

FLORIDA TECH

M A G A Z I N E

FALL 2021

DIVERSITY

EQUITY

INCLUSION

Seeking Belonging

To further our efforts in diversity, equity and inclusion, we must strive, in the end, for true belonging.





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Fall 2021 • Volume 30, Issue 2

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ANYTIME, ANYWHERE
**floridatech.edu/
magazine**



NEW LED BILLBOARD ILLUMINATES DENIUS STUDENT CENTER

To provide a better overall campus experience, the university installed a digital billboard in front of the Denius Student Center this fall. Spanning 10 feet by 20 feet, the LED billboard will have a schedule of daily campus events and information.

FLORIDA TECH MAGAZINE

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 PRESIDENT Dwayne McCay, Ph.D.

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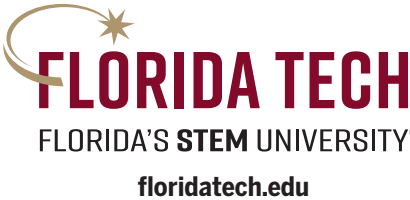
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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Dear Alumni and Friends,

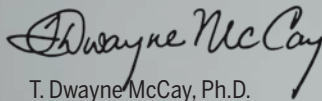
I'm occasionally asked why I've devoted my life's work to higher education—35 years and counting in leadership roles—after an interesting career at NASA and some rewarding experiences with industry. I want to share with you what excites me about this university and its future. It's a big part of why I do what I do.

My motivation is rooted in the positive difference we make for students of all ages, interests and backgrounds. Our core values as a university help inspire me to the next-level success that I know we will collectively achieve. We believe in and build our educational experiences around student success for a lifetime, fostering good global citizens and research to benefit all humankind. This is who we are as a campus and who our alumni become as they make a difference in the world.

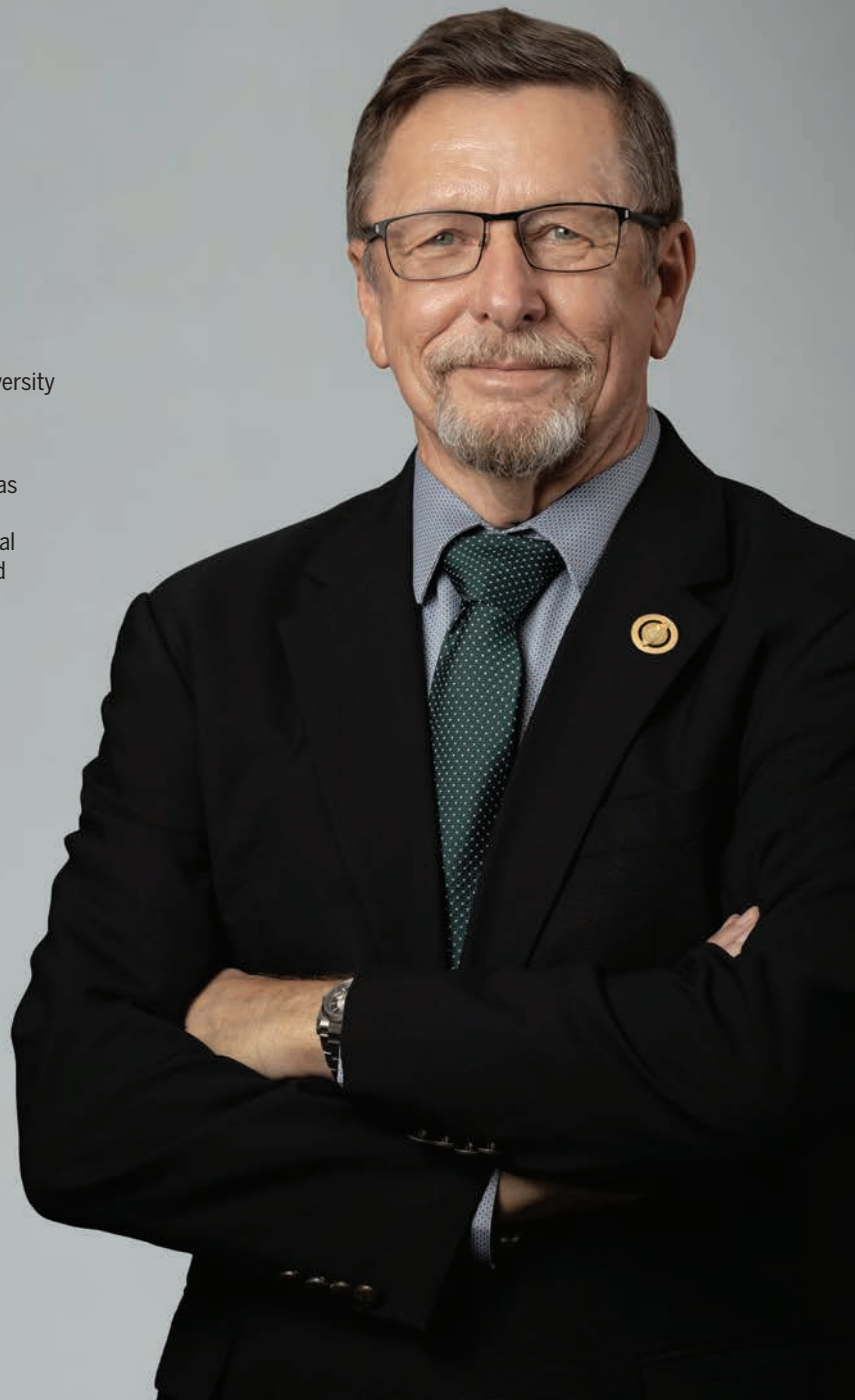
As an old rocket scientist, I spent my early career finding new and better ways to solve technical problems. That required creativity, teamwork and commitment. The same traits are necessary for us to be successful as a university, and for our students to have the best chance of success once they move into their careers. The stakes were high on the launch pad, and they remain high as we consider the future of our next generation of alumni.

Working on rockets was challenging, rewarding and—yes—enjoyable. Most days, this job is the same. I still get to be involved in launches, just a different kind.

Sincerely,



T. Dwayne McCay, Ph.D.
President and CEO



3 FINAL THOUGHTS

NAVIGATING COVID-19

It was my pleasure to speak with *Orlando Family Magazine* recently about our strategies for success during the coronavirus pandemic. The magazine was interested in how Central Florida colleges are protecting students and maintaining operations, and we also talked about our role as "Florida's STEM University." I encourage you to take a look at this story and more at floridatech.edu/president/in-the-news.

VACCINATION SUCCESS

Our faculty and staff COVID-19 vaccination rates remain a strong indicator of our university's commitment to campus health. As of October, 86% of our full-time faculty and staff are vaccinated—that's 95% of full-time faculty and 83% of full-time staff. The overall compliance rate for vaccination or regular testing for full-time faculty and staff is 95%, with 98% compliance for full-time faculty and 94% compliance for full-time staff.

RELENTLESS FUN

We're planning for the return of in-person homecoming festivities. Mark your calendars for our "Relentless Twenties" celebration March 24–26. I look forward to seeing you then. More information is available at floridatech.edu/homecoming.



University Receives Funding in New State Budget for High-Tech Equipment Project

A Florida Tech project central to the Sunshine State's identity and economic strength that will boost STEM and manufacturing education through cutting-edge technology received critical funding in the 2021–22 budget, thanks to the efforts of legislators and the final approval of Gov. Ron DeSantis.

The university will receive \$2 million for its Biomedical Aerospace Manufacturing (BAM) specialized equipment project in the spending plan.

"This project focuses on an area of great importance to Florida—our ability to help our students and the business community compete and succeed in the high-tech economy," said Florida Tech President Dwayne McCay. "We thank Gov. DeSantis and our legislators for empowering Florida Tech to move forward with this impactful endeavor."

The BAM initiative will help secure cutting-edge equipment for Florida Tech's new health sciences building and its Center for Advanced Manufacturing and Innovative Design, creating availability across university programs for the biomedical, aerospace and manufacturing sectors.

