

FLORIDA TECH

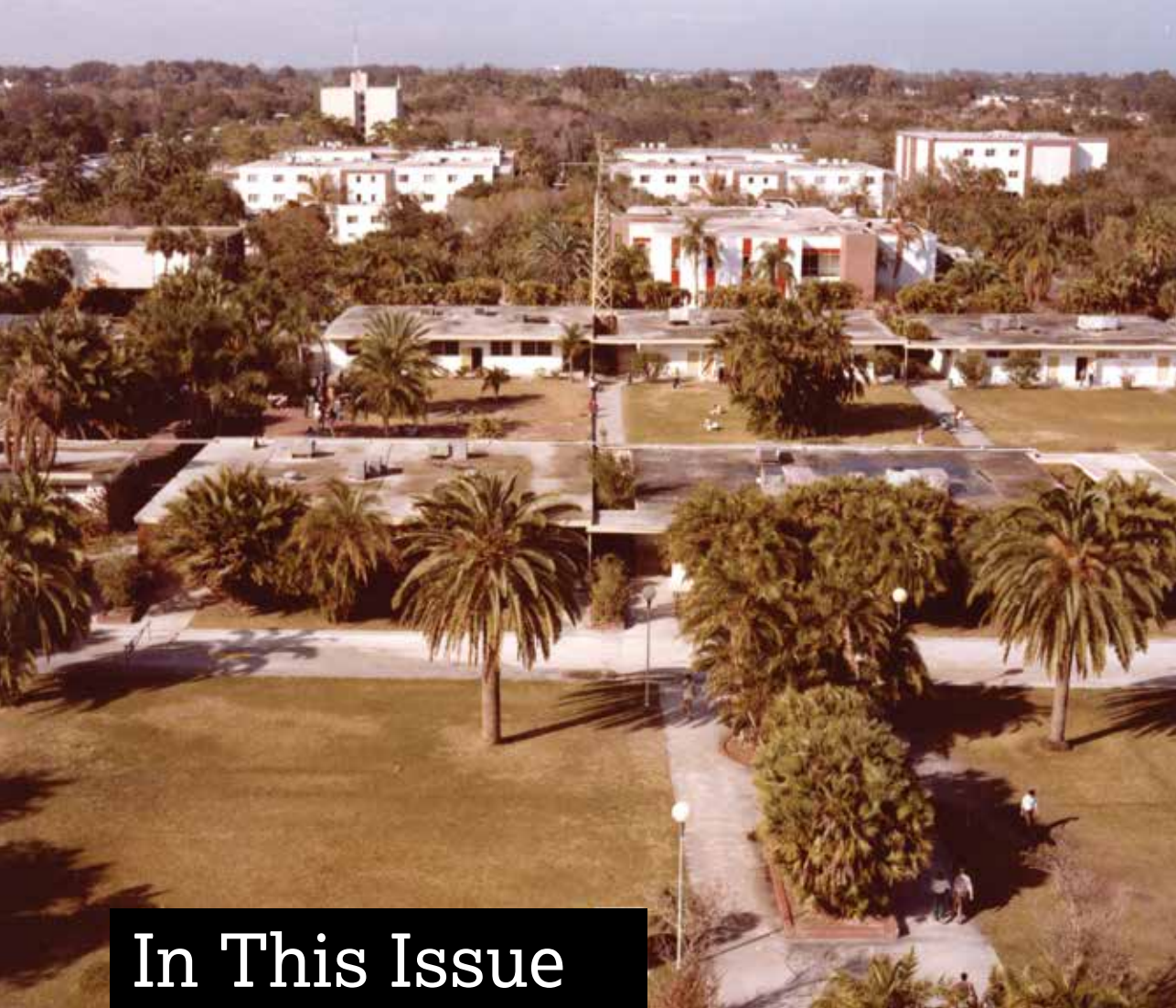
M A G A Z I N E

FALL 2018

Pursuit of Greatness

Reflecting on 60 years of innovation and achievement





In This Issue

FALL 2018 • Volume 27, Issue 2

Departments

President's Perspective	4
On Campus	5
A Closer Look	12
Athletics	14
Crossword	38

Features

16 Notable Names, Tall Tales and Points of Pride on our Evolution from Countdown College to Florida Tech

The story of our university's 60 years lives on through the words of university historian Gordon Patterson. This collection of passages shares excerpts from Patterson's online series, "The Secret History of Florida Tech."

26 Vik Verma: Keuper Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient

Growing tech startups into multimillion-dollar businesses is just another day on the job for Vik Verma. Now his company 8x8 is revolutionizing enterprise communications everywhere. Among it all, he stays actively involved with the university.

GO GREEN, GET ONLINE!

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THEN AND NOW. On the left, a view of campus looking north from the roof of the Crawford Building in 1984. On the right, that same vantage point today. Can you spot what remains the same and what has changed on campus?

FLORIDA TECH MAGAZINE

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Florida Institute of Technology

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Dwayne McCay, Ph.D.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Wes Sumner '18 DBA

Florida Tech Magazine is published three times a year by Florida Tech's Office of Marketing and Communications and is distributed to over 80,000 readers.

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Alumni News

- 28 Homecoming 2018:
Featuring Cold War Kids
- 30 From the FTAA President
- 30 On the Road
- 32 AlumNotes
- 34 60 for 60 Profile: Alvin Kaltman, Ph.D.
- 35 Alumni Spotlight: Philina Richardson
- 36 In Memoriam

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Alumni and Friends,

When our founding president, Jerome Keuper, convened the first night classes at Brevard Engineering College Sept. 22, 1958, the inaugural cohort had only a short drive from their jobs on Cape Canaveral to class in Melbourne. As we've welcomed students back for our fall semester and begun to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Florida Tech's

establishment, it strikes me that the distances our students now travel from their homes to our Melbourne campus reflect just how much Brevard Engineering College—renamed Florida Institute of Technology in 1966—has evolved over its relatively short existence.

The truly international nature of our student body, with 120 countries represented last fall (that's nearly 62 percent of all the countries in the world), says plenty about our foundation and desirability as a school, but it also bodes well for us as we evolve and grow and, just as our students do, look toward our own future. "It's like traveling the world in four years," one of our students told *Fiske Guide to Colleges* a few years ago about our global attendance.

Many facets of Florida Tech that contribute to our international appeal can be traced back to our formative years: Dr. Keuper's early and unwavering insistence on creating a challenging academic environment; a desire, certainly in the school's second decade and onward, to strengthen the emphasis on research; the understanding that a campus must offer not just the pleasant amenities, including a soothing oasis of palm trees in our botanical garden, but also the latest teaching technologies, equipment and materials.

When I was named Florida Tech's fifth president in July 2016, I articulated three core principles that complement our history while casting an eye forward: research that benefits all of humankind, student success for a lifetime and great global citizenship.

The occasion of our 60th anniversary is a great moment to pause and appreciate what Florida Tech is now and what it has the potential to be, and also to understand the tenacity and foresight of Jerry Keuper and our other early supporters. They worked tirelessly to cement a sound foundation that now, decades later, allows us to relentlessly pursue greatness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dwayne McCay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dwayne McCay, Ph.D.
President



Florida Tech was featured on the home page of *The Chronicle of Higher Education* on Aug. 6.



President McCay prepares to lead the procession during summer commencement.



President McCay and Bino Campanini '90, '92 MBA ran into Delta pilot Jim Berry '91 on their flight to Philadelphia.



Engineering and Science: Separated No Longer

In addition to returning students, Florida Tech's fall term began with the arrival of something else: the official merger of the College of Engineering and Computing and the College of Science.

Officially known as the College of Engineering and Science, the merged school streamlines academic administration—a benefit to the university's finances—

and equally as important, creates a less organizationally complex environment for students to navigate.

Furthermore, the merger also supports the goal of increasing Florida Tech's reputation and recognition, two key components to improving the university's rankings. Creating such a critical mass of faculty in high-visibility and high-

impact research areas will give the university more "horsepower" for recognition, university leaders said.

The merger will unify the talents and efforts of faculty in the two colleges, improving communication, collaboration and teamwork.

Honoring Jack Schwalbe

As he stood at the front of the room, Gordon Patterson said although there are many good professors who are learned in their field, a *great* professor is one who acts as a horticulturist, planting and cultivating the 'seeds' of study and knowledge in his students.

"And Jack Schwalbe," Patterson continued, "is a *great* professor."

Professor Emeritus Schwalbe beamed as he heard these words during a reception held in his honor on Aug. 13. Ed Kalajian, Ashok Pandit and Patterson arranged the reception as a farewell to the influential professor who is moving to New Hampshire to be closer to family.

When Kalajian was starting the ocean engineering program at Florida Tech in 1974, he found help in Jack Schwalbe, a structural engineer with an expertise in ships, submarines and offshore platforms. In just a few short years, Schwalbe built up the program to one that experts pointed to as the definition of what an ocean engineering program should be.



Friends and colleagues honor professor emeritus Jack Schwalbe during a campus reception.

In 1979 Schwalbe with his structures expertise joined Kalajian to form the university's civil engineering program and develop the structures lab.

Through the years "Coach Jack" served on the faculty senate and volunteered as an intercollegiate tennis coach for Florida Tech. Bill Jurgens shared, "He had a lot of great philosophy and self-confidence, which made a great

coach and role model." Schwalbe retired from the university in 2000.

As the reception came to a close and attendees gathered around Schwalbe for a group photo, he said, "I want to thank you all for your kind words. I have loved being here, the university, the people, the teaching ... this has been the finest period of my professional life."

BRAISED CHICKEN, BRONZE MEDAL

Florida Tech Chef de Cuisine Jon Skoviera and dining service team members Jenn Manaseri, Crystal Mensch and Susan Voss won a bronze medal in the American Culinary Federation's Culinary Competition at the 24th annual Chef Culinary Conference at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst June 3-8.

As per the rules of the competition, the group prepared a three-course meal consisting of an appetizer of monkfish mousse with seared scallops, a main course of Tonkatsu-style pork tenderloin and a dessert of bing cherry mousse with chocolate genoise, as well as a buffet course of Moroccan-style braised chicken.

Competing against 14 other teams, the meal was critiqued by 12 judges, including four certified Master Chefs.

Teams were given a market basket containing a selection of materials then had one hour to submit a menu. Teams were allowed three hours of cooking time and 30 minutes to plate their dishes.



Autism in Brazil: The Scott Center to Train the Trainers for Treatment

Florida Tech's Scott Center for Autism Treatment, along with the Brazilian state of Paraná, launched the Autism Training Program in June. The two-year partnership involves online training modules and face-to-face

training, created by experts at The Scott Center, for people in Brazil who work with autism and other developmental disabilities.

Over the first six months of the agreement, The Scott Center will develop a set of



online training modules for use in Paraná. The following 18 months will be spent training approximately 300 individuals throughout four cities in the Brazilian state.

In what The Scott Center calls the "Train the

Trainer" model, Paraná will select the trainees for the lessons. After two years, those trained will be able to instruct others in the state, as Paraná looks to gradually expand the program to all 399 municipalities.



TALKIN' SPACE

Students Emily Birch, Alex Coultrup, Tereza Sedlakova and Shayan Shirshekar traveled to Beijing, China, with Andy Aldrin, associate professor and director of the Aldrin Space Institute, to attend the inaugural Sino-U.S. Space Policy Research Center summer study program.

