The Friends of Florida A&M University Libraries hosted its fifth Annual Awards Gala and silent auction at the Leon County Civic Center. The theme of the evening event was “Celebrating Distinguished Achievement, Altruism, and Service.” This year’s gala honored and recognized four notable honorees – Mrs. Geraldine Roberts, Mrs. Alexis Roberts McMillan, Dr. George Clark, and Dr. James H. Ammons.

Dr. Lauren Sapp, Director of Libraries, gave the history of the Friends organization, stating that its major fund raiser was the annual gala. She stated that the Friends’ long term goal was to establish an endowment for Florida A&M University Libraries. The mother and daughter team, Mrs. Geraldine Roberts and Mrs. Alexis McMillan, local pharmacists and owners of Economy Drug Store, were both recognized with distinguished achievement and community service awards for their service to the African American community, since the days of segregation in Tallahassee. Dr. George Clark, Associate Professor, FAMU School of Business and Industry, was honored as a distinguished educator and professor. He remarked that his first job was as a student assistant in a library at the University of Illinois. He stated that the job of locating books not only taught him how to use the library, but gave him a special fondness for libraries.

Dr. James H. Ammons, President of Florida A&M University, emphasized after receiving his award for distinguished achievement and leadership, that he was committed to working with the FAMU Libraries. He recalled his days as an undergraduate at FAMU, and stated that at that time he had a special spot in the library to study. Dr. Ammons reflected on new trends in higher education, and how they impacted the library, and indicated that education “has gone from paper based to computer based learning.” Dr. Ammons stated that he is a friend of the Libraries and is committed to making sure that students have adequate resources for their studies.

Distinguished service awards were also presented to library employees. Ms. Joyce Johnson, Assistant Director Public Services, received the Librarian of the Year Award. Ms. Tammye Doe, Senior Fiscal Assistant, was presented the Support Staff of the Year Award.

In closing remarks, Friends president Margaret B. Jones reiterated that, “the Friends organization is dedicated to supporting the Florida A&M University Libraries, and that membership is open to all those who share an interest in the Libraries.”


Photos by Gloria Woody

~DaVinci Metcalf and Gloria Woody~

I find that a great part of the information I have was acquired by looking something up and finding something else on the way. –Franklin P. Adams~
The winner of the University Libraries’ naming contest for the digital repository is Veronica McCarthy of the Registrar’s office.

The University Libraries have implemented a digital portal which will reside on the Libraries’ website. It will encompass all resources that are electronically accessible. The portal will include a repository that will be open to university-wide publications and documents, including student and faculty research.

When searching for a name for the repository, it was decided to give the entire campus the opportunity to select the name. After a day or so of deliberations and eliminations the University Libraries’ Information Commons Group selected, FAMU Digital Resource Center, submitted by Veronica McCarthy. For her winning entry she was presented with a large beautiful gift basket designed by Library Technical Assistant, Jacqueline Hickman.

Veronica is the daughter of the late Margaret Wilson who was a librarian at the former FAMU Technology Library. Veronica stated that her mother would be proud of her interest in FAMU Libraries.

The FAMU Online Catalog

The University Libraries have some new features added to the online catalog bibliographic records. These features enhance searching and research capabilities.

Three new features are “cite this,” “txt,” and ReWorks”. The “cite this” feature shows how an item should look in your bibliography/reference list. Citation styles choices are APA, Chicago, Harvard, MLA and Turabian. The text messaging feature allows one to send the title and location of a record to a mobile phone via text messaging. The ReWorks feature allows one to export citations to a “my folder” and export them all when needed.

~Saiyed Ahmad~


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The Digital Commons News

And the winner is ....

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~Cornelia Taylor~

The Showcase for Coleman event raised $1,699.00 this year. It was held on January 29, 2008 in Lee Hall Auditorium. The Showcase for Coleman, a student talent show, started in 1997 by Student Government Association Senators, Stefan James and Debra A. Mitchell to raise funds to purchase books for Coleman Library. SGA Senator James Nero presented the proceeds of this year’s Showcase to Dr. Lauren B. Sapp, Director of University Libraries, Mrs. Brenda Wright, Assistant Director for Collection Management, and Ms. Cornelia Taylor, Special Collections Librarian.