Equipment such as biotissue testing machines, specialized 3D printers and imaging devices procured over the next three to five years will provide a platform for exposing students to equipment Florida's targeted industries are using, and will be using, to develop new technologies and new jobs.

Providing technology access and enhanced capability for Florida Tech students, as well as for broader career and skill engagement programs, BAM will increase STEM workforce availability, hands-on project work in areas such as prosthetics and tissue generation, and career awareness for the growing biomedical-, aerospace- and manufacturing-targeted industries in Florida.

One of the legislators who sponsored the BAM project, state Sen. Tom Wright, said, "As an owner of manufacturing facilities and an advocate in the Senate for skill training, I know firsthand how essential it is for Florida Tech to have the latest advanced equipment available for its programs."

“

This project focuses on an area of great importance to Florida—our ability to help our students and the business community compete and succeed in the high-tech economy.

—President Dwayne McCay

KELLI HUNSUCKER

On saving the Indian River Lagoon—together

As an ocean engineering and marine sciences assistant professor, I spend a lot of time in the Indian River Lagoon attempting to answer the question locals have been pondering for years now: How can we fix it?

At Florida Tech, our approach is a mixture of science and engineering—a combination that in the academic sphere is both rare and extremely valuable. But when it comes to tangible solutions, the key is collaboration—not just between scientists and engineers, but also among legislators, policymakers, residents, youth and the Space Coast community as a whole.

My research can be broken down into three essential components: preventing plant and animal growth on certain underwater surfaces (biofouling), promoting it on others (ecological engineering) and getting the community involved in and excited about marine science and engineering (outreach).

Probably the most common method for biofouling prevention is paint on the bottom of a ship or a structure to prevent or hinder growth. Aside from testing commercial paints and more environmentally friendly formulations, my research team and I experiment with treating underwater surfaces with a UVC (ultraviolet-C) lamp to eliminate existing growth.

Conversely, the ecological engineering portion of my research seeks to promote the growth of things like barnacles, oysters and weeds in specific locations to fulfill their greater ecosystem functions, like filtering water or providing food or microhabitats. Locally, we do this through

our Living Docks project, where we construct oyster mats and attach them to dock pilings throughout the Indian River Lagoon to increase water filtration. Another part of the Living Docks project is exploring how to replace the plastic mats, which are what most oyster restoration projects use, with metal or concrete mats.

Since members of the community help build the mats and allow—even request—the mats on their private docks, the Living Docks program also carries over into my last research focus: outreach.

Efforts range from summer camps and a Lagoon Science Bus housing a self-contained laboratory for hands-on learning activities that we bring to local middle and high schools, to the Indian River Lagoon Research Institute at Florida Tech, which hosts several community education events, as well as an annual conference on coastal water quality.

The way I see it, Brevard County is the largest county that borders the Indian River Lagoon. So, we have this huge footprint on it, and I think when it comes to getting the lagoon back to where it was—or at least back to a healthy lagoon—we have to approach that goal from many different aspects.

Our methods are simple, but they involve the community, and they give everyone who wants to be involved a way to do so. I can't tell you how many emails I answer about science fair projects or community groups who want to help the lagoon.

The people here care, and that will make a difference in getting our Indian River Lagoon back.

“

Our methods are simple, but they involve the community, and they give everyone who wants to be involved a way to do so. The people here care, and that will make a difference in getting our Indian River Lagoon back.

”

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Kelli Hunsucker

Kelli Hunsucker '07 M.S., '13 Ph.D., is an assistant professor in the ocean engineering and marine sciences department. Her research focuses on benthic organisms and their settlement on anthropogenic structures. She is currently funded by the Office of Naval Research.



Family Learning Program Marks 30 Years of Community Service

A Florida Tech program offering psychological services to children and families who have experienced sexual abuse that also provides graduate students powerful, hands-on educational opportunities in clinical training and evidence-based treatment is marking a milestone this year: 30 years of service.

The Family Learning Program's (FLP) Sexual Abuse Treatment Program has provided treatment services for child and adolescent survivors from 3 to 17 years old, their siblings and nonoffending caregivers through Florida Tech since its founding in 1991. It is one of just 14 Florida Department of Health (DOH) sexual abuse treatment programs in Florida and the only DOH-sponsored program in Brevard County.

The program's grant-funded services, which are offered at no cost to participating families, are provided by clinical psychology doctoral students under the supervision of Demara Bennett, Psy.D., a licensed psychologist and associate clinical professor of psychology who has directed the program since 2012.

The program currently has 11 student clinicians and five volunteers, all from Florida Tech's Doctor of Psychology program. The experience of working at the FLP has become a sought-after component for many psychology students that often helps them land competitive predoctoral internships, said Bennett, who has supervised 84 doctoral psychology students and 20 undergraduate interns during her nine years as FLP director.

The FLP was founded by psychology professor Juanita Baker, who served as its director until her retirement in 2007.

"When one starts a program not done before, but sees it is important and needed, one never knows if it will succeed," said Baker, now a professor emerita. "The FLP in a clinical university setting, with much expertise like the School of Psychology at Florida Tech, is ideal as it not only aided so many children and families, but it has also given excellent training to many clinical psychology students as well as brought in millions of dollars to Florida Tech from the state of Florida for the benefit of many."

One to Watch

“I want to be able to give a voice to those who have felt like their voice has been silenced.

—Francis Hidalgo Flores, a first-generation student and forensic psychology sophomore awarded a \$3,200 CIC/UPS Scholarship by the Florida Independent College Fund and the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC)



Pipistrel Velis Electro By the Numbers

181 km/h
Max. Speed

60 decibels
Noise Level

\$190,000
Cost

Zero
Emissions



First University-Owned Electric Plane Provides Opportunities

As the focus on climate change and electric transportation increases, a first-in-the-nation acquisition for Florida Tech will allow for hands-on learning and important research on a new and timely aspect of aviation.

In August, the school became the only American university to own and fly an electric plane. The Velis Electro, a light aircraft from the Slovenian company Pipistrel, was introduced last year. The first electric-powered airplane certified in Europe, it has a maximum speed of 181 km/h (113 mph, 98 knots), zero emissions, an engine with a noise level of 60 decibels (quieter than the single-engine Cessna 172, which is 85 decibels) and a body made of composite materials. The plane costs \$190,000.

The two-seater had not been flown in the United States until now. Because it is awaiting U.S. certification, Florida

Tech is flying it under the “experimental” category. Former associate dean **ISAAC SILVER** ’06, ’13 Ph.D., was the pilot for the inaugural flight. He flew for 22 minutes, using about a third of the aircraft’s battery capacity and creating an operating cost of only \$1.03.

The next step is to log significant flight time to the benefit of the university and the Federal Aviation Administration, which is in the process of awarding Florida Tech an \$85,000 contract to provide data from the first 50 flight hours of the Velis Electro. Brian Kish, associate professor and flight test engineering program chair, said that first, team members will ensure they’re getting the performance that the plane’s manual says the vehicle should give.

“There’s different speeds, whether you use 20 kilowatts, up to 36 kilowatts for cruising, obviously the more power



Motor and battery

you should go a little faster,” Kish said. “So, we’re going to spot-check all those cruise settings and see what airspeed we get and see how long the battery charge lasts.”

The electric plane made it to Florida Tech through a research relationship between the university, Georgia Tech and the FAA. After discussions and a grant from the Buehler Perpetual Trust, Florida Tech put in the order, and the plane arrived in Melbourne in July.

During the inaugural flight at Florida Tech, pilot Isaac Silver ’06, ’13 Ph.D., flew for 22 minutes, using about a third of the aircraft’s battery capacity and creating an operating cost of only \$1.03.



Q&A | With Esports Director Dana Husted

Q: Why bring esports to Florida Tech?

With esports on a college campus, it is about student body engagement—offering something that the students already like doing but in an organized manner, representing your university on the biggest stage.