The five-day program, which kicked off July 30 in association with Beijing Institute of Technology (BIT) and Ohio State University, featured faculty and student policy discussions on topics ranging from the management of space flight projects to the future of global space exploration, as well as hands-on activities for students.

Enriching Research

YOUNG INVESTIGATOR PROGRAM GRANT

Assistant professor Shermineh Rostami Fairchild's proposal, "Free-Space Optical Communication in Plasma Waveguides," was selected for funding by the U.S. Army Research Office's Young Investigator Program in July. The award is for a total of \$360,000 over three years. Fairchild is one a few specialists in laser filamentation in the United States. Filament-induced plasma channels could be engineered into free-space waveguides to propagate optical information more efficiently.

NEW SHARK SPECIES HONORS FEMALE PIONEER

Squalus clarkae, also known as Genie's Dogfish, was identified from the Gulf of Mexico and western Atlantic Ocean. The shark was named after Eugenie Clark, a pioneer in shark biology, who founded Mote Marine Laboratory and passed away in 2015 at age 92. The confirmation of this new species was reported in the journal *Zootaxa* in July with Florida Tech assistant professor and shark biologist Toby Daly-Engel among the authors.



A Week of Biofouling Talk: Global Experts Gather at Florida Tech

Nearly 300 delegates from 28 countries gathered at Florida Tech in late June as the university hosted the 19th edition of the prestigious International Congress on Marine Corrosion and Fouling (ICMCF).

Attendees represented government, academia and industry.

The five-day event, convened every two years, featured technical discussions, presentations and keynote addresses on marine corrosion and fouling, the growth of

barnacles and other plant and animal life upon ship hulls and other immersed structures.

Florida Tech is home to the Center for Corrosion and Biofouling Control, which is led by Geoffrey Swain, one of the world's preeminent anti-fouling engineers, and features assistant professors Kelli Hunsucker and Emily Ralston. Hunsucker and Ralston were co-chairs of the congress organizing committee.

"It is ICMCF's goal to bring experts from around the world together to discuss the latest basic and

applied research advances in biology, microbiology, chemistry, physical chemistry, coatings and materials to help face the challenges of biofouling and corrosion," Hunsucker said.

Presentations included novel antifouling coatings, the biology of biofouling organisms, regulations and policies in place for the chemicals used in ship hull coatings, and research and development into underwater vehicles as a method to combat fouling.



Kelli Hunsucker and Emily Ralston, co-chairs of the International Congress on Marine Corrosion and Fouling organizing committee

SPACE SIMULATION INNOVATION

Florida Tech, working with Servos & Simulation Inc., has developed a 500-pound simulator that allows human subjects to experience the entire suborbital spaceflight profile—from takeoff through landing—using 360-degree motion and the hyperbaric environment of a spacesuit. The simulator allows Human Spaceflight Lab director Ondrej Doule and others to study human-system integration, including how a would-be passenger communicates and interacts with the ship's onboard systems.

LIGHTING UP BRAINS

Researchers at Florida Tech, in collaboration with Columbia University, have developed the fastest method to date for creating a key molecule used in mapping brain activity. They also discovered ways to create two new alternate versions of the caged Glutamate molecule that can further advance this critical field of study. This work, funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), was published in the American Chemical Society journal, *ACS Chemical Neuroscience* 2018.

“From a scientific perspective, we don’t know much about white sharks, even basic biological questions like where they go to feed and reproduce. Only by understanding where the baby sharks are living and where the moms are giving birth can we protect this part of the white shark life cycle.”



Toby Daly-Engel observing a white shark on Discovery Channel’s “Great White Shark Babies.”

Sharks, DNA and TV Shows, Oh My!

Evolutionary biologist Toby Daly-Engel was a featured scientist on “Great White Shark Babies,” a program that aired July 27 as part of

the 30th annual edition of Discovery Channel’s popular Shark Week.

On “Great White Shark Babies,” Daly-Engel, an assistant professor in Florida Tech’s department of ocean engineering and marine sciences, along with scientists Mauricio Hoyos and Michelle Wcisel, used DNA fingerprinting—the same CSI-type techniques humans use to solve crimes—to

determine whether great white sharks in Vizcaino Bay in Baja, Mexico, were related as parent-offspring or siblings to the sharks in Guadalupe Island, about 240 miles west of the bay.

Linking the two populations would show that the nursery grounds in Vizcaino Bay are critical habitat for the Guadalupe white sharks, which would help make a case that the lagoon should be protected.

Daly-Engel grew up watching Shark Week.

Filming the show—including seeing an adult white shark in person for the first time both on the water and in a cage below the surface—was nothing short of amazing, she said.

“The first time I saw a baby white shark, which was still almost 9 feet long, all I could think was how perfect it is. What a perfect predator,” she said. “Seeing the adults was just mind-blowing, although once I got in the water, it was all about the science.”



Toby Daly-Engel



NEW REGISTRAR NAMED

Caroline Johnston '09, '12 M.S., was named university registrar this spring. Johnston has been working in the Registrar’s Office since 2005 when she started in a work-study capacity her freshman year. She advanced through several positions in the office, including coordinator for undergraduate transfer credits, registration assistant and registration supervisor.

THE ARTS THIS AUTUMN

This fall brings a colorful collage of exhibitions at our two museums. Now through Dec. 15 at the Ruth Funk Center is “Wandering Spirit: African Wax Prints.” Foosaner Art Museum will have “A Look Back: Forty Years of the Foosaner Collection” on display through Nov. 3, and beginning Nov. 17 is “Derek Gores: Local Edition.”

Voted Most Likely to Become a Unicorn

During hackathon competitions, students diligently chip away at an idea to result in a software or hardware product to demo. Florida Tech's hackathon team has won over \$10,000 in prizes at competitions around the country, not to mention the entrepreneurial award "Most Likely to Become a Unicorn" bestowed by Harvard in 2018.



A "unicorn" is a startup company that is valued at a billion dollars.

Student Org Spotlight: Society for Human Resource Management Student Chapter

In the 2018–2019 academic year Florida Tech's South Brevard Society for Human Resource Management (SBSHRM) student chapter plans to bring a renewed interest in the group's activities on campus.

The local society and the student chapter are members of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), which is the world's largest human resources (HR) professional society with over 285,000 members in over 165 countries. Fanak Baarmand, assistant safety officer at Florida Tech, serves as the local society's college relations director and offers support and mentorship to Florida Tech's student chapter. The student chapter provides full access to the local society's resources, empowering student members to become successful professionals.

Under the advisement of Lisa Steelman and Ivonne Delgado Perez, the chapter hosts development activities throughout the year, such as résumé workshops and HR case competitions, many of which our students have won.

Through membership, students are invited to attend annual conferences and monthly luncheons. Additionally, several large scholarships are available to student members through an application and reward process. The chapter also plans to launch a mentorship program to connect students with working professionals to better prepare them for their future careers. Those interested may email collegerelations@sbshrm.org.

In collaboration with Career Management Services, the student chapter recently held its first campus event. Aimed at helping students proactively prepare for their future, a panel of HR professionals in some of Florida Tech's most popular areas of study explained what they look for in students coming out of college. Students gained the understanding that landing a job is not just about the degree but about taking advantage of all available opportunities Florida Tech has to offer.

The student chapter is actively recruiting all undergraduate and graduate students. Find the chapter on Facebook and OrgSync or email jmartes2014@my.fit.edu.

OUR GOLDEN AGE: FLORIDA TECH HAS HIT A SWEET SPOT

Florida Tech was named to an elite list of international universities in May. Times Higher Education (THE), the respected, London-based provider of data and analytics on higher education, recognized Florida Tech in its Golden Age University Rankings 2018, a compilation of 200 top institutions worldwide.

Florida Tech is one of only 14 U.S. institutions to make the list.

All the universities recognized in this 2018 ranking were founded between 1945 and 1967. The list is so named to reflect what THE describes as the Golden Age in global higher education, characterized by rapid university expansion and increasing investment in research.

"As middle-aged institutions, universities in the Golden Age ranking are distinguished by having the benefit of both youth and age," THE's Ellie Bothwell noted. "They typically have had time to build up the quality of their research and their reputation but also tend to be more agile and innovative than many of their older counterparts."

SUMMER
COMMENCEMENT
BY THE NUMBERS

300
STUDENTS
PARTICIPATED

REPRESENTING

33 U.S. STATES

37 COUNTRIES



742
DEGREES
BESTOWED

INCLUDING

250 EARNED
ONLINE

95 EARNED
OFF SITE



Shaikh Retires After Three Decades at Florida Tech

Muzaffar Shaikh is an engineer and educator who's had an amazing 50-year career in the American workforce. This summer, he retired after 31 years at Florida Tech.

"Teaching lives in the heart of my hearts," said Shaikh. "I really feel most comfortable in the classroom when I see those eager minds willing to learn."

Born in Mumbai, India, Shaikh immigrated to the U.S. in 1966, earning a master's degree in engineering before taking a job at Caterpillar Inc. in Peoria, Illinois, in 1968, and later earning a Ph.D. in industrial engineering from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He said the cold weather—especially the ice and snow—was troublesome, but he never looked back. When the opportunity came to move to sunny Florida in 1985 and join Harris Corp., he was happy to head for warmer weather.

He first taught as an adjunct instructor at the university, but by 1987, had been convinced to join the full-time faculty.

So began an odyssey as a teacher and administrator that would span the next 31 years, culminating in his retirement as associate provost of industry partnerships, associate vice president of international partnerships and a distinguished professor and head of systems engineering. Even though Shaikh had various administrative responsibilities for 26 of his 31 years of service at Florida Tech, he continued teaching, his first love.

During his career, Shaikh led the creation of 36 graduate degree programs in engineering and business to serve industry. This work has involved decades of partnership not only with the local community, but with Middle Eastern and Indian universities and institutions as well.

While helping the university grow important academic programs was a fulfilling part of Shaikh's career, some of his proudest moments have come in other areas. He has been presented 10 Florida Tech awards through the years, six by his peers and four by

administration. Meanwhile, he participated in the Brevard County community prayer service that followed the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. He subsequently served three years on the U.S. commerce secretary's race and ethnic advisory committee.

But for Shaikh, his career has ultimately been defined by his time in the classroom and the thousands of students he's had the pleasure of teaching.

"Learning and teaching, to me, has four key dimensions," Shaikh said. "It is a life-long phenomenon. It should be participative. It should entail effective use of class time. And, there should be proper feedback from both the teacher and the student. In summary, we have come back to a whole ancient cycle of learning from 2,500 years ago when Confucius said, 'I hear and I forget, I see and I remember, I do and I understand.'"

PANTHER FOOTBALL IS BACK



2018 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
Sept. 1	Benedict College	Columbia, SC	6 PM
Sept. 8	Newberry College	Melbourne	1 PM
Sept. 15	Delta State	Melbourne	7 PM
Sept. 22	West Georgia	Carrollton, GA	2 PM
Sept. 29	Wingate	Wingate, NC	3 PM
Oct. 6	Mississippi College	Melbourne	7 PM
Oct. 13	Valdosta State[^]	Melbourne	1 PM
Oct. 20	West Florida	Pensacola, FL	5 PM
Oct. 27	West Alabama	Livingston, AL	4 PM
Nov. 3	North Greenville	Melbourne	2 PM
Nov. 10	Shorter	Rome, GA	1 PM

[^] Homecoming Game

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Harry P. Weber University Archives

A CLOSER LOOK AT

The Glass Time Machine

Behind a staff-only door in Evans Library, you will find a stack of rare books. To the side, an office of file folios with delicate papers and other odds and ends awaiting processing.

