Florida Atlantic University President Frank T. Brogan, along with business, research and governmental leaders, kicked off a new era in scientific research in Florida on February 27 when they broke ground on the FAU/Scripps Joint-Use Facility on FAU’s MacArthur campus. The 40,000-square-foot building will serve as temporary headquarters of The Scripps Research Institute’s Florida operations until Scripps’ permanent home is completed next year.

“This is a momentous day for Florida and for Florida Atlantic University,” said President Brogan. “In this joint-use structure, some of the world’s brightest scientific minds will engage in cutting-edge research that has the potential to help cure diseases and improve the quality of life for many. Florida Atlantic University is proud to work closely with Scripps now and in the future.”

The groundbreaking was preceded by a ceremony that featured participants from Palm Beach County, Scripps and local and state government, including FAU’s MacArthur Campus Vice President Kristen Murtaugh, FAU Board of Trustees Chair George C. Zoley, Palm Beach County Commission Chair Karen Marcus, Scripps Executive Vice President and General Counsel Doug Bingham, Scripps Professor of Cell Biology Dr. Steve Kay, President Frank T. Brogan and Florida Governor Jeb Bush.

The new building is expected to be completed by the end of 2004. Centex Rooney Construction Co., located in Plantation, will oversee construction of the $12 million building, and the architectural firm is Shook, Twitty & Hansen Architects of West Palm Beach. Palm Beach County provided the funds for construction of the facility. FAU will reimburse the county $10 million over five years. Scripps scientists will utilize lab space temporarily on the Boca campus, and then move up to the new building in Jupiter for another year while their permanent facility is built on the Mecca Farms property west of Palm Beach Gardens.

Dr. Murtaugh said, “Forging a relationship with Scripps is certainly advantageous for FAU. The added benefit to the MacArthur campus is that we will have our science building two years ahead of schedule.” The science building, originally planned for Phase III construction, was slated for completion in 2007.

The building, which will sit on the southeast corner of the planned quadrangle, conforms to the MacArthur Campus master plan. The site is east of the new MacArthur campus library, scheduled to be completed in June 2004. Additional parking will be provided for Scripps employees.

The Scripps Research Institute is one of the largest private non-profit research organizations in the United States. It has attained recognition as a center of excellence in a highly focused branch of research, the nexus of the structure of biological molecules and their cellular functions with chemical synthesis.

“Clearly, it will be a tremendous asset and opportunity for both students and faculty,” said Dr. Rakesh Mogul, assistant professor of chemistry in the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College. “For faculty, it will be wonderful to collaborate and work with world-renowned research scientists. For students, the labs will offer a valuable opportunity to gain research experience.”

The impact that Scripps will have on our university, our community and the state of Florida is immeasurable. But for the faculty and students on FAU’s campus in Jupiter, the advent of a state-of-the-art science building means access to resources that provide a 21st century path to discovery.

University architect and vice president Robert Friedman said, “Our faculty and students will get to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Nobel laureates, and that will be a turning point in the history of FAU.”

Florida Govenor Jeb Bush.

Palm Beach County Commissioners join President Frank T. Brogan, Governor Jeb Bush, and FAU Foundantion Chairman George Zoley in “breaking ground.”

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NEW LIBRARY AND CLASSROOM BUILDINGS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION THIS SUMMER

As several new construction projects begin on the Jupiter campus, two others are nearing completion.

In June, the MacArthur campus library will be moving across the soccer field to a gleaming new building. Two to three weeks prior to this move, books will be removed from the shelves so that shelving can be reassembled in the new library. Books will be in storage during that time.

Patricia Roshaven, campus librarian, said, “Although we are moving during the term, we expect a smooth transition. Computers and study tables will be the last to be packed up, so library research and study can continue, and interlibrary loan services will remain as usual until we move. If faculty let us know specific titles that are needed for classes in June, these materials will be on Reserve and not in storage.”

The new library has an open and welcoming feeling. The two-story structure, about twice the size of the current library space, has four group study rooms, a computer lab, comfortable seating and an all-night study area.

The new classroom building will house the College of Education. The ground floor has four large classrooms, two of which convert to a larger space for special functions such as Board of Trustees meetings. These classrooms will be shared with the rest of the campus.

The upper floor contains the COE suite, composed of offices and two small seminar rooms. Office space for faculty and staff of COE at Jupiter will not only accommodate the current 17 employees, but will also provide for future growth.

Dr. Kathleen Huey, associate director of student services for the College of Education on the northern campuses, said “We are very excited to move into our new building. We’ve outgrown our current space and look forward to less cramped quarters. The new building is a welcome change.”

With the completion of both new facilities, the MacArthur campus will be able to provide additional classes and improved services to students here in Jupiter.