What better overlap than a STEM school and gaming? Since I've arrived on campus, the goal has been—and continues to be—elevating Florida Tech into an esports destination recognized not only by students, but nationally for our esports efforts, engagement and community outreach.

Q: What would you say to Panthers who may be interested in esports but aren't sure where they fit in?

Esports has a place for everyone! Whether you are a gamer or not, esports has career pathways, supporting roles, coaching, data analytics, design, production and broadcast, nutrition and player development, mental health and wellness and so much more for people to get involved in.

Florida Tech Esports offers six ways to get involved:

1. Competitive team
2. Club team
3. Esports center open to all students
4. Nonplayer roles
5. Multilevel events/competitions
6. Student employment

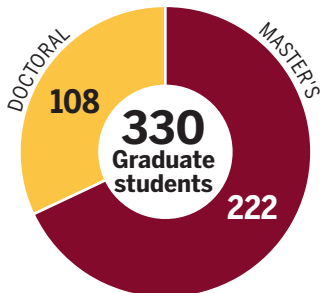
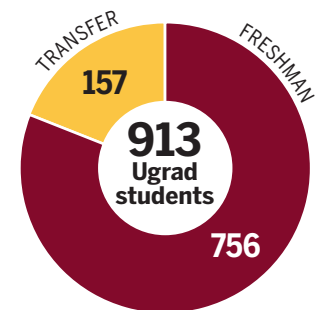
Q: How is esports providing more diversity and inclusion opportunities?

Esports is not about physicality or how you identify or what degree you have (or don't have!). Esports provides an outlet for many to find a community and a place they can be themselves. The esports community has many impactful groups, like the gameHERS, Gamers Outreach, Women in Gaming, Women of the eRena, Black Girls Code, LGBTQIA+IN Gaming, disabled gaming and specialized equipment initiatives, and general support of minority businesses, content creators and gaming personalities.

An Innovative Return to Learn

When students returned to campus in August following months of online learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Florida Tech conducted a drive-thru check-in, allowing students to remain in their vehicles to ensure the safety of everyone involved.

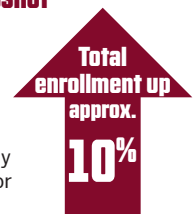
Check-in Breakdown



1,243
Total students

Student Snapshot

As of October, total enrollment (all locations, all modality) is 9,316. This is an increase of nearly 1,000 students or almost 10%.



On the Melbourne campus, there are more than 1,000 international students representing 101 countries. Domestic students represent 48 states and numerous territories, including DC, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.



Campus Eatery Redesigned With Students in Mind

Students asked; we listened. In response to students' call for more national brands on campus, the SUB Café has been remodeled and reopened Aug. 13 as Panther Food Court, with popular franchises Einstein Bros. Bagels and Firehouse Subs. Located in the Denius Student Center, Panther Food Court, which also added local favorite Cosmic Creamery during the renovation, now offers breakfast, lunch, dinner and grab-and-go options, a priority for the university. Next time you're on campus, stop in for a Firehouse brisket sub—a Panther favorite!

TWO PANTHERS NAMED 2021 ASTRONAUT SCHOLARS

Seniors Brian Murphy and Brooke Hursh have been named 2021 Astronaut Scholars, the prestigious recognition awarded to just 60 applicants this year from the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation (ASF) that signifies they are among the best and brightest STEM students in the country.

Both students have interned at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland. There, Murphy modeled Titan's atmosphere using Cassini data in collaboration with researchers Conor Nixon and Gordon Bjoraker, and Hursh worked on the OSIRIS-Rex asteroid sample return mission.



Brooke Hursh



Brian Murphy



Rising Rockets

Adrian Peter, computer engineering and sciences associate professor, spoke with *Forbes* about a recent study involving a seismic network studying 1,001 rocket launches. Though not involved with the new study, Peter has studied the infrasonic signatures of rockets before and noted the characterization of different stages of rocket launches could be useful for determining future problems. By analyzing the infrasonic signature, researchers may detect what caused a rocket to explode or not launch properly.



Coach O'Connor

TJ O'Connor, cybersecurity researcher, assistant professor and Florida Tech's cybersecurity program lead, has been named head coach of the first-ever US Cyber Games team.

The inaugural US Cyber Games, led by Katzcy in cooperation with the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education program at the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology, is an esports-style education program designed to equip cybersecurity talent with vital skills through the engagement value and learning benefits of gaming.

The mission of the US Cyber Games is to bring together talented athletes, coaches and industry leaders to build an elite team for global cybersecurity competition.

Seeing Sharks

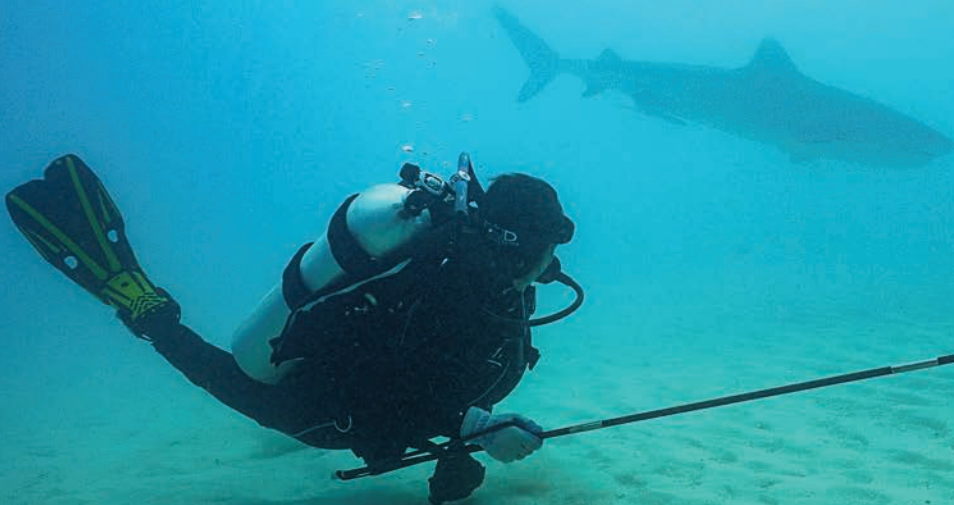
Florida Tech shark biologist Toby Daly-Engel dominated the small screen this summer.

Daly-Engel appeared on three shows during Discovery's "Shark Week" and National Geographic's "SharkFest." She swam with actress, comedian and author Tiffany Haddish—and several sharks—on the Shark Week program, "Tiffany Haddish Does Shark Week." It's available to stream on Discovery+.

She also appeared on "Mothersharker," streaming on Discovery+. It's a mystery

where tiger sharks give birth, and Daly-Engel and a team of scientists and shark experts deployed an arsenal of new technology to try to crack the case.

The university shark biologist also was on "World's Biggest Bull Shark?" streaming on Disney+. The topic: Nearly a decade after a 10-foot, 1,000-pound bull shark was caught and released off the coast of Florida, some scientists believe this massive creature, named Big Bull, is the matriarch of a unique population of giant bull sharks.





JAMIE JOSS AT A GLANCE

DISTINCTION: Sixth athletic director in Florida Tech history.

PROGRAM PRIORITIES: Scholars, servant leaders and competitors.

PERSONAL PHILOSOPHY: Gratitude changes attitude.

FUN FACT: Has coached his sons in basketball and baseball.

EXPERTISE IN: Athletics marketing, fundraising and program development.

PREVIOUS POSITION: Athletic director at Davis & Elkins College in West Virginia.

FAMILY: Wife, Jodi, and sons, Jansen, Jace and Jade.

EDUCATION: Bachelor of Science in Sport Management, Administration and Marketing from Bowling Green State University; Master of Sports Science in Sport Management from the United States Sports Academy.

HOBBIES: Spending time with family, road biking, golf.

FLORIDA TECH ATHLETICS BY THE NUMBERS

SCHOLAR-ATHLETES: 393

SPORTS: 18 teams plus cheerleading

COACHES: 27 full-time coaches

ATHLETIC TRAINERS: 4

**STRENGTH & CONDITIONING
COACHES:** 2

Q&A with Jamie Joss

Florida Tech's new athletic director is ready to provide the best scholar-athlete experience.