Erin Mahaney, university archivist for the Harry P. Weber University Archives, and fellow Evans Library staff are diligently arranging and describing these historical materials before they are carefully moved to their temperature- and humidity-controlled homes.

Driven by preservation, Mahaney collects, protects, preserves and fosters accessibility of Florida Tech's archival treasures, some of which go beyond Florida Tech's 1958 inception—think 10,000 years beyond.

Equipped with white gloves, Mahaney very cautiously pulls a few items from the sparkling glass shelves of the archives' public display for a closer look. ►



Beanie

This fashion statement earned incoming freshmen the nickname "frogs" as faculty described them as "hopping" down Country Club Road wearing their beanies.



Crimson Newspaper

The student-led newspaper first hit stands in 1968, with headlines that included the soon-to-be built Student Union Building and Florida Tech's 10th birthday celebration.



University Seal

Elements of the original Brevard Engineering College seal are still evident today.





Vintage Letterman Jacket

Originally known as Brevard Engineering College, our first athletes were referred to as "The Engineers."



Field Interview Kit

WFIT's early years started as a student-run college station. Students used the portable recorder to cover launches at Kennedy Space Center.



Mammoth Molar

In the 1920s, a 10,000-year-old mammoth molar was excavated from the Botanical Garden, along with a curious spear point. The small spear point spurred a big debate on the role humans had on the mass extinction of large herbivores.

HARRY P. WEBER,
PROFESSOR EMERITUS
Harry Weber was an integral part of Florida Tech's formative years and remained so up until his passing in 2017. He was the leading force behind the creation and cultivation of the archives.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
Curated by Diane Newman, the special collections also preserve unique items from history and cover subject areas such as flight, poetry, ocean engineering, space and related industries. These collections hold records, artifacts, memorabilia, photos, audiovisual materials and more.

HELP US REWIND TIME
Memories made at Florida Tech last a lifetime, and we want to help preserve them for the next generation of Panthers. Please consider donating or sharing items that captured your moment in time at Florida Tech.
Email: ARCHIVES@FIT.EDU

FIND MORE UNIVERSITY HISTORY: TIMELINE.FIT.EDU





Florida Tech



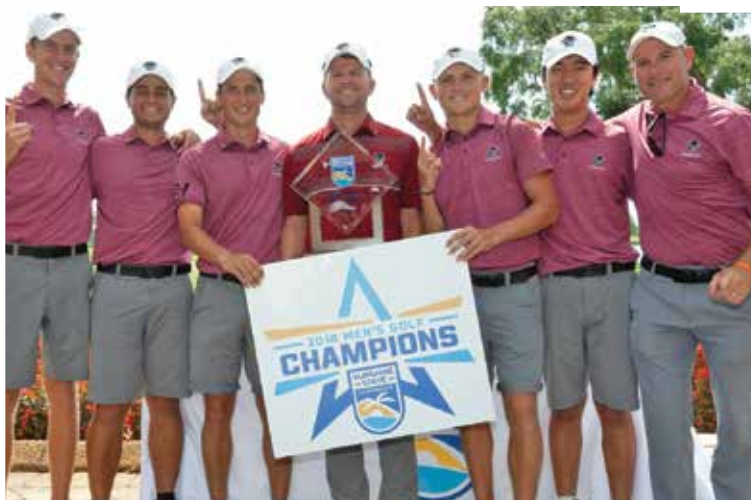
◀ WOMEN'S ROWING

The Florida Tech women's rowing team won its second consecutive Sunshine State Conference Championship this spring. The Panthers won the Varsity 8 race and took silver in the Varsity 4 at the conference championship. The women's rowing team has brought home the SSC Championship in 1997, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2017 and 2018.

The team, who were ranked No. 2 in the nation all season long, also earned a team bid into the NCAA Women's Rowing Championships for the fourth time in program history. The Panthers finished third overall in both the Varsity 4 and Varsity 8 Grand Finals to earn the bronze medal at the 2018 NCAA Championships.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE ▶

The 2018 season was one to remember for the women's lacrosse team. Under head coach Corinne Desrosiers, Florida Tech finished with a 17-3 record and went 5-1 in Sunshine State Conference play. The 17 wins set a program record. In addition, the Panthers' nine wins over ranked opponents this season were also a team record. For the second year in a row, the Panthers earned the No. 2 seed and finished runner-up at the 2018 SSC Tournament. Florida Tech garnered its second straight bid into the NCAA Women's Lacrosse Tournament as the No. 2 seed in the south region.



◀ MEN'S GOLF

The men's golf team won the program's first Sunshine State Conference Championship this season thanks to a record-breaking final round at the Grande Oaks Golf Club, better known as the course from the movie "Caddyshack." Florida Tech totaled a 19-under par 833 (278-287-268) for the tournament, besting defending SSC Champion, No. 2 ranked Florida Southern, by four strokes. The 19-under par team score tied a school record and the SSC tournament record. In addition, the Crimson & Gray's final round score of 16-under (268) stands as the greatest team single round score in SSC tournament history and program history. The 268 was also the lowest round produced by any NCAA Division II men's golf team during the 2017-18 season.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS SELECTS COHEN DURING 2018 MLB DRAFT

In an emotion-filled Wednesday afternoon, former Panther ace Ty Cohen received the call that all baseball players dream of. On the third day of the 2018 Major League Baseball Draft, Cohen was taken by the St. Louis Cardinals with the 933rd overall pick in the 31st round of the draft.

The Woodstock, Georgia native is the ninth Panther baseball player to be drafted by a MLB organization. He began his professional career with the Cardinal's Gulf Coast League affiliate, the GCL Cardinals.

In his time at Florida Tech, Cohen amassed a 28-15 record, good for the second most wins in a career by any Panther pitcher. Cohen also ranked second in career strikeouts with 355, and holds two of the top-10 program single-season strikeout totals.

His impressive command on the mound garnered the right-handed starter multiple accolades during his career, including First-Team All-SSC honors and a Second Team NCBWA All-South Region selection.



TECH SWEEPS SSC SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

For the first time in school history, Florida Tech student-athletes swept the Sunshine State Conference's Scholar-Athletes of the Year awards in 2017-18. Claiming SSC Female Scholar Athlete of the Year was women's cross country's Marina DeBiasi, while men's swimming's Thomas Steenberg garnered the men's honor.

DeBiasi, a native of Plymouth, Michigan, graduated summa cum laude this spring with a 3.92 GPA in chemical engineering. She

won "best in show" at the 2018 Northrop Grumman Engineering & Science Student Design Showcase and was named Florida Tech's Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

Steenberg, a native of Skodsborg, Denmark, also graduated summa cum laude this spring with a 3.97 GPA in global management and finance. He was named the Nathan M. Bisk College of Business 2018 Distinguished Scholar as well as Florida Tech Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

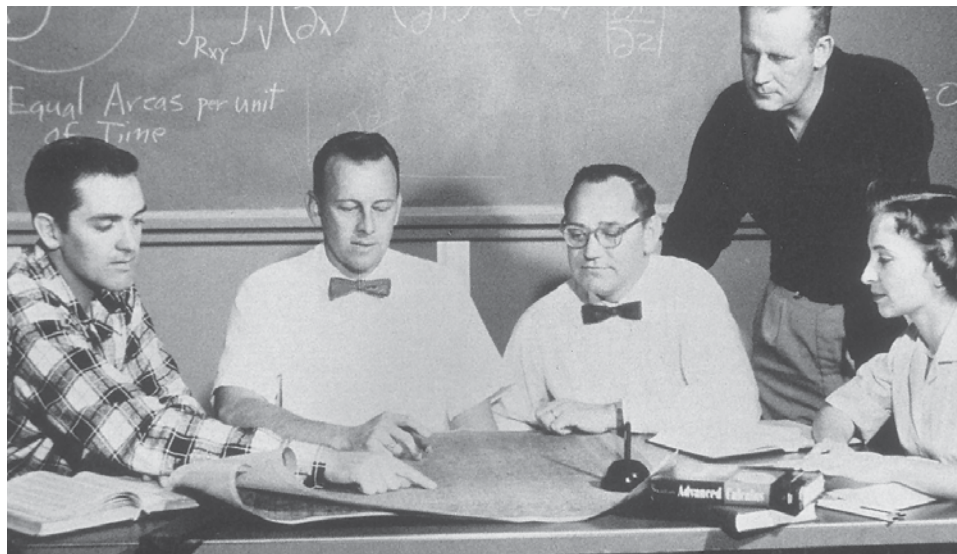
A Collection of

Notable Names, Tall Tales & Points of Pride

on our evolution from **Countdown College**
to **Florida Tech**

The story of our university's 60 years lives on through the words of university historian Gordon Patterson. The following passages share excerpts from Patterson's online series, "The Secret History of Florida Tech." Read the full accounts at:

T.FIT.EDU/SECRET-HISTORY



■ The Pelican Gang of Five and the Birth of BEC

In February 1958 Jerry Keuper and a handful of colleagues at the Missile Test Project—Donya Dixon, George Kelly, George Peters and Harold Dibble—began meeting at the Pelican Bar on A1A for after-work libations. These individuals became Keuper's "co-conspirators" in formulating plans for what they called "Brevard Engineering Institute" (BEI), later Brevard Engineering College (BEC).

In January 1958 Keuper arrived in Florida and was shocked to discover the limited opportunities for engineering and technical education. Keuper's idea was to create an after-hours engineering program in Melbourne modeled on his experiences teaching

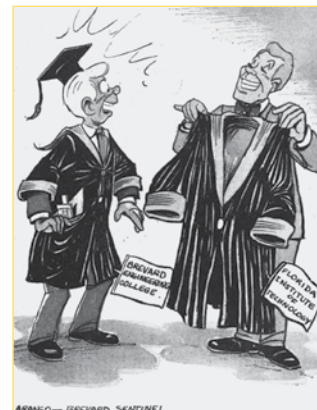
classes after work at Bridgeport Engineering Institute in Connecticut.

Dibble shared Keuper's passion for science and teaching and had been an adjunct professor at UCLA. At the Cape Dibble was an instructor in engineering extension courses offered by Rollins College and University of Miami. Neither institution, however, was willing to launch a full-time program of undergraduate and graduate courses.

That spring, the Pelican Gang of Five announced their intention to launch the school. "The institute," Harold Dibble declared in May 1958 in one of the university's first press releases, "is an independent

nonprofit organization and is completely self-supporting. This new engineering college is a community endeavor, and applications for enrollment will be welcomed from anyone employed on or off the military base."

Classes were scheduled to begin in September at Eau Gallie Junior High School (now Westshore Junior/Senior High School) Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings from 7-10 p.m. Keuper was named president of the nascent enterprise, while Dibble served as the college's first dean and executive vice president in charge of the academic program.



HOW WE GOT OUR NAME

Four years after the university's founding, Jerry Keuper was trying to win recognition for the school. He told honorary degree recipient and Florida's Secretary of State Tom Adams that changing the school's name was a step in that direction. Adams advised Keuper to draw up an amendment to the college's institutional charter and send it to him. At the time there was a store-front school in Tampa that had the rights to the name Florida Institute of Technology. It was Adams' opinion that sooner or later the Tampa group would fail to pay their annual corporate fee. Adams promised he would keep Keuper's application in his desk drawer.

