FROM THE DEAN’S DESK – SPOTLIGHT ON PATRON ACCESS STAFF

Patron Access staff members Lil Bickley, Ilona Mueller, Arlene Ferguson, and Scott Blackwell are in the Library Spot light for February. Patron Access staff are on the front line at the Library Service Desk, welcoming and helping every student, faculty, and community visitor to the Library. Presenting special awards to Lil, Ilona, Arlene, and Scott on November 7, Assistant Director Wendy Helmstetter noted “years of outstanding service, under circumstances that require the height of mindfulness, special expertise and professionalism.”

The Library and Florida Tech have been fortunate to have Lil Bickley, Assistant Service Desk Manager, since 1987. She attended University of London Goldsmiths College, raised four lovely children, pursued a career in social work and public service in London, and attended Nelson Mandela’s address to the House of Parliament in Westminster Hall before coming to Florida. Lil is an adviser to the Caribbean Students Association and represented the Library for many years on the Botanical Garden Committee. Lil manages the Library’s Faculty Reserves Collection. Lil is gracious, discerning, and fully dedicated to the students at Florida Tech.

Ilona Mueller has been with us since 1993. She is outstanding as Night Supervisor, taking full responsibility for managing the entire Library during evening hours, when Library staffing is minimal and university support services may not be available. She looks after the safety and security of the patrons, staff, building, and collections with expert judgment and appropriate action. Ilona has had a lot of practice, beginning her library career at the age of 11, working in her grade school library. Ilona has four children, participates in many community activities, and holds a certificate as a Master Gardner.

Weekend Supervisor Arlene Ferguson joined the Library in 1999. Like Ilona, Arlene takes full responsibility for the Library during times when staffing is minimal and university services may not be available. She too manages every circumstance with the utmost professionalism. Arlene worked extensively in Long Island, NY before moving to Florida. She is widely traveled, is an expert baker, plays the violin, and studies French. Arlene recently welcomed a grand-daughter, Anna Marie, into her family.

Scott Blackwell, Senior Library Technician for Evenings and Weekends, joined us in 2001. His work is essential for smooth and uninterrupted Library service, including extended hours of service during exam time each semester. Scott holds a BA in History from Huntington College in Montgomery, AL. He served 12 years in the Armored Cavalry of the Army National Guard, receiving the Order of the Spur, a highly coveted honor. An expert marksman and student of Tai Chi, Scott also plays guitar and bass and pursues his interests in history, philosophy, and religion.

Thank you, Lil, Ilona, Arlene, and Scott, for your work as a team and for your individual contributions to Library Service.

SPRING 2005 GRADUATE RESEARCH WORKSHOPS – REGISTRATION DEADLINE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Monday, February 14, is the deadline for graduate students to register for the Library’s Spring 2005 graduate research workshops. These three identical workshops will be held on Thursday, February 17, 5:30 – 9:00 p.m., Friday, February 18, 1:00 – 4:30 p.m., and Saturday, February 19, 8:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. in the Edwin A. Link Multimedia Room. Geared toward the research needs of graduate students, especially those preparing theses and dissertations, each of the three sessions will include three distinct one-hour modules: #1) research essentials, #2) LINK features, resources, and services, and #3) subject-specific break-out sessions. Again, required reservations, which must include name, the last four digits of the Florida Tech ID number, email address, phone number(s), date of requested workshop, and student’s program of study, are due by midnight Monday, February 14. To register or to receive more information, graduate students who are interested may contact Joanne Savage, Instructional Programs Technician, at jsavage@fit.edu or at x7656, or may visit the Library News section of the LINK.

IEEE XPLORE TRAINING – FEBRUARY 16

IEEE’s Ruth Wolfish is coming to Florida Tech to conduct a training session on effectively using the IEEE Xplore full-text system. All interested faculty and engineering graduate students are invited to attend. The training session will take place in P-133 from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 16. Refreshments will be provided courtesy of IEEE. For further information, contact Evans Library Assistant Director Tom McFarland at mcfarlan@fit.edu or at 674-7540.

DISPLAYS

Florida Tech faculty publications are a new focus of an Evans Library display. Ever-changing and continuing for the next several months, this collection of published journal articles and books can be found in a first-floor lobby display case.

Continuing is a first-floor display of information resources related to a cross-disciplinary topic - fractals. “Fractals Rock!” includes books, government publications, journal articles, Internet site references, and real-life examples of this colorful self-repeating geometry. This combined display is complemented by an exhibit of fractal art created by local engineer Frank Milordi, also known as the artist FAVIO. With connections to Florida Tech’s physical, engineering, and mathematical sciences programs, this popular display and exhibit educate and entertain.

“Health Matters” is the focus of a second-floor federal depository display. Diet, exercise, stress, substance abuse, sexually transmitted disease, and pain are just a few of the subjects covered by a variety of books, pamphlets, periodicals, congressional hearings, reports, and other government publications. Provided free is a flyer listing government sites devoted to some of today’s hottest topics in health.