Florida Tech Magazine spoke with Joss about arriving on campus, his plans for athletics and more.

WHAT ABOUT FLORIDA TECH SPARKED YOUR INTEREST?

“The academic reputation of the institution is what drew me the most. I have been fortunate to work at similar specialized academic institutions with scholar-athletes who are so driven and motivated in their academic pursuits. I'm excited to assist with their athletic proficiency and success to maintain the high standards they set for themselves in the classroom and in competition.

WHY DO YOU DO WHAT YOU DO?

“Helping students seize the opportunity in becoming scholars at the collegiate level and using their sport as the vehicle for them to pursue that dream. We often take for granted just how much influence we have on a student's life. When we see a student who transforms from a high school student to the next emerging engineer to develop industry or life-changing products or practices that impact our country or the world, it produces great pride that we had a small part in making that happen. We know that we are not only impacting this scholar but the future generations that follow them.

WHAT STANDS OUT ABOUT FLORIDA TECH IN COMPARISON TO OTHER INSTITUTIONS WHERE YOU'VE WORKED?

“I think the biggest difference for me is that while the size of Florida Tech's campus is relatively larger than many

of the smaller private institutions that I have been a part of, there is such a strong sense of care for each person on this campus. Another aspect for our scholar-athletes, beyond learning in the classroom and hands-on learning in labs, is their ability to observe and gain experience from many industry-leading organizations that will be seeking our graduates for future employment—this really sets Florida Tech apart.

WHAT ARE SOME GOALS YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH THIS YEAR?

“My primary goals are to break down silos that often surround athletic programs, identify the mission and vision for our athletic program, and ensure these align with the university's mission and vision. We need to develop our culture with shared values and a common language to power this mission. Each sport program can replicate this individually within their sport programs through our coaches, scholar-athletes and staff to easily recite just what Panther athletics is all about.

Another critical goal is connecting with our alumni and sharing with them the value of mentoring current scholar-athletes.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO IDENTIFY OUR ATHLETES AS SCHOLAR-ATHLETES?

“When you choose Florida Institute of Technology, you know you are entering a rigorous academic program with very high standards. And if you come

in as an athlete, you are not here to just study, you are here to excel and become a specialist in your chosen academic program and become a distinguished academic. They do not call it a Rhodes student, they call it a Rhodes Scholar, and a Rhodes Scholar is an elite scholar. We need our athletes to enter Florida Tech with the mindset that they are scholar-athletes achieving the highest level possible for each of them. It does not mean that every athlete who attends will achieve a 4.0, but we need the academic focus to be at the highest standard as we would desire to win conference, regional and national championships in competition.

HOW MUCH POTENTIAL DO YOU SEE IN THIS DEPARTMENT, AND HOW WILL YOU HELP IT GROW TO REACH LONG-TERM GOALS?

“At Florida Tech, we are positioned to be a model program in the Sunshine State Conference. We can be the leaders in academic performance; community service; in diversity, equity and inclusion; and in mental health to develop well-rounded scholar-athletes. Prospective scholar-athletes and parents are already attracted to the academic profile at Florida Tech, and combining these factors with the opportunity to pursue their passion for their sport in the Sunshine State will help us attract elite scholar-athletes to our program from across the United States and around the world.



Read the extended interview with Jamie Joss at FloridaTechSports.com.



University Researchers Examine a New Frontier for Farming in Space

“Autonomous Multi-Cycle Farming System” is a NASA-funded parabolic flight experiment at the Orbital Robotic Interaction, On-orbit servicing, and Navigation (ORION) laboratory. The team, consisting of aerospace, physics and space sciences associate professor Markus Wilde, mechanical and civil engineering associate professor Hamidreza Najafi, and aerospace, mechanical engineering and computer science student researchers, took a 2020 senior design project—a modified 3D printer to implant and nurture plant seeds into water-filled feed trays in space—and are turning it into an experiment for a parabolic flight. Brian Kish, aerospace, physics and space sciences associate professor, is supporting the project with flight testing. According to Wilde, the feed trays have been successful in growing plants, and the team plans to fly in late November or early December.

Another key element of the research is finding out if the liquid feed system works in zero gravity. Without gravitational pull, water will form into balls and cling to the walls of a container, which would be harmful to the growth of the plants in the feed tray. To combat that, the team put metal mesh at the bottom of the 3D-printed trays so the water will stick to the mesh and allow the plants to grow through the flexible plastic crosshatch hole at the top. The team is also engineering an air-pressurized system that will remove the fully grown plants from the trays, creating a streamlined end-to-end process for astronauts. Wilde is hopeful that the plants will grow in a weightless environment, which would be beneficial to space harvesters.

For Wilde, the work he and the team are doing at the ORION lab is all about what it is to be an engineer, utilizing problem solving and working in a multidisciplinary setting.

“That capability—to take a problem, to solve it using the toolset that you learned during college, but also that you learned from experience—that is, for me, the ultimate skill of engineering,” Wilde said.

UNIVERSITY STUDY EXAMINES A POST-PANDEMIC WORKPLACE

“Student Teamwork During COVID-19: Challenges, Changes, and Consequences,” was conducted by a team of researchers at Florida Tech’s Institute for Cross Cultural Management led by psychology associate professor Jessica Wildman. The paper, published in the journal *Small Group Research* in April, examined the impact of the pandemic on collaborative project teams, given that team-based work structures are more prominent in today’s organizations.

The research consisted of soliciting responses from student team members working in project teams 16 weeks or longer in upper-level undergraduate courses. Projects included capstone engineering design projects that involved multiple phases, including development, design review, system fabrication and testing, and psychological research projects. The team members were asked how their team interactions and work processes changed during the pandemic, including when and how they met and communicated.

COVID-19, DIABETES STUDY BOLSTERS VASCULAR DISEASE EVIDENCE

Emerging evidence indicates that COVID-19 acts as a vascular disease, helping explain why people with diabetes are at a higher risk of developing its severe form, according to university research.

Florida Tech doctoral student Amanda Almeida de Oliveira, along with associate professor Kenia Nunes Bruhn completed the review paper, “Crosstalk of TLR4, vascular NADPH oxidase, and COVID-19 in diabetes: What are the potential implications?” The manuscript was published in the May edition of *Vascular Pharmacology*.

In the paper, de Oliveira and Nunes Bruhn reviewed the potential impact of COVID-19 on individuals with diabetes. They identified that heavy oxidative stress would also trigger inflammation and oxidative stress to overlap—which would affect the blood vessels in one’s system.

UVC Showing Positive Signs as Biofouling Solution

Updated research on ultraviolet (UVC) light's effectiveness on naval ship biofouling is providing scientists further insight into what helps ships remain cleaner and run smoother.

The research paper, "The Application of UVC Used in Synergy with Surface Material to Prevent Marine Biofouling," was published in the June edition of *Journal of Marine Science and Engineering*. Doctoral candidate Kailey Richard is the lead author on the paper, which also features ocean engineering and oceanography professor Geoffrey Swain, oceanography assistant professor Kelli Hunsucker, lead research

engineer Harrison Gardner and research assistant Kris Hickman.

A continuation of previous biofouling and UVC research on naval ships, the new studies analyzed the anti-fouling effectiveness of three UVCs under multiple conditions. Richard looked at UVC-treated red or white surfaces to see which was more effective at preventing biofouling, as colored surfaces have been known to influence organism settlement. Richard also explored whether UVC worked in synergy with two surfaces of different reflectance—stainless steel or polycarbonate—and lastly, the efficiency rate of

various levels of UVC exposure, such as weekly intervals and 10-minute intervals. While there was no variance in the biofouling for red or white surfaces when exposed to 254 nanometers UVC, reflectance studies showed stainless steel panels had significantly greater macrofouling settlement than polycarbonate, specifically among encrusting bryozoan, tubeworms and tunicates. Long, frequent intervals of light exposure were also found to be effective in reducing biofouling.