Four years later the Tampa people had neglected to pay their institutional dues, and the amendment to BEC's educational charter authorizing the name change was approved.



Joan Sherman

Twenty-six-year-old chemist Joan Sherman joined RCA at the Missile Test Project in the photography lab in 1959. Needing to prove herself, Sherman “wanted to be one of boys.” While having lunch with a group of her skeptical, male co-workers, one of the men pulled out a cigar and started to light it. She said, “I can smoke that.” She took the cigar and began to puff out clouds of smoke. At that point a man came up and asked “would you like to teach at BEC?” It was Jerry

Keuper. It was the beginning of a marvelous chemical reaction that would begin 20 years of teaching at BEC and Florida Tech.

At Florida Tech Joan Sherman was a pathbreaker. In 2014 when Mike Babich retired he noted that Florida Tech’s chemistry department had the distinction of leading the nation in women faculty members. Our university can be proud that Joan Sherman’s legacy continues.

50 Years of Flight

Aerospace Technical Institute (ATI) was incorporated in 1967 at Cape Kennedy Regional Airport, now known as Orlando Melbourne International Airport, and began training flight students the following year—50 years ago this year. ATI president J. A. Lauderbaugh became the first dean of the school.

In November 1970 Florida Tech merged with ATI to form the School of Aeronautics. The merger brought to Florida Tech programs in aviation electronics, air transportation and flight crew training.

In 1990 George M. Skurla Hall opened and became the home of the School of Aeronautics. The building was named for Florida Tech’s trustee, George M. Skurla, the retired president and CEO of Northrop Grumman Corporation.

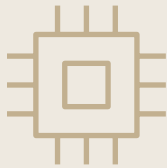
Now celebrating its 50th year, the college offers 26 degree programs and two minor options.

THEN
& NOW

... IN ENGINEERING AND TECH

1958

Intel develops the microchip



IBM’s quantum computer nears the 50-qubit milestone

2018



The Great Quail Escapade



In the fall of 1972 on a flight from Colombia to Florida, Jerry Keuper hatched one of his zaniest schemes. He decided to launch a quail hatchery at Florida Tech.

The trip itself had had nothing to do with quail eggs, but seeing a bowl of them during a meal, a light bulb

went off in Keuper’s head. In 1965 a team of University of Florida researchers had concocted Gatorade which was paying UF huge dividends. Keuper wondered if quail eggs might do the same for Countdown College.

Keuper threw himself into hammering out a plan. The

university would form a subsidiary called FIT Farms Inc. to produce the quail eggs. Eggs he brought back from Colombia would form the brood’s nucleus. An old carpenter’s shed near what is now the Harris Student Design Center was retrofitted into a quail roost.

By early December, 300 FIT quails were “laying like mad at the campus hatchery.” Keuper was overjoyed and envisioned Florida Tech’s national reputation soaring.

The quail scheme, however, was not destined for success. Only a handful of local super-market managers expressed

interest in marketing the speckled product. By 1974 Keuper decided to shut down FIT Farms Inc. and close the quail hatchery.

Keuper had other ideas. Later he would receive a flock of peacocks to wander the campus. Still later, he would acquire a large herd of long-horned rams as part of an experiment seeking to devise a male contraceptive. That certainly adds new meaning to “High Tech with a Human Touch.”

DID YOU KNOW? In 1983, the Florida Tech student body voted to change the mascot from “Engineers” to “Panthers.”



■ The Infamous Streak

The two naked men were moving fast when they passed in front of the Denius Student Union on Tuesday, March 5, 1974. One had a towel wrapped around his head; the other wore a Groucho Marx mask and a backpack. Two hours later a third stalker dashed from Wood Cafeteria to Shaw Hall. This was the year streaking fever raged on college campuses. Students at Countdown College were determined not to be left behind.

Within hours, a whispering campaign began rallying support for a mass campus streak. The plan was for students to gather at the Crawford Science Building at 10 p.m. on Thursday, March 7. The university’s response was muted. Robert Cotron, Melbourne’s Chief of Police, said, “If the school doesn’t care, we don’t care.” Behind the scenes a handful of professors quietly supported the students.

Excitement grew as news of the planned streak was reported by the local press. Late Thursday afternoon more than 50 Jensen Beach students arrived to lend their support to their Melbourne brethren. By 9 p.m. a crowd of nearly 1,000 people had gathered. Police Chief Cotron ordered 15 police officers to maintain a perimeter along Country Club Drive to ensure the stalkers remained on course.

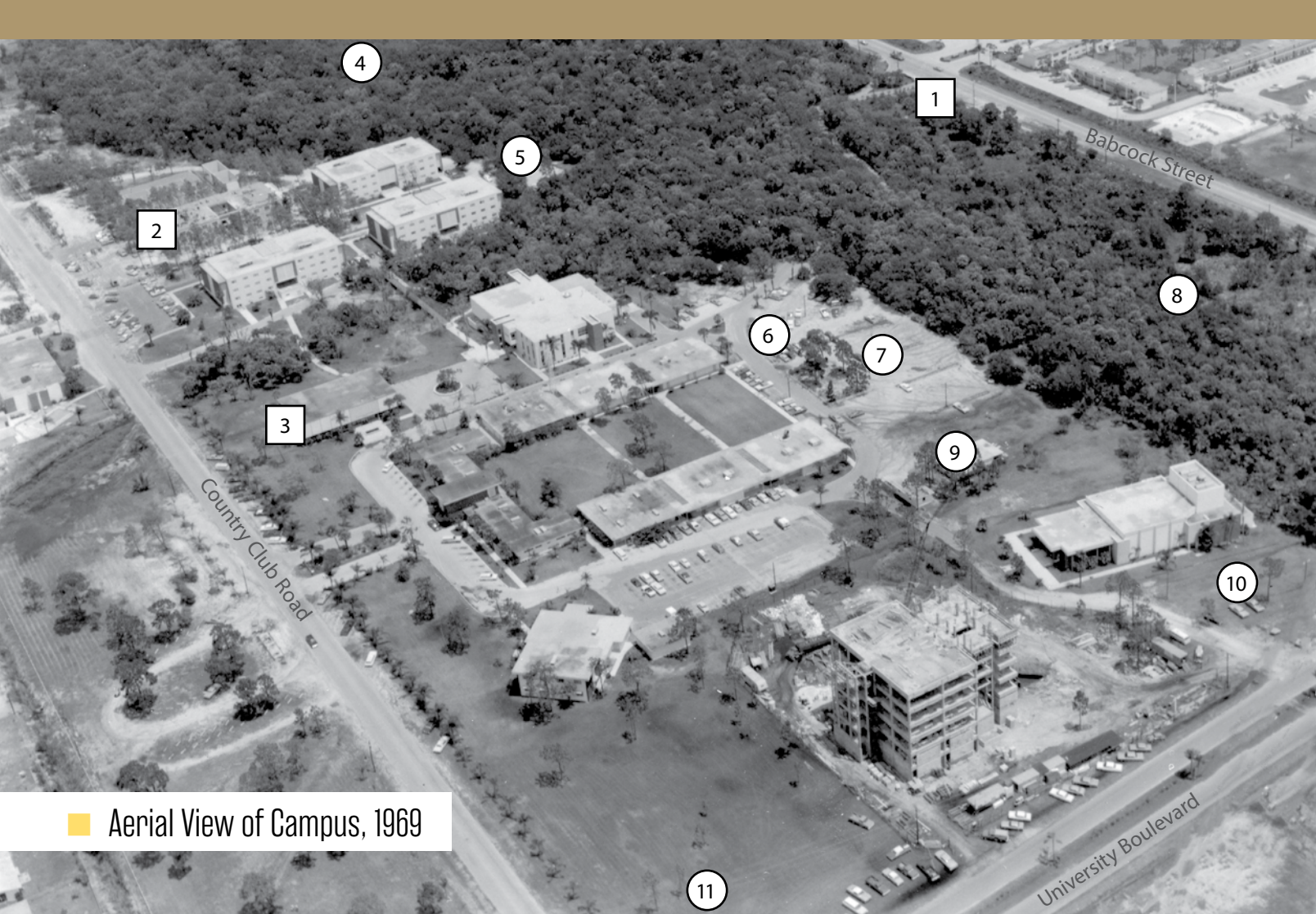
At 10 p.m. a bugle sounded and close to 600 students, who had gathered at the Crawford Science Building broke into a run. Shouting “We’re Number One” the naked throng raced past the president’s office through the dorm quad and on to Roberts Hall. Some of the students sported bow ties as a salute to Jerry Keuper who always wore a bow tie. Others displayed their filiality by carrying signs saying

“Hi Mom” and “Hi Pop.” One wore bunny ears. One wore a sombrero. One rode a bicycle while another arrived on a motorcycle. A team pulled a chariot.

The streak was over in a matter of minutes. It was estimated that 55 percent of the student body had participated in the streak. By midnight the Jensen Beach stalkers were on their way home, and the Melbourne students were back in their dorm rooms.

A backlash against the night’s “lamentable happenings” at Countdown College grew in the two weeks following the streak, but ultimately no legal action was taken against any of the streak’s participants.

Dale Simcox, who bore responsibility for campus security, said a streak “wouldn’t happen here.” The next 72 hours would prove him wrong. The national “streaking” craze had come to Florida Tech.



■ Aerial View of Campus, 1969



1 Main entrance to campus from Babcock Street



2 Residence Hall (with open-air first-floor breezeway)



3 Campus Library (before Chao Tsu-Yu Chinese Clock)

FUTURE SITE OF:

- 4 Columbia Village
- 5 Evans Hall
- 6 Ruth Funk Center

- 7 Evans Library
- 8 Shephard Building
- 9 Link Building

- 10 WFIT
- 11 Skurla Hall

DID YOU KNOW? The college originally had a dress code that dictated “shorts, slacks and pedal pushers are considered inappropriate for campus wear” and that “male students should shave daily.”

■ Armadillos, Leprosy and Disney Studios

Eleanor Storrs became fascinated with armadillos early in her doctoral studies. After completing her doctorate, Storrs happened to overhear a group of leprosy researchers lamenting the absence of any animal model that could be used for leprosy studies.

“I asked them,” she recalled, “if anybody had ever tried to inoculate an armadillo with leprosy because their body temperature is 90 to 92 degrees. They laughed at me. I mean it must have sounded strange—an armadillo.”

Following that conversation, Storrs discovered wild armadillos with leprosy and dove into further research. In 1974 her work was recognized

in a lead article in the prestigious journal *Science*. Subsequently, the WHO and NIH awarded Storrs a series of contracts to provide armadillo tissue with leprosy for studies seeking a vaccine against the disease.

Four years later Storrs accepted a research professorship at Florida Tech’s Medical Research Institute (MRI). During the next 15 years she conducted a wide-ranging series of experiments on leprosy and other infectious diseases.

A 1982 article published in *National Geographic* had sparked the interest of the producer for the Disney Network’s television program

“Scheme of Things.” Disney Studios dispatched a film crew and the program’s moderator, James MacArthur of “Hawaii Five-O” fame, to Countdown College for two days to film Storrs’s field and lab work.

Professor Storrs announced her retirement in 1993 and died on May 20, 2018, after a brief illness. “Polly,” as her friends and colleagues called her, never lost her passion for science and love of armadillos.



THEN & NOW

... IN SCIENCE

The first in vitro mammals, a litter of mice, are born.

1958



Artificial mouse embryo is grown using only stem cells.

