

FACULTY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2006

***B**uilding Addition Nears Completion*

The Wimberly Library's new addition is rapidly being constructed. This building started with a dream and no state money. As in the children's book Stone Soup, in which everyone brings an ingredient which results in a delicious soup, this building is the result of a variety of entities bringing money to the table which ended up resulting in a 5-storey building. Hillel will occupy the ground floor, and Student Government funded an All-night Study on the second floor. The third floor will house an expansion of the library's rare books and special collection space, funded by Arthur and Mata Jaffe. The fourth floor will be occupied by SEFLIN, the Southeast Florida Library Information Network, and the fifth floor will house general library functions.

A generous gift from the estate of Paul C. Wimbish funded the construction and finishing of the fourth and fifth floors, in recognition of which the wing will be named the "Wimbish Wing."

***M**aterials Budget Continues to Be a Challenge*

In the popular mind, everything available electronically on the Net is free; we wish that this were actually the case. The reality, however, is markedly different; electronic resources are actually the chief reason why our budgets cannot keep pace with the cost of library materials. Research-based, scholarly materials produced by publishers, both electronic and in paper, continue to rise in cost at rates much higher than the general rate of inflation. ARTstor, which currently costs us \$8,500, is 25% higher than it was a year ago. BioOne, a collection of journals from small publishers, increased 16% this year, to \$8,862. LION, a collection of literature online, increased 11% this year, to \$11,800. The online version of the journal Nature rose 20% this year, to \$7,470, and Project Muse, a popular source of journal back issues online, rose 17%, to \$10,350.

Compared to such increases, the fact that our Elsevier journals are only going to increase 5.5% next year seems like a great bargain. The reality, however, is that our materials budget will not increase by 5.5% next year, in all likelihood. We have been managing these cost increases, like most other academic libraries nationwide, by buying ever fewer numbers of books, by buying cooperatively with other state university libraries and through consortia to which we belong, and by taking advantage of any bargains we can find. However, the resources can only stretch so far. At this moment, we do not know what our budget for library materials will be next year, but if it continues to be outpaced by cost increases, we will ultimately be forced into cancellation of journals and other online resources, in order to stay within our means.