Biofouling creates many issues for ships, especially naval vessels that depend on speed and precision for various missions.

Richard noted that minutes into being the in the water, the ship's surface picks up a conditioning film that acts as a gateway for larger biofouling organisms. After the film, the microfouling process happens, which is when bacteria and other unicellular organisms form. Days later, macrofouling communities such as barnacles, sponges and tunicates may begin to grow. This accumulation causes changes in surface roughness that lead to increased drag and emissions, as well as lower fuel efficiency. A ship with only a slight biofilm and no macrofouling can cost up to \$1.2 million in additional fuel consumption.

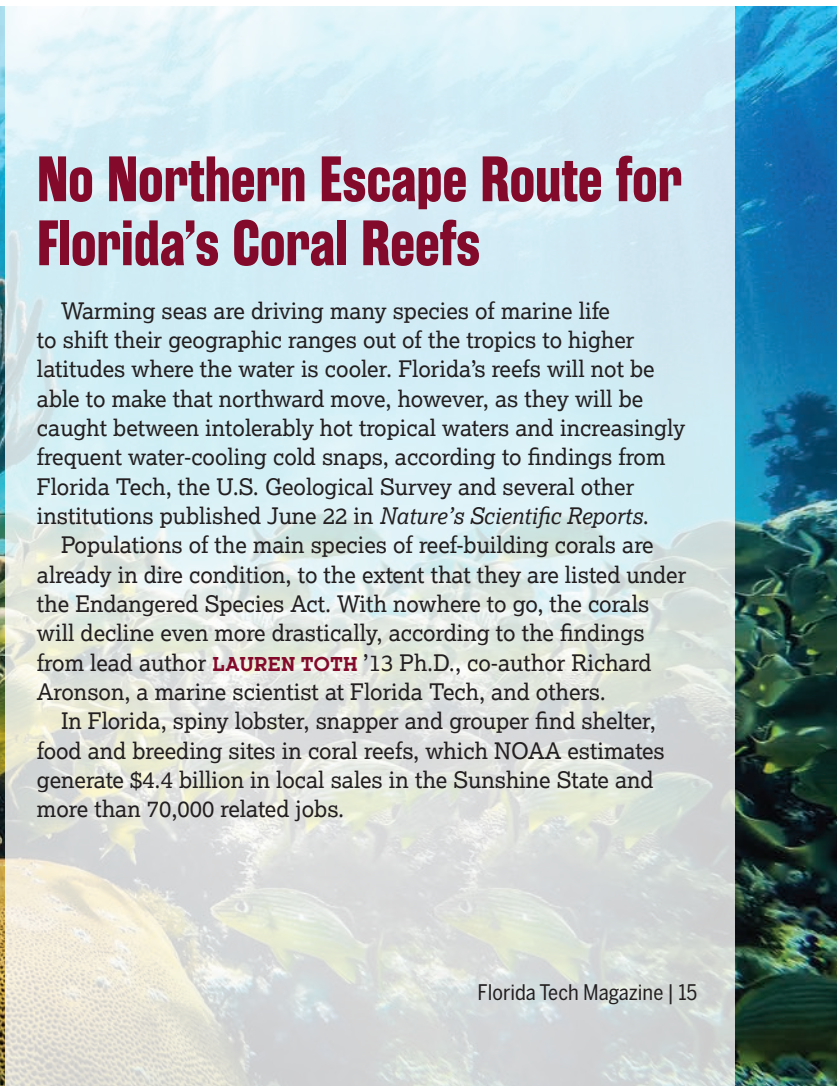


No Northern Escape Route for Florida's Coral Reefs

Warming seas are driving many species of marine life to shift their geographic ranges out of the tropics to higher latitudes where the water is cooler. Florida's reefs will not be able to make that northward move, however, as they will be caught between intolerably hot tropical waters and increasingly frequent water-cooling cold snaps, according to findings from Florida Tech, the U.S. Geological Survey and several other institutions published June 22 in *Nature's Scientific Reports*.

Populations of the main species of reef-building corals are already in dire condition, to the extent that they are listed under the Endangered Species Act. With nowhere to go, the corals will decline even more drastically, according to the findings from lead author **LAUREN TOTH** '13 Ph.D., co-author Richard Aronson, a marine scientist at Florida Tech, and others.

In Florida, spiny lobster, snapper and grouper find shelter, food and breeding sites in coral reefs, which NOAA estimates generate \$4.4 billion in local sales in the Sunshine State and more than 70,000 related jobs.







EXCELLENCE THROUGH LEADERSHIP

PANTHER BATTALION IS A
GROUP OF CADETS WITH
VARIOUS GOALS AND DREAMS,
UNIFIED BY ONE CAUSE.

By Ryan Randall

With their crisp uniforms and dark berets, upright posture and polite demeanor, the cadets from Florida Tech's Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) are a recognizable presence on campus. These men and women with unique goals and their own ideas on how to achieve them are united by their desire to give back, to grow into leadership, to serve.

They are part of an organization that has been a presence on Florida Tech's campus for more than 50 years, fulfilling its mission of preparing young adults to become officers in the U.S. military. That means that even as they receive a world-class education, cadets are also involved in battle drills, shooting exercises and other training.

A closer look at the students and military leaders who bring the ROTC program to glorious, regimented life provides a snapshot of the passion, determination and commitment of all involved, and a glimpse at what makes Florida Tech such a special place.

MOTIVATIONS FOR JOINING

The military has always been important to Kasey Money, a senior interdisciplinary science major. With family in the armed forces, she was inspired to follow a similar path but with the major distinction that she would be the first female service member in her family. In Florida Tech's ROTC program, she found an ideal combination: military training and a way to get the college education she desired.

Money's inspiration came from her family, but also from something that happened when she was just a 1-year-old girl. The attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, had a profound impact on her future. As she grew older and saw footage of the smoldering ruins and images of military deployments in response, she was—and continues to be—inspired to do her part. She plans to work in military intelligence.

Money talked about her experience at an ROTC ceremony on campus marking the 20th anniversary of 9/11.

"That is probably one of the more emotional moments I've had, just because 9/11, truthfully, is the biggest factor in me joining the military," she says. "To be there on the brink of commissioning, but to be able to address other military people who deployed as a result of that, it kind of felt like I was coming full circle."

Brayan Cruz, an junior majoring in aviation management, moved to Florida from his native Honduras in 2012 at the age of 15. Living in the U.S. and enjoying the opportunities that provided, Cruz saw military service as a way to give back to a country that has given so much to him. In 2016, he joined the National Guard, and when he came to Florida Tech in 2019, he promptly joined the ROTC. Doing so was a way to switch to the officer side, and he has two possible paths: continuing to work in the military logistics field or becoming a commercial pilot after getting flight time through the military.

"So far, it's been an extremely pleasant experience. I am very proud to be a Panther," Cruz says.

Aeronautical science major Jacob Filer was an active-duty member of the U.S. Army, serving as an aircraft avionics technician during his three-year enlistment. Filer came to Florida Tech last year, wanting to get a college degree to help achieve his goal of becoming a commercial pilot.

"My first thought was to go to ROTC because I get the college experience; I get the military aspect with it. So I decided, 'Why not do it?'" he says.

INSPIRED BY LEADERS TO BECOME LEADERS

The 52 cadets comprising Panther Battalion are supported by a strong leadership group. In the same way military personnel would be assigned to

KASEY MONEY



BRAYAN CRUZ



JACOB FILER



a base, there are four active-duty Army personnel assigned to the Florida Tech ROTC: Lt. Col. James Crook, military science professor; Capt. Pat Willis, military science assistant professor; Sgt. 1st Class Michael Johnson, military science instructor; and Master Sgt. Alan Roche, senior military instructor.