2018

■ Winning Accreditation

By 1964, Jerry Keuper knew Countdown College's survival hinged on winning accreditation. He had been told more than once that there was no way BEC would be accredited. Specifically the school must have a new library before the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools would consider making an accreditation visit, but there was no money for such a substantial project.

The Melbourne Junior Women's Club proved to be BEC's staunchest ally and spearheaded the library campaign. The culmination of the fundraising drive came in April as a formal ball hosted by the club. It was a stunning success.

With these plans in motion and Keuper's promise that the library would be built, a SACS accreditation team would arrive on May 10. Keuper undoubtedly wondered if a concrete slab would be enough to win the team's approval.

Good news came six weeks later. The preliminary report described the college in glowing terms. BEC's faculty received high praise for its "dedication and enthusiasm." The report concluded that no other college or university was "offering anything comparable to these programs."

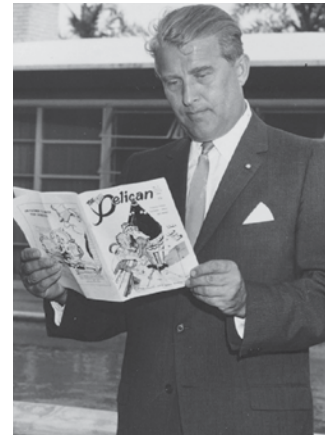
Late in November SACS announced that BEC had received full accreditation. Keuper made it clear that this accreditation could not have been achieved without the help of NASA, the Air Force, civilian contractors at the Cape and, most assuredly, the women of Brevard.

Note: On Saturday, Jan. 23, 1965, BEC's library was formally dedicated. In 1984, the library was moved to its present location and the original library building was renamed the Jerome P. Keuper Administration Building.

■ Werner von Braun

Werner von Braun spoke at BEC's fourth commencement. He was one of the first people to describe BEC as "Countdown College." In his short speech, von Braun ticked off the school's accomplishments. "Cooperation, dissension, recognition, criticism" von Braun declared "...all these things have gone into building Brevard Engineering College."

Von Braun believed the college's future was bright. "Your president, Dr. Jerome P. Keuper," von Braun concluded, "with his great vision has noted the need for such a school in the area, and with his devotion and others who have helped him, Brevard Engineering College will someday become one of the top engineering colleges in the nation."



THEN
& NOW
... IN SPACE

1956

NASA created; first successful American satellite, Explorer 1, launched into orbit; space race begins

• Liquid water discovered on Mars

2018

■ Small Change, Big Legend

With three others at a bar in February 1958, a thirty-something physicist proposes the ridiculous idea of launching a college. Someone standing off to the side overhears this and tosses 37 cents of change from a long-distance phone call on the bar and quips "go start your college with this." This is the legend.

Seven years later Jerry Keuper must have been thinking about this episode when he opened a letter from the advertising department of *Time Magazine*. In December 1966, *Time* announced a nationwide contest for a free, full page ad in the magazine. Always on the look-out for ways to publicize Countdown College, Keuper summoned Homer Pyle, the college's part-time publicist, to his office. Pyle's assignment: Come up with a proposal.

A few days later, Pyle returned with a draft for Florida Tech's entry composed around a spoof on the title of W. Somerset Maugham's 1919 novel *The Moon and Sixpence*. Keuper liked the idea and submitted the copy. Weeks passed, then good news came from *Time's* headquarters. Countdown College's "The Moon and 37 Cents" advertisement would be published in the magazine's June 23, 1967, Florida edition of *Time Magazine* on page X2. Copies of the magazine would reach 86,757 Florida households.





■ The Atomic Toilet

A year after its 1965 donation of a 5-million electron volt linear accelerator to the college, GE donated a 10,000 Curie Cobalt-60 irradiation source along with the needed radiation protection and remote operation hardware. David Woodbridge, chair of the physics department, knew the machine meant it was only a matter of time before the college's physics department was ranked as one of the best in the nation.

In December 1968 construction began on the \$1.25-million Crawford Science Building and nuclear laboratory. Woodbridge planned to use the radioactive Cobalt-60 in experiments designed to explore "how space travelers will fight off radiation in outer space." Before the construction was completed, Countdown College was swept into a dispute over the City of West Melbourne's proposal to build a sewage treatment plant on one of the tributaries of Crane Creek. "If any pollution of the stream that runs through our campus occurs," Keuper

warned, "it would ruin us. It would endanger the lives of the 500 students who use the campus area." Melbourne's city manager Dick Simmons agreed. An alternative solution was needed.

Woodbridge had an idea: why not use the Cobalt-60 source to purify sewage water? He claimed that his experiments confirmed the efficacy of the Cobalt-60 process in eliminating up to "97 percent of bacteria and pathogenic organisms." With the addition of microfilters, both solid and liquid sewage could be turned into potable water.

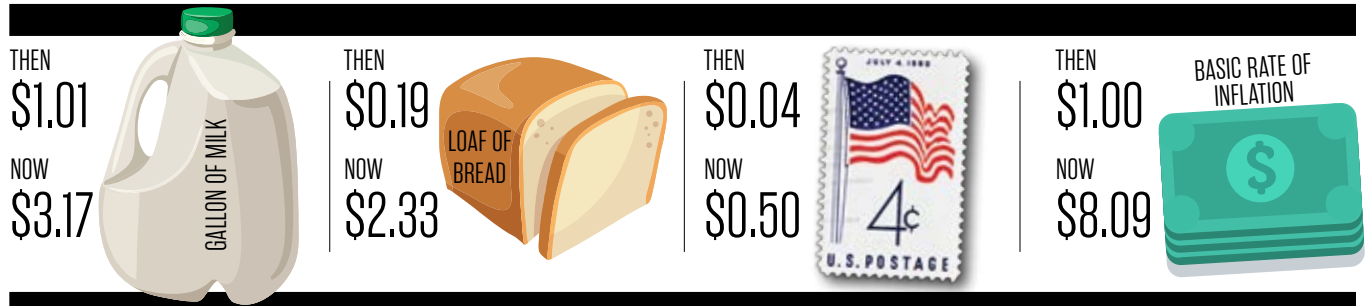
Tests of Woodbridge's "bio-nuclear sewage converter" took place in the newly constructed "25 feet by 4 feet in diameter" metal cylinder buried next to the seven-story Crawford Science Building. Each morning a "honey cart" containing 300 to 400 gallons of sewage arrived on campus, was pumped into the "nuclear irradiator" and passed through the filtration devices. Students irreverently dubbed the facility "the atomic toilet."

In its July 13, 1970, issue, *Time Magazine* profiled Woodbridge's work in an article titled "Sewage Tastes Good Like Water Should." The initial tests of the "atomic toilet" were encouraging.

Plans for Melbourne's space age, nuclear sewage plant, however, ran into a roadblock. Environmental and health concerns led city inspectors to block the building permits needed for a fully operational facility. The "honey cart" ended its daily deliveries. Woodbridge took up other projects. The source of radioactive Cobalt-60 remained buried beneath a small kiosk next to the Crawford Science Building. The "atomic toilet" remained dormant until 1981 when John Miller and Keuper decided to decommission the nuclear facility. All that remains of one of Florida Tech's most imaginative endeavors is a small kiosk and the underground passageway linking the "atomic toilet" to the Crawford Building.



All that remains of one of Florida Tech's most imaginative endeavors is a small kiosk and the underground passageway linking the "atomic toilet" to the Crawford Building.



Sources: U.S. Census, fiftiesweb.com

■ Persistence Pays



It was a beautiful evening at the Merritt Island home of former university president Lynn Weaver and his wife, Anita, as they entertained their guests after dinner. Watching the moon rise over the river, Weaver enjoyed cordials with those guests, representatives of the F. W. Olin Foundation, while discussing a request for a grant to build a new academic building.

Years prior, in 1990, Weaver, president emeritus, had applied for a \$10 million grant from the foundation to fund the construction of a new engineering building. The university was among the top three candidates for the grant, but ultimately the request was denied. The foundation was unsure of the financial stability of the university and instead gave a much smaller sum of \$100,000 as a ‘consolation prize,’ as Weaver put it.

Weaver continued to keep in touch with the foundation about the university’s progress

through the years, and in 1996 he applied again to the Olin Foundation for a grant, this time to fund a biological sciences building. Following that application, Weaver received a request for a strictly confidential meeting with the representatives, and set it up for the following evening at his home with Lawrence Milas, then-president of the F.W. Olin Foundation, William Horn, who was the vice president of the foundation, and the late Jack Hartley, who at the time was a university trustee and CEO of Harris Corp., and his wife, Martha.

As the after-dinner cordials and business talk continued, Milas said, “We’re thinking of making one major grant to a private institution where it would make a real difference, and you’re one of the institutions we’re looking at.”

He encouraged Weaver to submit another request for a much larger sum of money, and that’s exactly what Weaver

did. After several months, the foundation came back for a site visit, after which they said they had decided to give the university \$50 million.

“It was a turning point. There’s no question in my mind,” said Weaver of the grant money. The five-year commitment made it possible for Florida Tech to build two major buildings—Olin Engineering and Olin Biological Sciences—as well as fund equipment for the labs and teaching facilities, offer scholarships and endow a professorship.

“Success breeds success,” he added as he described additional results that did not come directly from the grant’s funding. From the construction and fitting of these buildings, the university not only doubled its space and filled it with the latest technology and equipment, but also attracted outstanding faculty and students and helped build a successful capital fundraising campaign to the tune of \$27 million.

From all this success, Weaver was able to ask the Olin Foundation for another \$14 million to build what is today Olin Physical Sciences and also help fund the Clemente Center and new baseball fields to replace those that used to be where the Olin Quad is today.



■ Betty Preece

The late Betty Preece ’74 M.S. was a compelling force in helping women in engineering flourish. Two years after earning her Florida Tech master’s degree in science education, she joined the faculty as an adjunct professor.

Preece served on the original organizing team and as an inaugural member of the Society of Women Engineers. Through the years, she served in many organizations to champion the case for engineering as a career to women and under-represented groups.

Together with her husband, Preece established a scholarship supporting electrical engineering undergraduate students and endowed the Women in Engineering Scholarship at Florida Tech.

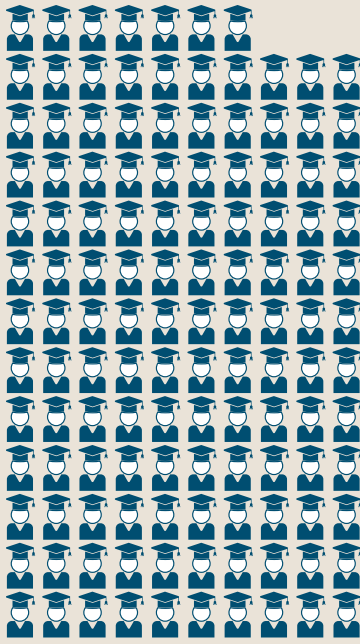


By the Numbers

In the 1960–61 academic year, the university bestowed degrees to 21 graduates.

In the 2017–18 academic year, the university bestowed degrees to 2,673 graduates.

That's over **127x** as many graduates last year as in our first year.



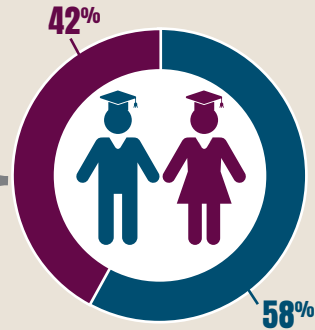
1960–61

2017–18



Florida Tech's male-to-female ratio in the 1960s:
49:1

Florida Tech's male-to-female ratio in the 2010s:
1.4:1



The university's first graduate, Reagan DuBose, receives an associate degree in engineering.

