FAU to Celebrate Opening of Hand Papermaking Studio in World War II Training Building

BOCA RATON, FL (October 19, 2012) — Florida Atlantic University will celebrate the opening of the Arthur and Mata Jaffe Center for Book Arts’ hand papermaking lab with a 1940s-style party on Saturday, November 3, from 5 to 9 p.m., and Sunday, November 4, from 2 to 6 p.m., in the T-6 building, one of the original buildings on the former Boca Raton Army Air Field site, which became FAU’s Boca Raton campus. The Jaffe Center, located at the Wimberly Library, is a major national contributor to book arts education, and could begin offering workshops at the lab in early 2013.

“It is wonderful that we can repurpose this building, which served such an important purpose during WWII, and give it an entirely new life helping to create books and paper for artists who see the book as more than just a utilitarian object,” said William Miller, Ph.D., dean of university libraries at FAU.

The fall-themed opening celebrations will feature dancing on the porch to 1940s hits and 1940s sing-alongs with accordionist Anne Dennis, who performed with the USO at the Boca Raton Army Air Field and other bases during the war. Guests can make paper, operate a printing press and snack on apples, doughnuts and other refreshments. The parties are free and open to the public. Donations to the Jaffe Center Book Arts Education Fund are encouraged. Bags of apples and doughnuts will be sold.

The papermaking lab at the T-6 building marks the Arthur and Mata Jaffe Center’s first expansion outside of the Wimberly Library, where it originated in 1998, after the Jaffes donated their private collection of 2,800 artists’ books. With the 2007 library expansion, the Jaffes’ collection became the core of the new 4,800 square-foot center, largely funded by a substantial gift that Mata Jaffe earmarked before her death in 2001.

Today the Jaffe Center is one of the nation’s most prominent sites for books handmade by artists. Besides housing 12,000 artists’ books and other volumes dedicated to the book arts, the venue is popular for concerts, film screenings, exhibitions, workshops and classes. During
the fiscal year that ended in June 2012, about 5,100 people visited the location. Arthur Jaffe, the center’s founder, retired last year, but continues to come daily.

“Papermaking, printing and bookbinding are the three core aspects in the book arts craft tradition,” said John Cutrone, the Jaffe Center’s director. “Papermaking has been the missing link, so it is a very big day for us to be able to offer instruction in this key area.”

The T-6 building is part of what remains of the military base’s only radar training facility during WWII. A concrete floor, covered porch and large windows make the T-6 location more suitable for the lab than the Wimberly Library because papermaking is a water-intensive process.

Located at the northeast corner of FAU’s Boca Raton campus, the T-6 building is near FAU Stadium, and across the street from the east entrance of Palm Beach State College.

From Glades Road, enter at FAU’s main entrance and continue on West University Drive until the road curves and becomes North University Drive. Continue past FAU Stadium and the traffic light, and turn left at the stop sign onto Northwest 8th Avenue. Parking is in the lot at the T-5 building.

From Spanish River Boulevard, enter the campus at the traffic light at FAU Boulevard. Turn left onto Northwest 8th Avenue before the road curves west. Palm Beach State College is on the right. The T-5 and T-6 buildings are on the left. The designated parking lot is north of the T-5 building.

For more information, call the Arthur and Mata Jaffe Center for Book Arts at 561-297-0455.

-FAU-

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.