Crook has been in the Army since 1993 and with Florida Tech ROTC for two years. He served in U.S. Army NATO, 82d Airborne Division, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment and the Army Special Operations Command. As a congressional fellow, he served on Capitol Hill for the chair of the Tactical Air and Land Subcommittee and as the legislative assistant to the secretary of the army. He has deployed multiple times in support of combat operations to both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Working with the cadets of Panther Battalion inspires Crook, who is nearing the end of his career. As cadets navigate both ROTC programs on campus and off-site initiatives, such as airborne school, Crook's goal is to help them become decision-makers and critical thinkers.

"That can be on the battlefield; that can be whether they study for a test or not. Everything in leadership is about decisions—assuming risk and making decisions," he says. "So, I want them to be able to calculate risk and make decisions off that risk."

Roche, a member of the U.S. Army Special Forces who has been in the military since 2004, is the newest member of the ROTC program. He says the opportunity to work with the next generation of military leaders and to see them progress and achieve success is a highlight.

"Mentoring is something I've enjoyed. I've always taken a lot of pride in my ability to do it," Roche says. "Now, getting to see the amount of future soldiers I'm going to be able to reach out and touch through supporting the current students and what they're going to do in the future, that's a high point for me, knowing the lasting effects that my work and this position will hold."

The leadership instilled by Crook, Roche and others can be seen in the cadets.

Money earned the title of battalion commander. In that role, she has worked to bring change. Last semester, the organization founded a women's mentorship program through which female cadets gather to discuss the challenges they face, as well as the strengths they have in leadership.

"I feel like, as females, we have a natural tendency to want to take care of people, and that's absolutely an important part of leadership," Money says. "However, we also have to sometimes almost prove that we're worthy of that position, whereas I feel like male counterparts are just assumed to be worthy. But I think in the military, and definitely in this program, you're definitely looked at more by your character and your ability to do the job than you are by your gender."

ROTC does a good job of preparing cadets by instilling confidence in them, allowing them to complete the tasks needed and to interact in

team settings, notes Cruz, who serves as officer-in-charge of the program's color guard.

"I think the ROTC program prepares us by giving us different leadership positions throughout the battalion to get an idea of how to lead different groups of individuals," he says.

GROWING THROUGH INITIATIVES

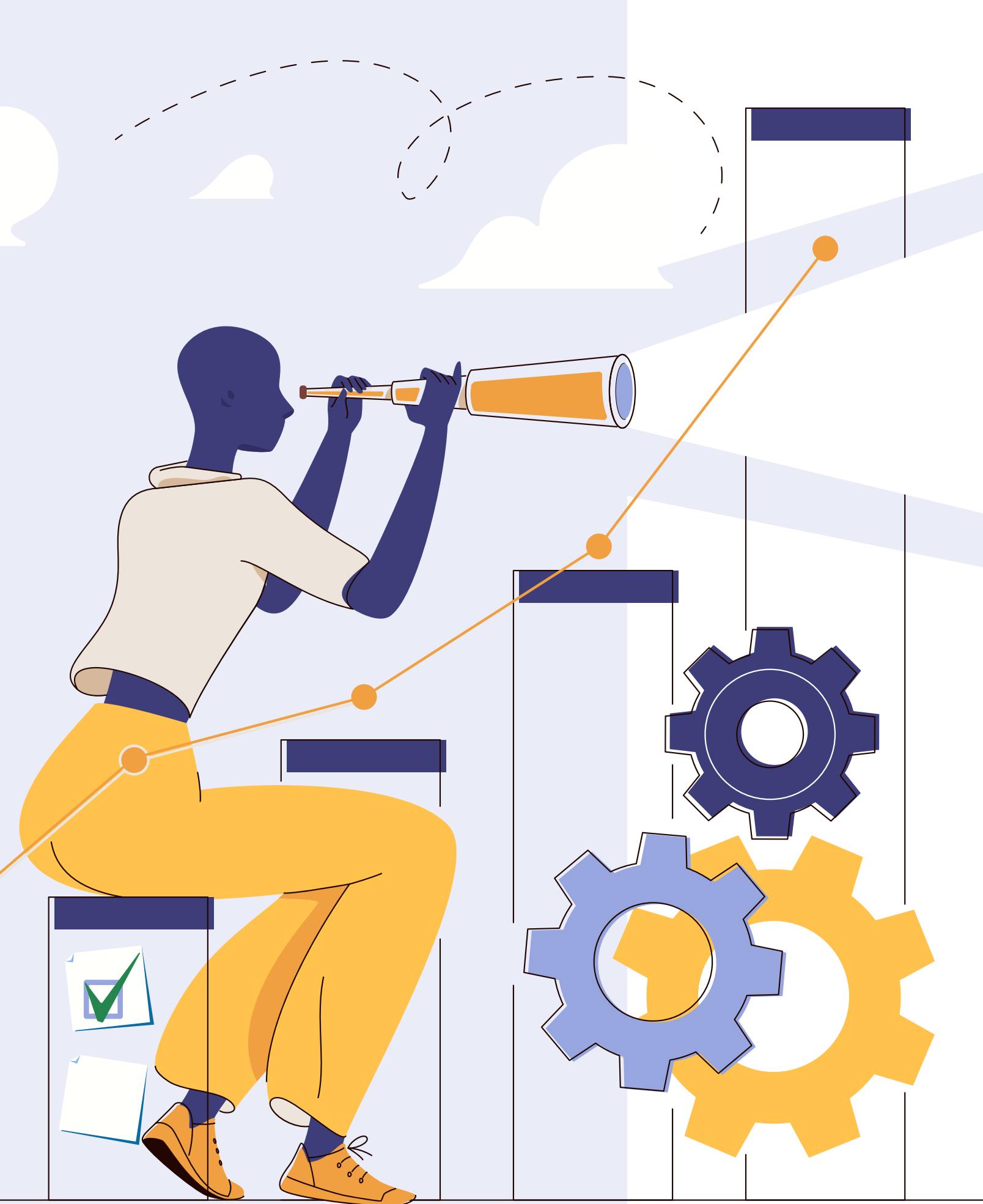
In addition to leadership development unfolding on and around campus for Panther Battalion, cadets also participate in a host of Army training initiatives. After COVID-19 altered 2020's ROTC schedule, 18 cadets trained at Fort Knox's advanced camp this summer. Cadets from 39 ROTC programs worked for the Recondo (short for "reconnaissance commando") badge, awarded to cadets who exceed standards in the Army physical fitness test, confidence courses, land navigation, marksmanship, first aid, the 12-mile foot march and in chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) exercises. Of the 39 programs, Florida Tech cadets earned the highest percentage of Recondos with seven, the best performance in the 6th ROTC Brigade.

Money went to the famed military academy at West Point for ROTC training, interacting with West Point cadets and working in their environment. She also participated in the Project GO language immersion program that offers qualified ROTC students fully funded opportunities in critical language education, overseas study and cross-cultural experience. Money had taken Chinese while on campus, allowing her to do the study abroad program in Taiwan and obtain a wealth of international experience.

"It was fun. I feel like I learned a lot really fast," she says of her Taiwan trip. "A lot of times, I was outside of my comfort zone, especially when communicating with local people, but it was so incredible to see how other people live and also to have that experience while I'm young—to be thrown into another culture and being forced to adapt."

The mission of the Army ROTC is to produce future officers for the U.S. Army. With the help of key leadership, cadets are getting a valuable, multifaceted education that will equip them to achieve their goals while learning leadership traits that will help them be successful in the armed forces and beyond. That matters to Crook.

"It's extremely rewarding, I value what they do, and I know they are volunteering during an extremely difficult time for our country, for our military," he says. "To have them to raise their right hand and protect and defend this country is extremely humbling."



Seeking Belonging

By Stephanie R. Herndon '07

As companies look to further equity initiatives, they need to move beyond bland notes of solidarity, buzzwords and box checking.

Discussions and debates about diversity and equality have been happening in the news, in social circles and in the workplace for decades.

Racial inequity came to the forefront of office conversations as affirmative action and equal employment laws came into effect in the 1960s. In the '70s and '80s, the topic of parity in pay gained momentum as women rose to executive positions at less-than-executive salaries. The scope of the dialogue broadened throughout the '90s and early 2000s to include physical and neurological ability as well as gender and sexual identity.