1961

The university began offering doctoral programs.

1978

The School of Aeronautics and the Jensen Beach campus became part of the main campus.

1987

Florida Tech started offering online degrees.

2009

THEN & NOW

Checking out library books in 1984; checking out technology tools in 2018



Find more university history:
TIMELINE.FIT.EDU

SPECIAL THANKS to those who helped research and develop this collection:
Stephanie Herndon, Erin Mahaney, Gordon Patterson, Lisa Petrillo, Leslie Savoie

Documentation for the Secret History series comes from the Keuper Scrapbooks, photograph collection and university papers in the Harry P. Weber University Archives or Florida Institute of Technology Special Collections, John H. Evans Library, Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, FL.



Jerome P. Keuper Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient

Vik Verma

Clanging glory, the New York Stock Exchange bell rang on June 19, 2018, by the chief executive officer of Silicon Valley-based 8x8 Inc. and our next Jerome P. Keuper Award winner, Vikram Verma '87. The 10 seconds of brassy tolling is an enduring symbol of America's capital market. This historic day signals 8x8's move from NASDAQ. It is almost an oxymoron that a simple brass bell is the opening of Wall Street in today's environment of high-speed technology and competitive economy. In contrast to the sound of the bell clang, 8x8's focus is on revolutionizing enterprise communications everywhere with groundbreaking unified communications and contact center technology. It is the world's first communications cloud provider. How does one come to the honor of ringing the bell?

Vikram Verma's formula for life is simple. The four-step process is (1) take a chance, (2) give your best, and the results will come, (3) be honest with yourself and know your limitations and (4) when you find your calling, go for it and don't let go. This process derives from his life experience, specifically four defining moments which he eloquently shares in both personal encounters and large audiences alike.

Florida Tech is an integral part of his story and formula. Verma, who earned his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, says, "Florida Tech taught me the value of hard work, commitment and focusing on fundamentals. I've parlayed

that into my company's motto: 'Use technology to solve real-world problems cost-effectively. The rest will take care of itself.'

Some may call him a disrupter—Verma's passion is taking complex technology and translating it into products and services that create value for customers worldwide. In 1990, Verma started his career at Savi Technology as a design engineer while it was pre-revenue. In the early part of his career at Savi, his work on RFID (radio-frequency identification) and the Internet of Things is credited with revolutionizing the worldwide container tracking and security industry. The World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, recognized this breakthrough by naming him a 2003 Top 40 Technology Pioneer in the world. Verma grew Savi Technology, known as a pioneer in cloud-based managed service offerings in addition to the RFID tracking and security solutions, from a startup to a multimillion-dollar business. Verma led its acquisition by Texas Instruments. During his tenure, Verma served as Savi Technology's engineering VP before becoming chief operations officer and later president and CEO. Interestingly, Verma later bought back Savi from Texas Instruments and eventually sold it to Lockheed Martin in 2006. At this point in his career, working as president of strategic venture for Lockheed Martin, Verma turned his attention to shifting the quintessential military technologies and programs at Lockheed to global commercial

ventures ranging from seabed mining to nanomaterials.

Beyond his eight patents and distinguished 25-plus-year executive career with leading technology companies, Verma has led a remarkable educational path. Verma earned additional engineering degrees from the University of Michigan and Stanford University. He's also completed graduate executive credentials from Stanford, Harvard and the University of California at Berkeley.

A dedicated Panther, Verma loyally supports his alma mater. His time as a member of the Florida Tech board of trustees from 2002 to 2007 and again from 2015 to present adds to transformational decisions at the university. In addition, Verma is the recipient of the Faculty Honors Award (co-valedictorian) Class of 1987, the 1987 Tau Beta Pi Williams Fellowship, the 1999 Alumni Distinguished Achievement Award for the College of Engineering, and a commencement speaker in 2002 and 2018.

With Verma adding to the heralded previous winners—including business executive Jim Thomas, Major League Baseball pitcher Tim Wakefield, astronaut Sunita Williams, the army's first female four-star general, Ann Dunwoody, retired Ford Motor Co. executive Robert Phebus Jr., attorney Dale Dettmer and Carmax President and CEO Thomas Folliard—it is easy to imagine Jerome P. Keuper smiling in his bow tie.

Stephanie Bacon

8x8

Network Operations Center



HOMECOMING

THURSDAY, OCT. 11



Meg O'Malley's presents
**Homecoming
5K Run/Walk**

6 p.m., Downtown Melbourne

Cool shirts, goody bags and a post-race party at Meg's with food, drinks and music!

FRIDAY, OCT. 12



FREE CONCERT!

Homecoming Fest

featuring Cold War Kids

6 p.m., Downtown Melbourne

SATURDAY, OCT. 13



Homecoming Cookout and Tailgate Party

11 a.m., Panther Den and
Varsity Practice Field

Florida Tech Campus



Football Game

vs. Valdosta State

1 p.m., Panther Stadium

Shuttles provided to the stadium

The 60th Anniversary
GALA
To the Stars!
Dinner Music & Dancing
Presentation of Outstanding Alumni Awards
6:30 p.m., Clemente Center

SUNDAY, OCT. 14



Homecoming Celebration Brunch
Honoring Father Doug

12:15 p.m., Hartley Room

RSVP to ljaim@fit.edu.

ALL WEEKEND

Wandering Spirit, African Wax Prints

Ruth Funk Center for Textile Arts

A Look Back: Forty Years of the Foosaner Collection

Foosaner Art Museum

REGISTER TODAY: HOMECOMING.FIT.EDU



COMING

Sold-out headlining shows

Festival appearances at
Bonnaroo and Coachella

Six studio albums
and a decade in the industry

Don't miss the **ONLY 2018
FLORIDA TOUR DATE**
for Cold War Kids at
Homecoming Fest!

TOP 5 SONGS YOU'VE HEARD ON SPOTIFY

- > "First" — No. 1
on the Billboard Alternative Songs chart
- > "Miracle Mile"
- > "Hang Me Up to Dry"
- > "Love Is Mystical"
- > "So Tied Up"

MUSICAL INFLUENCES

Drawing inspiration from Bob Dylan to the Velvet Underground, Cold War Kids is an American indie rock band known for blues ballads and soulful sounds. The group formed in 2004 in LA and pays tribute to the city with their sixth album, "LA Divine," released in 2017.

BAND MEMBERS

- > Nathan Willett, singer/guitarist/pianist
- > Matt Maust, bassist
- > Joe Plummer, percussionist
- > David Quon, guitarist
- > Matthew Schwartz, keyboardist

COLD WAR KIDS



ALUMNI NEWS



News from the desk of Andy Kirbach '90

Florida Tech
Alumni Association President

DEAR ALUMNI, STUDENTS, PARENTS AND FRIENDS,

Get ready Panthers! Not only is Florida Tech celebrating 60 years of education and research, it's also time for Homecoming!

Homecoming Weekend (Oct. 11–13) is a great time to visit Melbourne. There is so much happening: It all kicks off with the Homecoming 5K in Downtown Melbourne on Thursday. On Friday, come to Homecoming Fest featuring national recording artist, indie rock band, Cold War Kids performing a free concert in Downtown Melbourne! Join us Saturday at the football game and, later, the Homecoming Gala celebrating 60 years of Florida Tech. Check the Alumni Association website, Facebook and Instagram for the complete schedule of activities.

The weekend is a must-attend with alumni recognitions and awards, gatherings, celebrations and fun activities. Each presents opportunities to mingle with some of the most distinguished alumni and influencers in business, science and industry from our amazing Florida Tech community! It gives us a chance to inspire each other and network to bring about the dreams of the future that will change the world.

For those of you who can't make it back to campus for Homecoming, you are welcome to visit the Alumni Office any time you are in Central Florida. If getting back to campus is a challenge, you can reconnect with other Panthers by attending an Alumni Reception in your area or finding an alumni chapter in a city near you!

Also, mark your calendars for the Day of Giving on Nov. 27, 2018. The money raised will assist Florida Tech's greatest needs including financial aid, research and student activities. The Day of Giving is about alumni participation, which is a key factor in how organizations, including U.S. News & World Report, perceive the success of the university and how they ultimately rank.

Our alumni continue to grow and advance. What will be your part? Come, attend, connect and see! Be part of the momentum.

Go Panthers!

YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Andy Kirbach '90 | President | Melbourne, FL | akirbach@gmail.com
Kim Bozik '87 | Vice President | Chandler, AZ | kim.b.bozik@intel.com
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Brian Stahl '86, '88 M.S. | Treasurer | Satellite Beach, FL | brainmstahl@gmail.com
David Murphy '91, '01 M.S. | Member-at-Large | Winter Garden, FL | davemurphyrr@hotmail.com
Al Hagopian '89, '94 MBA | Member-at-Large | Indialantic, FL | Al.Hagopian@hds.com

ON THE ROAD: OXFORD



Oxford study abroad students with President McCay and guest speaker Julian Field '84



ON THE ROAD: DENVER



Our first Colorado alumni social



ON THE ROAD: **PARIS**



Alumni at the Avenue des Champs-Elysees



More reception photos: alumni.fit.edu

ON THE ROAD: **NYC**



Thank you to Jonathan Krausche '97 for arranging exclusive accommodations at One Trade Center

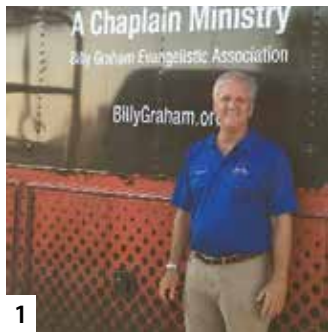
ON THE ROAD: **BOSTON**



Featuring Special Guest:
Alumnus Tim Wakefield, former pitcher for the Red Sox



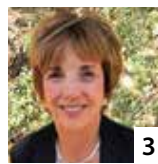
ALUMNOTES



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1970s

1|R.P. "CHIP" ROHLKE '76 was deployed as a chaplain for the Billy Graham Rapid Response Team to the Keys after Hurricane Maria. Rohlke ministered to homeowners affected by the hurricane and supported Samaritan's Purse volunteers who helped in the cleanup.

2|SIMON ZYSMAN '78 Ph.D. is a licensed clinical psychologist and a revered pioneer in opioid addiction treatment. He is the founder of Employee Assistance Resource Services Inc. (EARS), an outpatient clinic in Smithtown, New York, which currently holds one of the highest success rates in treating opioid dependence in New York. Zysman recently published the book *Successful Heroin & Opioid Addiction Treatment*.

DENNIS NOLAN '79 M.S. is proud to revise the 4th Edition of *Handbook of Fire and Explosion Protection Engineering Principles: For Oil, Gas, Chemical and Related Facilities* while commencing his 25th year working for Saudi Aramco in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

1980s

3|MICHELE ALTHERR '80 was recently named the principal of Aspen Elementary School in Los Alamos, New Mexico. She has worked in education since 1997. Through her outstanding efforts as a teacher and community leader, she rose to serve as a New Mexico Public Education Department Teacher Leader School Liaison.

GLEN GATES '81 has been named director of charter sales for Amerijet International, a

worldwide shipping and air freight company. As a part of the senior management team, he will oversee the growth and diversification of all business under the Amerijet charters umbrella. He has over 35 years of experience in the air cargo charter and airline terminal operations industries.

