knee verry bad.”

A TO Z JOURNAL LIST DEBUTS

Evans Library now offers an exciting new service that will greatly facilitate users’ ability to locate periodical articles. The “A to Z Journal List,” found on the LINK’s (www.lib.fit.edu) Express Links list and under Research Resources, is an alphabetical listing of all Evans Library’s periodical titles available in print, microform, or electronic full text. In addition, titles available in electronic full text now have individual records in the Library’s catalog.