Despite the progress that has been made, inequities persist, so the conversation continues. Today, it centers around diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging, or DEIB, helping to make workplaces more just while also fostering teamwork and innovation. But for many people,

the topic of DEIB remains nebulous. What exactly does it mean? How does it work, and why?

It starts with diversity—building our teams with diverse people and points of view. However, when the conversation is only about diversity, tokenization can sometimes happen. So, inclusion became part of the equation—D&I. While diversity is about representation, inclusion is about involvement. When our teams are inclusive, everyone is not only present but is included in making decisions.

Equity entered the conversation in recognition that every individual is not starting from the same place—disadvantages and disparities exist—so the playing field must be adjusted accordingly. Belonging is the final piece of the puzzle, happening when all individuals feel they truly belong and are being seen and heard.

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THE DEIB GROUP PROJECT



DIVERSITY

Diversity means different types of students are represented in the group—a variety of genders, nationalities, sexualities, etc.

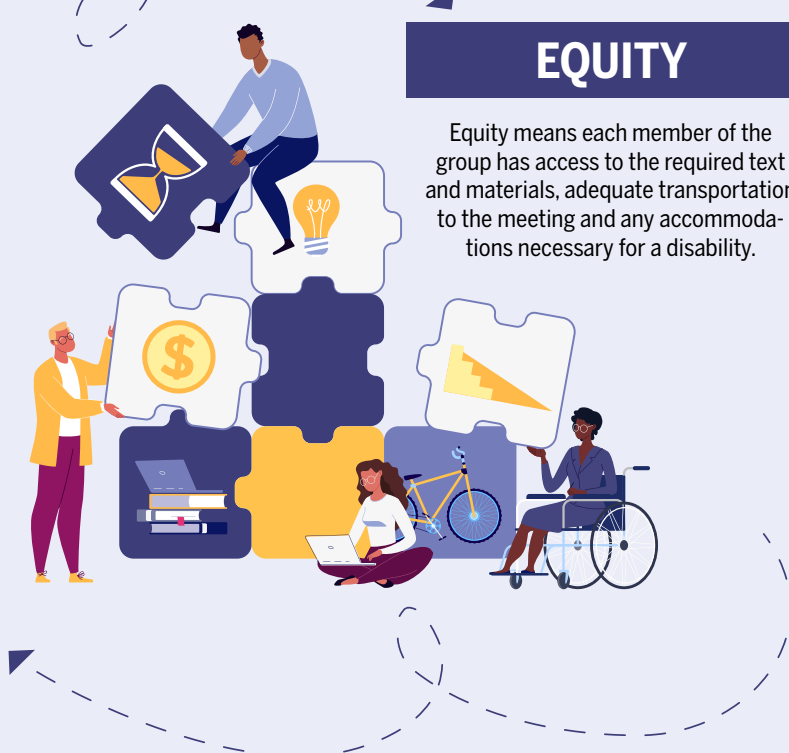
EQUITY

Equity means each member of the group has access to the required text and materials, adequate transportation to the meeting and any accommodations necessary for a disability.



INCLUSION

Inclusion means all students in the group are invited to all meetings and empowered to participate and contribute ideas.



BELONGING

Belonging happens when all students feel comfortable working with the others, like their views are heard and embraced by the group and feel uninhibited in their contributions and learning.





“Be comfortable with discomfort. If we embrace discomfort, that’s when growth happens, when change happens.”

KEVIN SHAH '09

continued from page 21

To better understand the concept of DEIB, think of a group project in college. Diversity means different types of students are represented in the group—a variety of genders, nationalities, sexualities, etc. Equity means each member of the group has access to the required text and materials, adequate transportation to the meeting and any accommodations necessary for a disability. Inclusion means all students in the group are invited to all meetings (no secret meetings or side work to evade others) and are empowered to participate in group discussions and contribute their ideas. Belonging happens when all students feel comfortable working with the others, like their views are heard and embraced by the group and feel uninhibited in their contributions and learning.

The entire group project is made better—more successful and enjoyable for all—as a result.

» EMPATHY

A group project in college is just an example. All teams can find more success by aiming for diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging, whether it’s in a corporate environment, nonprofit board, homeowners association, booster club or just a circle of friends. How? When people feel accepted, understood and cared for, productivity is boosted. Retention improves while turnover goes down. Creativity is enhanced. Innovation increases.

KEVIN SHAH '09 has seen the benefits of DEIB efforts in workplaces and organizations time and time again. An expert in creating Internet of Things products, he resigned from a successful corporate position after seeing the products he helped produce to protect police officers used to assault protesters following the George Floyd murder in 2020. He asked himself how he could help remedy the polarization happening in our communities.

“The answer, to me, is simple: empathy,” says Shah. Empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings of another. Entrepreneurs like Shah have found it’s also the key that unlocks the door to a truly inclusive—and thus, more successful—society and workplace.

“If we practice empathy, we can build a community and help solve the issue with people talking past each other,” he says. “Then, I had that ‘ah-ha!’ moment. You can learn empathy one-to-one and understand each other if you truly come in with this mindset, but how do you make it scalable?”

Sometimes, diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging (DEIB) efforts seem focused on racial diversity or the LGBTQIA+ community. However, while those are essential elements in the conversation, DEIB is about all facets of people. When thinking about your own efforts in DEIB, consider all angles of representation, including this nonexhaustive list.

- » Age or generation
- » Body image
- » Culture
- » Education
- » Family composition
- » Gender
- » Language
- » Learning style
- » Nationality or geographic background
- » Physical or mental ability
- » Race or ethnicity
- » Religious, political or social beliefs
- » Sexual orientation
- » Socioeconomic status/class

To do that, Shah created the app Jaago, named for the Hindi word for “wake up,” to help people practice empathy and truly understand each other.

“Just like we work out every day to stay healthy—you can’t just hire a personal trainer once a year—we need to make empathy a daily habit,” Shah says. “All companies do right now is do a workshop once a year and check the box. Data shows that after 48 hours, that training expires because no continuous behavioral changes are happening. So to reframe this, we built the world’s first ‘empathy gym’ platform.”

Just like working out your body at the gym, Jaago helps its users work their empathy muscles. The platform houses user-generated video stories of life experiences—the act of sharing is an act of empathy in itself—and as others view these videos and hear these perspectives, understanding starts to form. The viewer answers a few short questions after the video then receives an empathy score for self-reflection and ongoing improvement. The app is being used not only by individuals seeking to understand others but also across corporate teams to foster better communication and empathy within the workplace.

“We can keep talking about DEI—we need education—yes, we need education and better recruiting—but none of that will stick until leaders change and become more empathetic,” says Shah. “From their perspective, they’re the hero of the story. So how are they understanding? They all need empathy. The reason our workplaces are toxic and white supremacy is continually propagated is a lack of empathy.”

» ACTION

When championing progress toward more just teams and organizations, we must move beyond bland notes of solidarity, buzzwords and box checking. So, how can an individual help ignite real, actionable change and drive toward the goals of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging? Shah suggests three things everyone can do:

- 1) **Self-reflect.** “What is your own self-reflection plan? How did your personal experience shape your perspective? Did you grow up with a single parent? Were you adopted? Into sports? Have a disability? Think about how your life experience has shaped your perspective.”

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2) **Go learn.** “Everyone else’s life experience has shaped their unique perspective. You can’t force your perspective onto others, like, ‘I have a perspective; why is everyone else not aligned to that?’ You’re only hearing part of the story. Go learn other peoples’ stories.”

3) **Ask questions.** “Truly come in with an open mind, an open approach. It’s going to be hard. Be comfortable with discomfort. If we embrace discomfort, that’s when growth happens, when change happens. Every time you’re feeling uncomfortable about some topic, that’s the right topic to go after and learn.”

From this self-reflection and learning process, not only are we practicing empathy, but we can then grow to become allies. Florida Tech adjunct professor and doctoral student **JACKIE NOTO** ’19 M.S. focuses her work as a behavioral scientist on leadership, allyship, safety and training. Her research has included active-shooter scenario response, socioeconomic disparities and resource access, and diversity, equity, inclusion and justice.