4|DANA GARTZKE '82 MBA was recently appointed vice president for the Alliance of Health Care Sharing Ministries headquartered in Melbourne, Florida. He spent the last 22 years in Washington, D.C., in the U.S. House of Representatives as chief of staff for various members of Congress. Prior to Capitol Hill, Gartzke worked 15 years as an engineer (BSEE) and program manager for Harris Corp. He resides in Manassas, Virginia, and is fond of skeet and sporting clay.

5|DOUGLAS RILLSTONE '83 has been awarded a Band One ranking in the prominent legal guide *Chambers USA: A Guide to America's Leading Business Lawyers*. This is the highest distinction awarded by the group. He was lauded for his experience in development and redevelopment projects.

6|NANCY WALKER '83, '86 M.S., has joined SmartSky Networks, a next-generation airborne communications provider, as chief commercial officer. After working with aerospace and in-flight connectivity technologies for more than 30 years, she is well-prepared to lead the company's network-related sales and marketing efforts.

KARL WADENSTEN '85 has joined the race for lieutenant governor of Rhode Island. After serving a successful 40 years as president of VIBCO Vibrators, a company



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that manufactures industrial vibrators for dump trucks, he has changed course to politics. He is also a member of the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation as a board member and cast the sole vote against a \$75 million loan guarantee for 38 Studios as a member of the state's Economic Development Corporation.

7|JOE WALDEN '88 MBA, '89 M.S., has been selected for induction into the Powerlifting Hall of Fame as part of the class of 2018. He is an Army veteran and lecturer for the School of Business at the University of Kansas who's been powerlifting as a hobby for the past 40 years.

8|ALAIN MOUSTARD '89 was recently named director of digital transformation at COLAS, an international construction firm. In 2001, he joined Bouygues Telecom as director of IT production. He was then appointed director of operations and office automation (2004), then director of application development back office (2005), before taking the lead of the Information Systems Department in 2007.

1990s

Last year, the OSIRIS-REx spacecraft mission launched from Cape Canaveral with the goal of landing on Asteroid Benu, collecting regolith from the surface and returning to Earth for analysis. **AMY SIMON** '93, **CHRISTIAN D'AUBIGNY** '96 and **KERRI DONALDSON** '99 were instrumental in the development of the imaging technology and execution of the mission. At 4.5 billion years old, Asteroid Benu is likely one of the earliest asteroids and will reveal secrets about the origins of the universe. The mission is entering its first approach to the asteroid this fall.

ELI FULLER '93 recently completed the Talisker Whiskey Atlantic Challenge, an ocean rowing race commonly called "the world's toughest row." Starting in La Gomera in the Canary Islands and finishing in Antigua & Barbuda, the race stretches over 3,000 miles. His four-man crew crossed the Atlantic to finish in record time.

9|PHIL ESTES '94 was recently promoted to the position of distinguished engineer at IBM. He is an expert in Linux container technology and is currently an OSS maintainer for multiple high-profile projects, such as the Docker engine project and the CNCF container project.

10|ALLISON COFFIN '96 was recently tenured and promoted to associate professor of neuroscience at Washington State University Vancouver. She is also the co-founder and president of Science Talk, a science communication nonprofit organization.

11|HEATHER SCHNEIDER '97 was named chief financial officer at Good Samaritan Medical Center in West Palm Beach. Schneider is responsible for overseeing the financial operations for the 333-bed acute care hospital and its departments. Prior to joining Good Samaritan, she served in the same position at Florida Medical Center, a campus of North Shore in Broward County. She also worked as the CFO at The Hospitals of Providence East Campus in El Paso, Texas.

2000s

Col. **JOHN FELLOWS** '01 M.S. was named the chief executive officer of APT Research Inc. APT supports more than 50 government and industry customers, including NASA and the Department of Defense, all while functioning as a 100 percent employee-owned small business.

12|KAREN D'ALBERTO '05, '07 PMBA, proudly shares a photo of Rylan Rocco D'Alberto-Perkins in his Panther cub gear.

13|Col. JOEL WARHURST '05 M.S. recently became Anniston Army Depot's 35th commander. He is a graduate of the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy at Fort McNair, Virginia. Commissioned in 1994, Warhurst began his service at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. After completing the Command and General Staff School, he was reassigned to Fort Campbell. Later, he served with the 101st Airborne Division, with the Army

Materiel Command headquarters, and in posts in Red River, Texas; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and with the NATO Rapid Deployable Corps-Turkey.

14|Col. STEPHEN YORK '06 was recently installed as commander of the Red River Army Depot in Texarkana, Texas. He comes to Red River after his last assignment as director for the Training Management Directorate, Army Combined Arms Center, in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. The native of Louisville, Kentucky, has 29 years of service.

15|JENNIFER HANSELMAN '07 was recently appointed as the founding dean of the College of Mathematics and Sciences at Westfield State University in Westfield, Massachusetts. In her free time, Hanselman conducts outreach in K-12 schools on ecological topics, especially climate change. She also presents on pedagogical topics, such as shifting lessons toward inquiry, debunking science myths and connecting the Next Generation Science Standards to the Common Core.

2010s

16|JEANA MASCIIO '11 successfully defended her Ph.D. in atmospheric sciences from the University of Utah. She has accepted a senior research associate position at Atmospheric and Environmental Research Inc. in Boston.

MICHAEL COX '12, '14 M.S., marks two years in business with PalmettoINSITU, a geotechnical sampling company that collects soil across the U.S. and extracts precise data on soil parameters. He is known as the "Indiana Jones" of capturing soil data in the geotechnical engineering space due to his reputation of getting in and out of some of the most challenging site locations. Knowledge of the soil is crucial to any construction project, and he has efficiently provided foundation requirements for a variety of advanced structures.

17|SHAHAB ARABSHAHI '15 welcomes his newborn son and future Panther, Raiden.

18|TANIA KILCULLEN '16 and **CHRIS DAWSON** '16 were recently married. They currently live in Colorado where Tania is an environmental inspector for the Aurora Water Department, and Chris is assistant superintendent for Richmond American Homes.

APRIL VIVINO '16 has received a Fulbright U.S. Student Program award to South Korea from the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. She will support the teaching of English as part of the Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship.

ANGELICA ZAMORA-DURAN '16 M.S. was selected to serve on the National Board of Phi Kappa Phi, a prestigious academic honor society. She will serve on the Council of Students and act as liaison between student members and representatives on the board.

19|HARRY HOBBS '17 DBA shares a photo of his granddaughter Layla, a future Panther, fixing her hair for a day of school with a smile.

20|WARREN PITTORIE '17 M.S. recently earned his master's in aviation human factors and plans to remain at Florida Tech to continue his research with the College of Aeronautics and stay involved with various campus departments and organizations.

DREW BEYER '18 and **TY COHEN** '18, former Florida Tech pitchers, have signed deals with Major League Baseball's Detroit Tigers and St. Louis Cardinals, respectively. Beyer, a four-year member of the Panthers baseball team, ranked second in school history with 20 career saves. Cohen amassed 28 wins in his time as a Florida Tech pitcher, the second most wins in school history.

Faculty

21|MARY BONHOMME, associate provost for Extended Studies, shares a photo of her great nephew, Samuel Chamberlain, in his Panther gear. His parents are Grant and Hannah Chamberlain.

Excerpt from our upcoming 60th Anniversary publication,
60 for 60: Celebrating Sixty Years of Alumni at Florida Institute of Technology



Alvin Kaltman, Ph.D.

COMING IN ON THE GROUND FLOOR

Among the earliest students of Brevard Engineering College (BEC), the precursor of Florida Tech, Alvin Kaltman earned his master's degree in 1964 and also served as an undergraduate teacher.

Prior to his enrollment at BEC, he joined RCA as a junior mathematician—even though his undergraduate degree was in social sciences, which he earned at the University of the Philippines while serving in Air Force intelligence. He soon learned senior scientists working at Cape Canaveral were setting up an engineering college offering graduate courses in the evening, and he enrolled in the applied mathematics master's degree program in

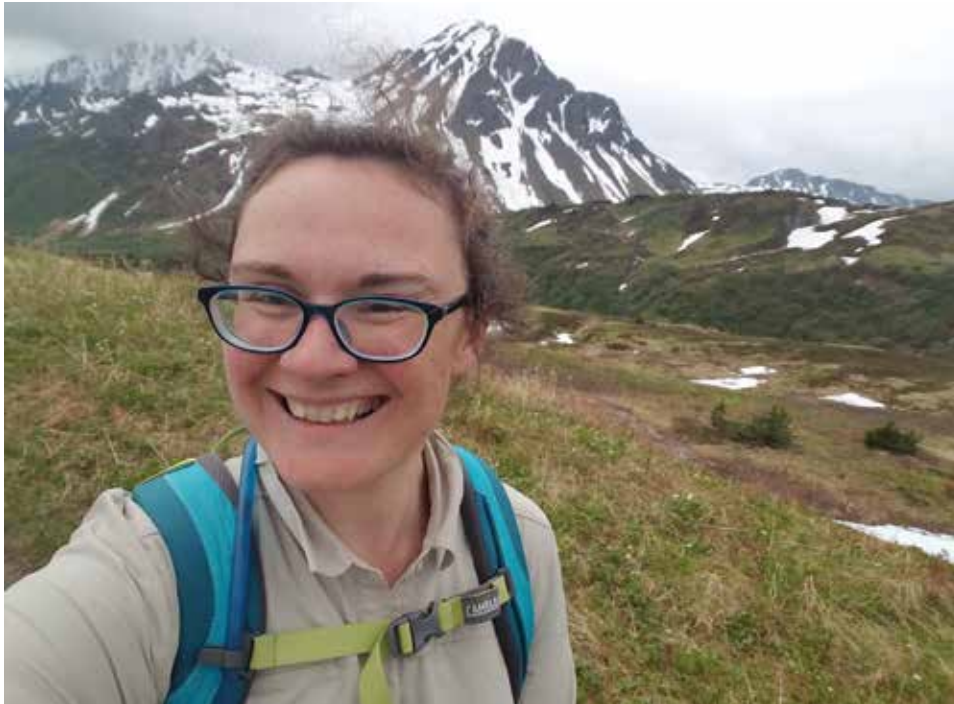
the fall of 1960. At the invitation of Ray Work, acting dean of BEC, Kaltman also taught a general college chemistry course at what was to become Florida Tech. He then went on to earn his doctorate in political science from George Washington University in 1970.

Kaltman's diverse professional experience included systems design, programming and analysis for government agencies and private organizations. His work not only developed the search algorithm for the prototype of what became GPS, he also designed the first game analysis programs used by several NFL teams. Perhaps his wanderlust began when working on the search algorithm for

GPS as Kaltman has traveled extensively. In this photo, he is exploring Cape Washington, Antarctica.

In 1998, with more than 30 years of practical management experience, Kaltman compiled foundational leadership lessons that are still relevant today in an easy-to-read book, *Cigars, Whiskey & Winning: Leadership Lessons from General Ulysses S. Grant*.

His career included stints as a senior executive vice president of MBNA, group vice president of GEICO Corporation, as well as president and CEO roles with two companies. Today, Kaltman volunteers to teach a course in leadership at George Washington University.



Philina Richardson:

Science Outreach

Philina Richardson has found the uniquely perfect intersection of her marine biology degree and her time as a Florida Tech librarian. She now puts her anomalous skill set to use with the Alaska SeaLife Center in science outreach for shark research.

