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Hall County Library News and Notes

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Hall County Library news and notes

The Friends of the Hall County Library held their annual meeting and program on Nov. 13. Antiquarian book dealer Cliff Graubart gave a brief presentation on identifying valuable books. Following Mr. Graubart's talk, he offered appraisals of books brought in by program attendees, a sort of "antique road show" for books.

The Friends of the Library were also honored during Friends of the Library Week with an appreciation reception thrown on Oct. 24 by library staff members.

The Hall County Library System will receive over \$7,500 from the AT&T Foundation to provide new computer

resources at the Blackshear Place branch. The equipment will be housed in the newly created young adult area of the library branch, which is being developed to increase library appeal to this age group.

"This grant will help us upgrade our hardware and computer seating for the Oakwood branch library," said Library Director Adrian Mixson. "This will provide teenagers with their own personal space, encouraging social networking and educational use of the library's resources for homework assignments."

The grant comes through the AT&T Exceleator program, which has provided over 2,500 technology grants since 2002. This is the first year that AT&T has expanded the program into the Southeast. ►►

Georgia Gwinnett

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the design firm selection process, this group will continue to be a resource pool from which to draw valuable information pertaining to the community's desires and needs for the building.

The new library will incorporate concepts and services that have been successful in other facilities, such as a learning "commons," with services available from reference librarians, professionals from Student Support Services and the college's Center for Teaching Excellence. Our goal here is that the library will become a learning center for the entire college community. Plans call for study rooms of all sizes, from alcoves for individual study to large group study areas. A new type of planned study space is what we are calling smart study rooms, rooms that are equipped with all of the classroom technology so that the students can utilize those resources when they are working on group projects. Additionally, plans call for presentation rooms where students can practice presentations for their

classes alone or in groups. All of this will take place with the ubiquitous connectivity that is becoming the norm.

The new library building is slated to be a state-of-the-art facility, incorporating all of the latest design and technology concepts available and feasible. But to say that leaves one somewhat in a pedestrian mood these days as that expression has all but become mundane. What is state of the art when the very stasis is now dynamic? With change the norm in this Heraclitean world and obsolescence the operative concept, flexibility in design becomes paramount. While a certain minimalist approach that makes the building as adaptable as possible might be the best avenue to follow, there are certain design criteria that are still valid. These include clarity and boldness in architectural statement, symmetry with the overall campus design and master plan, an eye toward expandability, avoidance of design clichés that easily date a structure and, most importantly, flexibility.

Last but not least, though often not mentioned, is beauty. The library building is to be the intellectual heart of the campus. If it is to be successful, then aesthetics must be a living concept in its design and implementation. The design of a building communicates the meaning of that place, and in an institution of higher learning, the importance of the aesthetic dimension is paramount. All one has to do is compare an inspiring campus of Georgian or Gothic elegance to one that has been poorly planned and funded to understand the importance of structures that communicate a culture of learning. The library building at GGC will play an integral and pivotal roll in this larger picture. With the construction of a library that inspires and excites, the college will have a center that gravitates learning and intellectual activity for the entire campus. In essence, it will be a place students and faculty want to be in the action of learning. ►►