FROM THE DEAN’S DESK: The Library Building: What Do You Think?

The Evans Library building celebrated its 20th birthday on September 24, 2004, as hurricane Jeanne hovered off the Florida coast. Do you think that the Library building has sustained the ability to fulfill its mission into the present decade and can sustain that ability into the next decades? I say “Yes!” and I am not alone! With some attention to the interior, the Library can qualify for major awards including the American Institute of Architects 25-year award, “recognizing architectural design of enduring significance, conferred on a project that has stood the test of time for 25 to 35 years.”

Recently our vision of the Library received support from notable sources. The architect of the building, James R. DeStefano (then with Skidmore, Owings and Merrill and now CEO of DeStefano and Partners) wrote to us on September 13, 2004:

“I am particularly proud of my experience with FIT and the Evans Library because I feel that I have had a part in creating an environment where pursuit of technological knowledge and discovery is an important mission. Most importantly, I am very pleased that, despite the worst that nature has dealt to your state in decades, the Evans Library remains intact and ready to serve the FIT community for many more generations.”

Skidmore, Owings and Merrill partner, George Efstatthiou, wrote on August 24, 2004:

“It is gratifying to hear that our work has played a part in the success of the library, but I am sure that it is the commitment of Florida Tech that was the impetus behind its success. We are extremely excited about your intention to submit for the American Institute of Architects 25-year award program. SOM has more 25-year AIA awards than any other firm in the world and would be happy to assist you at the appropriate time.”

Stay tuned next month to hear what the members of the Faculty Library Committee have to say. Committee member William Allen framed the vision very well:

“Our goal is not to improve our existing library but to create a new environment for research and teaching that incorporates both the latest in technology (wireless computing, digital imaging, etc.) and the latest in social and educational approaches to learning (group interactions, on-line collaborations, etc.) Our vision is a facility that allows both individuals and small groups to work anywhere in the building or from remote locations, accessing all of the information that they need for their research without having to find its physical location or worry about its format, sharing, revising and discussing their documents in a way that is most conducive to learning.”

SEPRI RECEIVES FACULTY APPOINTMENT

Ann H. Sepri has been appointed to the Library faculty as Research Librarian. Ms. Sepri received her MLS from University of Rhode Island and has experience in reference service, instruction, collection development, supervision, interlibrary loan, and library liaison. She began her professional career as a special librarian for an insurance firm, later establishing her own fee-based information brokerage. At the University of Oklahoma, she held the position of business/economics reference librarian and visiting instructor for the library school.