FROM THE DEAN'S DESK: FOCUS ON DR. GORDON NELSON

Dean Gordon Nelson traced the history of research at Florida Tech on September 8, to a standing-room-only audience. His address was a high point of the Library’s Florida Tech Research Showcase featuring the College of Science. His remarks brought to life in one hour a panoramic vision of fifty-two years of research in all disciplines at Florida Tech. “[A] man of amazing energy and conviction,” Dr. Nelson has led the College of Science for 21+ years. His scientific accomplishments as a polymer chemist include authorship of in excess of 200 publications on the properties of polymers that make them decompose when they get hot, catch fire, and release smoke and toxic gasses. He has developed ways to make polymers more fire-safe, saving lives through chemistry. Dr. Nelson was then honored at a reception, which was held near the first-floor lobby exhibit and featured his favorite chocolates.

LIBRARY DISPLAYS

The Evans Library's ongoing display, Florida Tech Research Showcase – College Series, will continue to highlight College of Science research through October. Organized by its departments, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Mathematical Sciences, Physics & Space Sciences, and Science & Mathematics Education, the exhibit amply demonstrates international collaborations and far-reaching scientific applications that result in higher quality of life, health, security, teaching, learning, environment, and understanding.

One of the fascinating resources found in the display’s Biological Sciences case is a 1786 copy of The Natural History of Many Curious and Uncommon Zoophytes. On loan from Dr. Rob van Woesik, this volume was the first book to document corals.

FALL 2010 GRADUATE RESEARCH WORKSHOPS

On Friday, September 24, and Saturday, September 25, a total of thirty-eight Florida Tech graduate students participated in two separate graduate research workshops. Geared toward the bibliographic research needs of master's and doctoral students, this three-module seminar covered essential search strategies, important Evans Library resources and services, and specialized scholarly databases. Aside from giving very high ratings for the library faculty on the sessions’ evaluation forms, a record number of participants provided written comments. Some excerpts are:

“…I had no idea…”
“…makes our job easier and saves time!”
“…useful tips…”
“…info not given elsewhere…”
“…eye-opener”
“…What a great experience!”

The next graduate research workshops will be offered in Spring 2011.