FROM THE DEAN’S DESK: OPEN ACCESS WEEK

During October, we will be celebrating Open Access Week (October 22 - 28) in the library. Open Access refers to free and immediate online access to scholarly research and the right to use those results. You may be familiar with Open Access publishers like Public Library of Science or the Open Access Text Book project. This is the sixth year that Open Access Week has been celebrated all around the world. The Evans Library is planning some fun and informative events to mark the week.

WELCOME, HOLLY MILLER!

The Evans Library welcomes Dr. Holly Miller, Director of the Research Collection. Dr. Miller has a Ph.D. in biochemistry from Wake Forest University and an MSLIS from Syracuse University. Most recently, she was the Director of the Marine Biological Laboratory – Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Library and Associate Director of the MBL Center for Library and Informatics. She is the library’s new Information Advocate for the Biological Sciences and Chemistry departments. Her research interests include developing best practices for archiving, organizing, and visualizing digital information and data, ontologies, and the semantic web for libraries. She continues to watch with interest developments in her previous fields of research: DNA replication and protein structure.

BEYOND WORDS!

The fourth floor of the library, with its anti-gravity chairs, is THE place to kick back and relax when you want some comfortable quiet time during a busy day. With the hustle and bustle of life here at Florida Tech, there are very few places on campus that offer absolute silence to do anything from relaxing between classes, reading a book or studying for a test. The fourth floor of the library has the silent zone and has four anti-gravity chairs that recline to a level that elevates your legs above your heart, while cradling your back with just the right amount of lumbar support. It is by far the most comfortable way to read a book or study for a test. The idea for the ergonomically designed chair was originally inspired by NASA who had built chairs to keep an astronaut’s feet above the heart to counteract the force of gravity during a launch. So even if you don’t feel like relaxing or studying in these chairs, you could always pretend you are an astronaut ready for a launch. Finally, I would advise anyone who plans on taking a nap in the chairs to do so at his or her own risk. I have personally had a 20-minute power nap turn into a three-hour slumber party in the library.

STRAWBRIDGE ART LEAGUE EXHIBIT

In October, Once Upon a Time will debut at the Evans Library. This juried Strawbridge Art League exhibit features paintings and sculpture that call to mind favorite stories. All are invited to celebrate the show at the Gala Opening Reception to be held in the library’s lobby on Friday, October 12, 4 - 6 p.m. The Viewers’ Choice Award will be given.

LIBRARY DISPLAYS

Continuing in the library is a display, Edmund Skellings, Poet of Technology, which features inspiring memorabilia and publications of the late Dr. Edmund Skellings. Dr. Skellings was known for applying “audio, video and digital communication techniques to modernize poetry for the 21st Century.” The exhibit’s online counterpart, available at http://lib.fit.edu/library-displays/201202.php, includes an interview with Diane Newman, Evans Library Archive Manager and longtime friend and colleague of Dr. Skellings, as well as moving selections read by the poet.