FROM THE DEAN’S DESK: BOARD OF TRUSTEES VISIT

I had the honor of giving the luncheon address for the Board of Trustees on Friday, October 30.

I explained that Library faculty teach research strategies courses multiple times a semester, in the summer, and now online. I welcome each class by asking what they think Isaac Newton meant when he wrote: *If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.* After a moment’s thought, they reply that even Newton had to know about the discoveries of others before he could make new ones of his own. I ask if Newton’s words are relevant to them and their academic excellence. They are pretty sure the correct answer is yes and I emphasize that advancement of knowledge is cumulative. The challenge never ends to see what’s gone before if we are to envision the future. I remind them that Florida Tech’s mission is to encourage intellectual curiosity. Florida Tech is a research university. Florida Tech will provide research opportunities for each of them.

Our job in the Library is to help them, wherever they may be, whenever they need help. Our job is about transcending space and time to help every on–campus and far-distant student. Our Library must be an any-time, any-place place.

Today, our students on campus or halfway around the world want and need everything Isaac had and we had 25 years ago and much, much more. They need an anytime-anyplace library, a place and an interface to the world’s information, designed just for them. We are transforming the Library into a Learning Commons to meet their needs.

“COMPLEMENTARITY” EXHIBIT DEBUTS

The rich interdependence of Florida Tech research and the federal government is the theme of a new display in the lobby of Evans Library entitled “Complementarity: Growing Knowledge Together - Florida Tech and the U.S. Government.” Using the DNA double helix as a symbol, the display illustrates the complex ties and intertwining between

- Funding support by agencies of the U.S. government for research of all kinds at Florida Tech
- The creation of new knowledge from this research as reflected in government publications and patents by funded researchers
- Florida Tech scholars’ frequent use of government information in writing peer-reviewed articles.

The status of Evans Library as an official depository for U.S. government information is closely allied with the success of research on campus. Designated a Federal Depository Library in 1963, the Library has received over 200,000 print documents free of charge and electronic links to the full text of over 34,000 more, all of which are available to Florida Tech researchers, faculty, and students. The display includes many U.S. documents written by Florida Tech faculty and many examples of scholarly, peer-reviewed articles written with citations to documents that may be found in the depository collection on third floor.

A handmade model of the DNA molecule by Dr. C.P. Polson of Biological Sciences serves as a visual portrayal of the display’s theme: “Complementarity: Growing Knowledge Together - Florida Tech and the U.S. Government.”

ASK A MOBILE LIBRARIAN – SERVICE CONTINUES

The Library’s ACITC-grant-funded service, Ask a Mobile Librarian, continues into November, a peak season for work on papers, projects, and presentations. With laptop in hand, Instruction Librarian Rebecca Weber will be available for research consultations at the following times and places:

- Monday, November 2
  1:00 – 3:00 p.m.  Denius Student Center
- Thursday, November 5
  1:00 – 3:00 p.m.  Crawford 4th-floor Lounge (#407)
- Thursday, November 12
  1:00 – 3:00 p.m.  Olin Engineering Student Lounge (#236)
- Monday, November 16
  7:00 – 9:00 p.m.  Harris Village Multi-purpose Area

CONGRATULATIONS, JOHANNA-LAINA FISCHER!

In mid-October, first-year student Johanna-Laina Fischer was selected as the winner of an iPod Touch, the main prize that was given in conjunction with the Library’s Fall 2009 survey. Johanna-Laina was not the only winner; the Library won big-time! Approximately 550 students, faculty, staff, and administrators had provided their answers to this important question: Where do YOU go for information for academic assignments, papers, projects, presentations, or research? Responses were collected both online and by paper forms and were then analyzed by SurveyMonkey. Not surprisingly, Google, peers, and Library databases were the top choices. As always, information gathered will be studied and considered as decisions are made about Library services and resources.

Johanna-Laina Fischer, an Astronomy and Astrophysics major, receives her new iPod Touch from Dr. Celine Lang, Dean of Libraries.