Arthur Jaffe Celebrates 90th Birthday

Mary Jane Saunders, president of Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, joins Arthur Jaffe, who received an honorary doctorate of humane letters from the university May 6 while celebrating his 90th birthday and retirement at a celebration hosted by FAU Libraries. Jaffe and supporters raised $32,000 after he encouraged them to donate to the Arthur and Mata Jaffe Center for Book Arts’ education fund at the library, instead of giving him personal gifts. Book artists gave 100 artists’ books valued at about $40,000 in honor of the occasion. Jaffe and his wife, Mata, made an initial donation of 2,800 artists’ books to the Wimberly Library in 1998. Over the years, it has developed into a cultural center that houses 12,000 rare books, most of them one-of-a-kind. The library plans to celebrate Jaffe’s birthday/retirement all summer. An exhibition, "Time Flies When You’re Having Fun," runs through August 10 featuring a timeline of Jaffe’s life. Prior to coming to Florida, Jaffe a longtime Butler, Pennsylvania, resident and Penn State alumnus, helped to raise money to build Carnegie museums.