For the past eight years, the showcase, which is held in Lee Hall Auditorium, has had students from every area of the University to participate in the event. A Limited Editions Club book titled, Letters from Birmingham City Jail by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., with serigraphs by Faith Ringgold was purchased for the Libraries. Several other Limited Editions titles have been purchased with SGA talent show funds, such as GOAT: Greatest of All Time, signed by boxer Muhammad Ali, and Everything that Rises Must Converge by Flannery O’Connor, with etchings by the late African American artist, Benny Andrews. These books are on display in the Heritage Room, 4th floor, room A412 in the new library annex.

Heritage Room hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 10 a.m.-12 Noon, Tuesday and Thursday 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

For special appointment call 599-3361 or 599-8409

~Brenda Wright~
The mission of the University Libraries is to provide a user centered information environment that supports inspirational teaching, exemplary research, meaningful service, and life long learning to the local and global university community. It is with this mission in mind, distance learning librarian Ophelia Chapman, strives to provide information literacy instruction to our off campus students.

During the spring semester, Mrs. Chapman visited two distance learning instructional sites to provide information literacy instruction. The classes visited were EDA 5193-Educational Leadership taught by Dr. Patricia Green Powell at MacClenny, FL, and TSL 3370-Theory and Practice/ESOL, Professor Maria Rivera’s class at Lakeland Florida.

Chapman stated, “it is exciting to have the opportunity to visit with these students in person and provide them with individual assistance.” She looks forward to instructing students on campus and expects to continue her off campus instructional visits in coming academic years.

For more information, visit www.famu.edu/libraries or contact:
Ophelia Chapman, Distance Learning Coordinator
Office phone: (850) 412-5163 / Toll Free: 1-800-540-6754, ext. 5163
email: ophelia.chapman@famu.edu

Follow Campaign 2008 @ Your University Libraries

The University Libraries have many resources to assist persons in the quest to stay in the know, keep up with the happenings, know what’s up, what’s going down, what’s real, what’s bootleg, etc. with the 2008 presidential campaign. Find biographies of the candidates, transcripts from debates, interviews, and news broadcasts, newspaper articles, full text journal articles, political history and research.

Read about the candidates

Read the books the candidates read
Katie Couric asked the presidential candidates to identify the book other than the bible that they thought essential to bring along if elected, during the airing of the CBS News series, Primary Questions: Character, Leadership, and the Candidates:
Hilary Clinton - The Federalist Papers. HQ1154.R746

These titles along with other books about the candidates, the presidency, and American politics can be found by searching the Libraries’ online catalog from the Libraries’ web page.

Find biographies and profiles of the candidates in these databases
Biography Index
Biography Resource Center
Encyclopedia Britannica
Ethnic NewsWatch
Lexis Nexis Academic
Lexis Nexis Congressional (Members & Committees)

Find out about the issues and what’s in the news
CQ Electronic Library
Ethnic NewsWatch
NewsBank (News, Hot Topics, and Special Reports)
Lexis Nexis Academic (News, Broadcast Transcripts, Blogs)
Lexis Nexis Congressional (Political News/Hot Topics)

Source: www.famu.edu/library
Carolyn Elkins, Assistant University Librarian, participated in the Information Literacy Leadership Institute on November 4-9, 2007 on the campus of Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina. The institute, which was created to review information literacy programs at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, included sessions by well-known experts in the information literacy field. Some of the sessions focused on student learning; accreditation requirements; information literacy best practices; technology and instruction; and assessment. The ultimate goal of the Information Literacy Leadership Institute was to assist HBCU libraries in their efforts to develop, implement, evaluate and continually improve information literacy on our campuses. Providing information literacy instruction is a collaborative process that is shaped by the interaction between librarians, faculty, and institutions of higher learning. 

Attendance at the Information Literacy Leadership Institute assists the University Libraries at FAMU to achieve its information literacy objective of providing competent, quality, and timely instruction to the University community through a variety of reference instructional services. The information literacy student will know what they need, where to go to locate information, if the Information is correct or credible, be able to utilize and cite resources, and understand the ethical and legal use of information. Attendee’s participation expenses were provided through a grant by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Jeanette Cox, Government Documents Librarian, participated in The Center for Intellectual Property (CIP) 8th annual symposium titled, “Monopoly: Playing the Innovation Game,” University of Maryland University College. The symposium’s main purpose was to present the status on copyright/intellectual property issues affecting all those institutions, not just libraries, managing digital collections. The symposium was held May 28-30, 2008. According to Cox, digitization of materials for the development of the FAMU Digital Resource Center (FDRC) presents challenges for handling intellectual property. As a result, the Digital Commons team will amend its FDRC policies and procedures as necessary to protect the rights of the owners of intellectual property.