“ When I graduated from Florida Tech nine years ago, I never imagined my career would follow this path—from student, to librarian, and finally to Science Outreach Fellow at the Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward, Alaska. As it turns out, it was my time at Evans Library that set me on this trajectory. As a librarian, I helped students find, access and evaluate information. Now I’m putting my information literacy skills to use on the other side of that process, working with biologists at the SeaLife Center to create an outreach site for the Pacific sleeper shark research project. While working on the project, I’ve often found myself thinking of the things I’d ask my students to look for when evaluating a resource—how do you determine credibility? Accuracy? By focusing on those areas, I hope to make the research process easier for our readers.

Performing outreach isn’t just about dumping information on your audience; it’s about creating an opening for dialogue between researchers and stakeholders. One of my favorite parts of working at the SeaLife Center is the opportunity to work with these groups. We work with local fishermen in

our capture efforts, which allows us to learn from their expertise while simultaneously getting them involved in the research process. By talking and working with those “on the ground,” we’re increasing the reach and effectiveness of our research. I once read an article that said something to the effect of “perform outreach or your research will die,” and while I don’t think things are quite that dire, I do believe that using outreach to cultivate and develop interest and appreciation can only be beneficial in the long run.

The Pacific sleeper shark is a poorly understood and understudied species that is frequently caught by both commercial and private fishing vessels in the Gulf of Alaska. In fact, much of what we know about Pacific sleeper sharks originates from animals caught as bycatch in commercial fisheries. Learning more about these sharks and their biology can help us reduce both discard mortality and other human impacts on their populations.

The path from student, to librarian, to arctic shark research has certainly been interesting, and I wouldn’t have had it any other way!



DEGREES: '09 B.S. marine biology

CURRENT CITY: Kent, Washington

FAMILY: Spouse, Pierce Louderback '08

HOBBIES: Hiking, knitting

FAVORITE FLORIDA TECH MEMORY:

Watching shuttle launches from Country Club Road.

IN MEMORIAM

JERRY B. CRUTE '71 M.S. passed away July 8. After earning his master's degree in management at Florida Tech, he was employed by NASA as an electrical engineer and test director.

JOHN C. ADKINS '85 MBA passed away June 15 after a long battle with cancer. He served as a Brevard County judge and other local judicial positions after receiving his master's degree in business administration.

THOMAS R. SHAW passed away June 3 after a battle with cancer. He attended Florida Tech from 1970-73 and worked for Radiation Inc. and Harris Corporation before becoming an independent contractor.

NICHOLAS CAMERON TRUSLER WATERS '13 passed away unexpectedly on June 28. He earned dual bachelor's degrees in business and marketing before going into the field of personal family finance and insurance.

Research professor emerita **ELEANOR "POLLY" STORRS BURCHFIELD**, Ph.D., passed away May 20 after a brief illness. As the director of the university's Comparative Mammalogy Laboratory, she led breakthrough research on armadillos and leprosy. Read more about her work at Florida Tech on page 21.

JOHN P. CALLAHAN, Ed.D., professor emeritus, passed away on Jan. 10, 2018, and burial with full military honors took place at Arlington National Cemetery in July.

Born on Aug. 29, 1928 in Bronx, New York, he served his country honorable in both the U.S. Air Force and Army and also worked as a civilian for the Army.

He came to Brevard County in 1976; in August 1998, he retired from the Florida Tech after having served as an associate dean and professor of management in the College of Business.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son Michael and his daughter Kathleen. Callahan leaves behind his loving wife Maria.

Dr. and Mrs. Callahan have established a generous endowment, a scholarship fund in memory of their daughter Kathleen.



In Memoriam John C. Hartley

Florida Tech trustee emeritus **JOHN THOMAS "JACK" HARTLEY** passed away June 5. Having joined the university's board of trustees in 1987, Hartley's singular impact on the growth, identity and success of Florida Tech over more than three decades on the board was rivaled only by his remarkable 40-year career at Harris Corporation.

The same year he was named to the Florida Tech board, he was president, CEO and chairman of the board at Harris Corporation.

Just as he guided Harris into the ranks of one of the nation's premier technology corporations and worldwide leadership in the communications, electronics and space sectors, Hartley tirelessly devoted himself, as chairman of the Florida Tech board and head of a university capital campaign, to making Florida Tech one of the nation's outstanding private universities. The culmination of Hartley's and former university president Lynn Weaver's efforts came in 1997 with the F.W. Olin Foundation's \$50 million gift to the university.

"I don't think anyone labored harder than Jack Hartley," university historian and professor Gordon Patterson told *Florida Tech Magazine* in 2006. "He staked his reputation on the success of Florida Tech and its mission."

The campus now includes the John and Martha Hartley Room in the Denius Student Center and Hartley Hall, a five-story residential facility in Harris Village. His wife, Martha, also created the John Thomas and Martha Hartley Scholarship for undergraduate students.



In Memoriam Harry Brandon

Former Florida Tech trustee **HARRY ELLIS BRANDON** passed away Aug. 9 due to prostate cancer. Brandon served with distinction and vision on the Florida Tech board of trustees from 2006 to 2017.

"We are very fortunate to have Mr. Brandon on our board," said former university president Anthony J. Catanese when Brandon joined. "He is well-known for giving back to the community, and we look forward to his giving us the benefit of his tremendous knowledge and talents."

Indeed, his talents were numerous. With 26 years of computer marketing and marketing management experience, Brandon was the vice president of marketing for Harris Corporation before leaving in 1982 to start his own commercial real estate investing business.

He also mentored Florida Tech students in business and entrepreneurship. Travis Proctor '98 benefitted from Brandon's mentorship and founded Artemis IT Solutions. "He was always willing to mentor anyone," Proctor recently recalled to *Florida Today*. "(He) had a drive for helping entrepreneurs get their business started and going."

At least as equally notable as his business accomplishments were his philanthropic efforts. Brandon and his wife, Wendy, were generous altruists and arts supporters. Together they've been benefactors to Brevard Symphony Orchestra, Health First Foundation, United Way of Brevard, Founder's Forum, the Melbourne/Palm Bay Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast and others.



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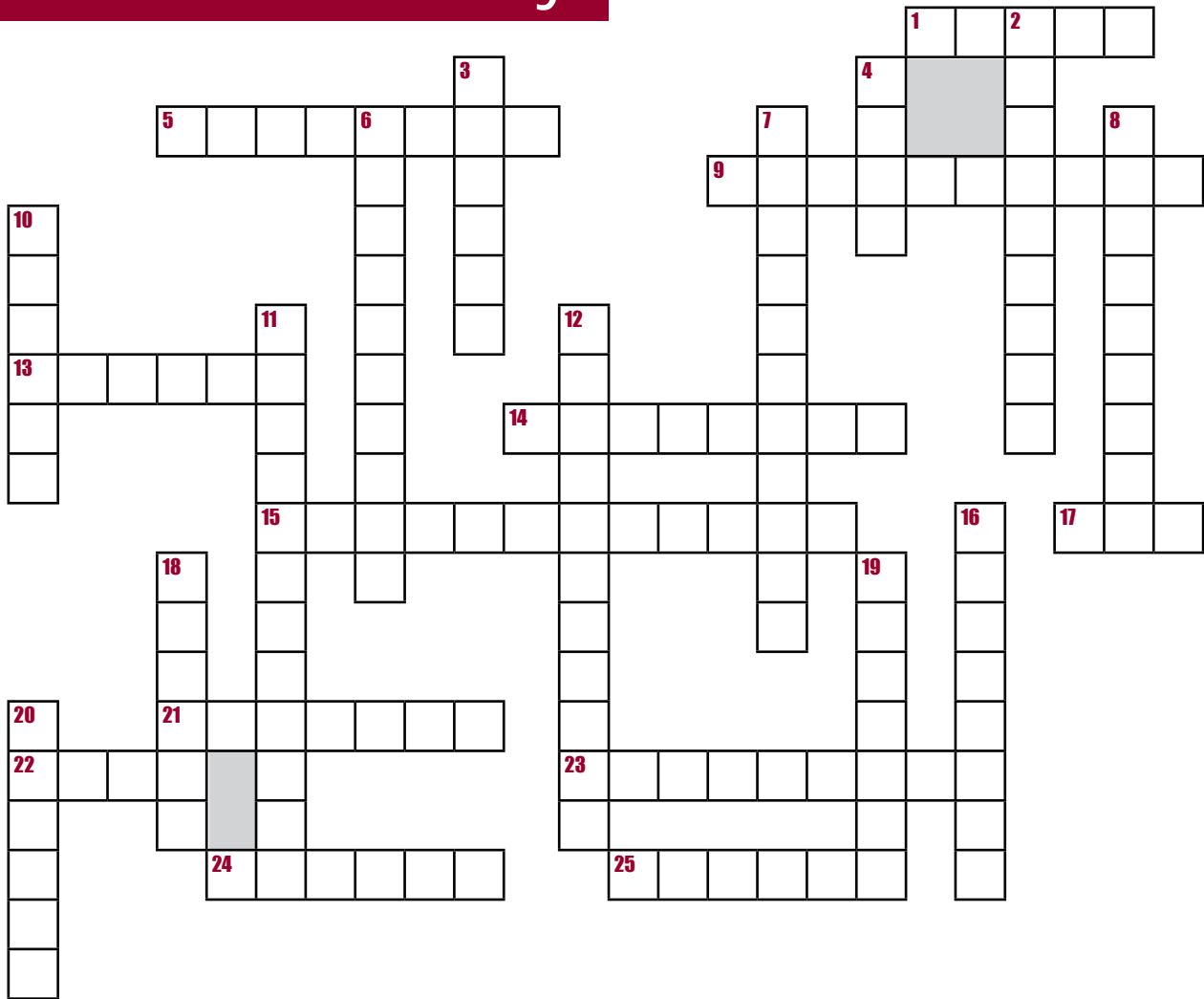
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CROSSWORD

60th Anniversary



3 DOWN

Across

- 1 Fifth and current university president
- 5 Museum celebrating 40 years
- 9 Name of the bar in which the university was founded
- 13 Keuper's signature article of clothing (2 wds.)
- 14 University subsidiary created to produce quail eggs (2 wds.)
- 15 Campus bio-nuclear sewage converter (2 wds.)
- 17 Original university name, abbr.
- 21 Original accreditation hinged upon building this structure
- 22 Magazine in which Keuper's contest-winning ad appeared
- 23 Junior high school where first classes were held (2 wds.)
- 24 Third university president
- 25 Production studio that came to campus to film armadillos

Down

- 2 '_____ College' — early university nickname
- 3 University founder and first president
- 4 Largest grant received by the university
- 6 Animals that were the focus of Storrs' research
- 7 Advocate for women in engineering (2 wds.)
- 8 Included with a textbook and slide rule on the BEC logo
- 10 Co-founder and first dean of Florida Tech
- 11 Brevard Engineering College's first graduate (2 wds.)
- 12 Amount in cents of the university's first donation
- 16 Fourth university president
- 18 Second university president
- 19 University trustee integral to helping secure the Olin grant
- 20 1974 mass campus run



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★ #PANTHERforLIFE

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Then & Now

Evans Hall, shown here in March 1979 and today, has been a residence hall, a dining hall, labs and classrooms and is now the backdrop to the Ethos Community Garden, added February 2017.

60
YEARS

