FROM THE DEAN’S DESK: AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE PUBLIC PRINTER

In March of this year, the Public Printer, Robert Tapella, sent an open letter to President Barack Obama informing him that the Government Printing Office fully supports Obama’s initiative for transparency and open government. Tapella expressed the GPO’s and the Federal Depository Libraries’ unique position to support the initiative and suggested five goals toward that end:

- the development of Application Programming Interfaces that can be used by any number of software applications
- the use of Web 2.0 to get public comment on pending legislation
- the application of Web 2.0 features to rulemaking documents published in the Federal Register to learn what additional features and online capabilities users seek
- the leadership of efforts to standardize electronic publishing formats with the cooperation of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) e-Government and Information Group and
- linking the White House to GPO’s site for public searches of government documents.

This is an exciting time for Florida Tech to be part of the Federal Depository Library Program. We can give input concerning the usability of Web 2.0 for information searches, and we can give significant input into how future government information is made available to “we the people” who own it.

SUMMER 2009 GRADUATE RESEARCH WORKSHOP – DATE SET

The date has been set for the Library’s Summer 2009 graduate research workshops. This half-day event will be held Friday, June 19, from 1:00 – 4:30. Registration deadline is Monday, June 15. More information can be found on the LINK under Library News or directly at www.lib.fit.edu/pubs/workshops.

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DISPLAY

by Deb Cook, Government Information Librarian

Brand-new to the Library is a third-floor display entitled “Federal Depository Libraries: We Cover It All.” Currently this display features American architecture and historic places. Thanks to student assistant Anthony Costantini for his research into government information and his creative touches! You’d be surprised at the variety of subjects the Federal Government is interested in documenting. So visit often as the display changes its subject and introduces documents you never knew we had!

CONTINUING DISPLAYS

Two Library displays continue. One celebrates Florida Tech’s 50th anniversary. The other is a colorful collection of miniature landscapes by Celine Lang called Other Worlds.

LIBRARY HOURS

The Library will observe the following May hours:

- Thursday, May 7
  - 8:00 a.m. – midnight

- Friday, May 8
  - noon – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 9 & Sunday, May 10

CLOSED

Beginning Monday, May 11, the Library will observe its summer hours:

- Monday – Thursday
  - 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

- Friday
  - 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

- Saturday
  - CLOSED

- Sunday
  - 2:00 – 10:00 p.m.

MVP – LIBRARY’S ARLENE FERGUSON

by Wendy Helmstetter, Director of Resources & Services

Since Arlene Ferguson joined the Library in June 1999, her work schedule has involved nights, weekends, late nights, extra hours, and variations given whatever the circumstances require. She has participated in all manner of job development, continually increasing her professional scope of expertise. Arlene has become the best public services manager the Library could have.

Arlene manages the Library’s scheduling to be certain that all services are fully effective. If changes need to be made, Arlene makes it happen. Her leadership and management expertise have helped to make it possible for the Library to offer extended hours (until 2:00 a.m.) at the end of each semester.

Each year, Arlene manages the hiring, training, and mentoring of 50 – 60 student assistants. She tracks their progress, oversees the program administration, and celebrates their contributions through our student assistant parties each semester.

Arlene is a key participant in a mission-critical role on the Library’s Disaster Preparedness Planning Team. In the event of an alarm or other event requiring evacuation of the building, everyone, including the Dean, follows Arlene’s directives as she assures the safety of the patrons, the staff, the collections, and the facility itself.

Arlene is an example of goodwill toward all. Over the many years that she has worked here, she has never forgotten a birthday. Arlene goes out of her way to recognize each and everyone. She is extremely generous in every respect, including her spirit of benevolence and caring about her colleagues. Arlene is an outstanding individual, and we congratulate her as this month’s Most Valuable Panther!