BOCA RATON, Fla. (Aug. 5, 2014) — Florida Atlantic University President John Kelly today awarded a President’s Medallion for Distinguished Service to Arthur Jaffe, a World War II veteran and philanthropist who introduced his collection of rare, valuable handmade artists’ books to tens of thousands of people in south Florida and founded the Arthur and Mata Jaffe Center for Book Arts at the Wimberly Library, Boca Raton campus.

Jaffe, 93, and his late wife Mata, donated 2,800 artists’ books to FAU in 1998, and over the years, Jaffe helped to build the collection into 12,000 items, including broadsides, prints, book-like objects and ephemera. The small room that housed the initial collection now is used as the print shop for the 4,800-square center, which is nationally known as one of the most prominent centers for books handmade by artists. The center, also a venue for concerts, film screenings, exhibitions, workshops and classes, drew 4,400 visitors last year. The center opened an off-site hand papermaking lab in November 2012.

“I am aware of all you have done to establish and expand this priceless cultural resource at FAU,” said President Kelly. “The Arthur and Mata Jaffe Center for Book Arts is a true treasure for our faculty, students, alumni, staff and members of the greater community.”

Jaffe is the 37th recipient of the President’s Medallion, which was created in 1991 to honor outstanding individuals for their service to FAU and/or the community. FAU honored Jaffe with an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters in May 2011, when he retired as the Ario S. Hyams Professor, an endowed position.

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Photo Caption
ArthurJaffePMedallion.jpg: Arthur Jaffe, founder of the Arthur and Mata Jaffe Center at Florida Atlantic University.

About Florida Atlantic University:
Florida Atlantic University, established in 1961, officially opened its doors in 1964 as the fifth public university in Florida. Today, the University, with an annual economic impact of $6.3 billion, serves more than 30,000 undergraduate and graduate students at sites throughout its six-county service region in southeast Florida. FAU’s world-class teaching and research faculty serves students through 10 colleges: the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, the College of Business, the College for Design and Social Inquiry, the College of Education, the
College of Engineering and Computer Science, the Graduate College, the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing and the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science. FAU is ranked as a High Research Activity institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The University is placing special focus on the rapid development of three signature themes – marine and coastal issues, biotechnology and contemporary societal challenges – which provide opportunities for faculty and students to build upon FAU’s existing strengths in research and scholarship. For more information, visit www.fau.edu.