Noto spoke in May at a Florida Tech Alumni Association event about allyship and self-identifying privileges, saying that as we all have different backgrounds and experiences, self-identification can be a helpful start to determine the topics for one’s learning.

“Understanding the effects of your privilege and challenging your biases is an important first step,” she says, “but it takes more to be an ally.

The label ‘ally’ is not something one can give themselves. It is to be actively earned through daily choices.” Just as a person is not forevermore labeled “funny” because they made a joke once but instead because they are regularly humorous, allyship is not achieved in one instance and then set. It is an ongoing effort.

One of the ways Noto suggests keeping allyship present is to model the behaviors yourself. “Something as simple as using gender-inclusive greetings—for example, ‘Greetings, everyone’ versus ‘Ladies and gentlemen’—or an action as small as placing pronouns in an email signature can aid in the sense of belonging for gender-nonconforming individuals.” When leaders reinforce ally-like behaviors, the behaviors can become habitual and part of a company’s culture instead of an afterthought.



Jackie Noto '19 M.S.

» ACCOUNTABILITY

There have been—and will be—bumps along the way. Despite the best of intentions,



Kevin Shah '09

As a manager, Kevin Shah '09 includes the same three questions during all his one-on-one meetings with team members. Managers in any industry can use these simple questions to reduce anxiety and create a psychologically safe space where people feel heard, seen and recognized.



“What achievement, however small, are you celebrating this week?”

Starting with this kicks off the meeting with recognition and self-affirmation.

“What is something you are navigating or struggling with this week?”

Asking this helps ensure you understand what is top-of-mind for the other person and whether you can provide a space to help turn these challenges into achievements.

“How can I, as your manager and as a human, grow, be better and create a safer space for you?”

This question creates an open opportunity for the other person to give feedback. “I also encourage them to give feedback to my manager about me if they prefer that,” says Shah.



“Leaders can impact the culture of an entire organization. Leaders can create systems without barriers and instead with equity and equal opportunity for all. When people feel included and supported, there will likely be increased engagement, which is connected to productivity.”

JACKIE NOTO '19 M.S.

unintentional microaggressions may happen as we all learn and grow together. It can be beneficial for those who find themselves in a hostile or otherwise unsupportive environment to confide in a trusted individual who can be present in future unsupportive instances.

“This individual would be aware of previously unsupportive behavior and can keep watch for those behaviors. At work, I would also suggest talking with someone from the human resource department or in management,” Noto says. “This is not something that has to be carried alone.”

Similar to Shah’s suggestion for us all to move from the comfort zone into the growth zone, Noto suggests finding a diverse social network of individuals from which to receive feedback, “like a personal team of ‘accountabilibuddies,’” she says, noting that these individuals should have different backgrounds and experiences than you. “Sometimes, it can be easier for an outside observer to identify when harm is being caused. An additional suggestion is to further immerse oneself in educational resources. We can all continue to learn and grow.”

In the workplace, Noto says, “Leaders can impact the culture of an entire organization. Leaders can create systems without barriers and, instead, with equity and equal opportunity for all. When people feel included and supported, there will likely be increased engagement, which is connected to productivity.”

McKinsey & Co. reports that companies in the top quartile for ethnic diversity in leadership were 33% more likely to have industry-leading profitability; conversely, companies in the bottom quartile were 29% less likely to achieve above-average profitability than all other companies.

“It’s simply good for business,” says **DIA SIMMS** '01 MSM. Simms is the CEO of Lobos 1707 Tequila & Mezcal, the spirits company backed by basketball icon LeBron James that has dedicated itself not only to making quality spirits but also to “building a bigger table” to allow for more inclusive representation and opportunities in the industry. “Do not approach diversity in leadership

as charity. It’s a wise investment with all the math and data showing that it directly impacts the bottom line.”

Simms has held previous roles as president of Sean “Diddy” Combs’ company Combs Enterprises, leading the transformation of Ciroc Ultra-Premium Vodka into a billion-dollar value brand, and in the Department of Defense.

Throughout her career, Simms has often found herself to be the youngest person and the only woman of color in the room. She has learned to own her seat at the table. “You belong in that seat,” she says to others who find themselves in the same situation. “Your being in that seat makes the room better. All humans share 99.5% the same genome, so the difference between you and anyone in the room is negligible.”

Simms likens the situation to breathing: Just as breathing doesn’t steal air from others, the same is true for opportunity. “Welcome others to the table. ... Wherever there isn’t enough room, build a bigger table.”

In May, Simms co-founded Pronghorn, a 10-year initiative developed to create a blueprint for effectively diversifying an industry. It has started with a focus on the Black community and the spirits industry and is poised to drive \$2.4 billion of economic value by 2030.

“It’s important that we welcome everyone into the DEI conversation,” she says. “If people are hesitant or have questions, I welcome those questions.”



Dia Simms '01 MSM



Panther Gift Guide

To:

Fellow Panthers & those
who love Florida Tech

From:

Florida Tech Magazine

With the end of the year around the corner, gift-giving lists are probably starting to bubble up to the foreground of your mind. To help you head off a holiday headache, we've curated a list of giftable gear made by Panthers. Supporting your Florida Tech peers' businesses and getting your lists checked off early? Win-win.



Creatively CiCi

[Starting at \$6] etsy.com/shop/CreativelyCiCi

Years ago, **CECILIA DOCKERY** '11, biological sciences, aquaculture, learned modern calligraphy and hand lettering, leading to a love of watercolor painting. When she picked up working with resin for a single project, she was hooked. Now, she makes keychains, bookmarks and tumblers using epoxy, glitter, vinyl and more. She says, "There are ready-to-ship items, but custom and personalized items are always an option!"

READER BONUS!

Promo code: **FIT15** for 15% off select items

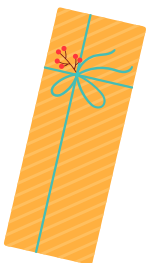
Adorned by Adanna

[\$10-\$30] adornedbyadanna.com

Established in 2017, the shop started out as a way for **ADANNA RYCE** '14, civil engineering, to make handmade gifts for her loved ones for Christmas. This creative endeavor spawned a love for crafting and experimenting with accessories. She says, "I am just having fun!"

READER BONUS!

Promo code: **fltech** for 10% off





Bubba's Flags and Home Decor

[Starting at \$125]
facebook.com/bubbasflagsandhomedecor

If you're looking for a custom woodworked piece, look no further. During the pandemic, **BUBBA DIFABIO** '06, psychology, sought a new hobby and made a flag for his wife. After completing the flag, he began taking orders and has expanded over the past year. He says, "I make hand-carved wooden flags, stove covers and liquor cabinets in various colors and sizes, and customization is available upon request."

Ruby & Co.

[\$5-\$25] rubyandco.shop

While on maternity leave with her third baby, **LINDSEY BESSING** '21 MBA, health-care management, was overwhelmed with how nearly all baby gear on the market was in neon colors. Her remedy was to design safe, affordable products in modern colors and unique styles. Bessing says, "Everything we sell, we also use. So rest assured they are the safest on the market!"

READER BONUS!

Promo code:
RUBY15 for 15% off





Fox Flow Art

[\$20-\$40] foxflowart.com

Inspired by the Space Coast, **ERIN FOX** '17 MBA, marketing, creates resin artwork and crafts—from flat canvas pieces to woven art, dimensional panels to coasters and more. During the holidays, she makes coastal-themed ornaments and stocking stuffers. She says, “Fellow Panthers love the Florida ornament with the heart over Florida Tech!”



Rocket Knits

[\$25-\$500] etsy.com/shop/RocketKnitsBoutique

Engineer by day, knitter by night! In 2020, **BARBARA KENNEDY** '18, civil engineering, lost the ability to walk—for the second time in her life. But, as she says, “When the going gets tough, the tough get knitting!” Now, with full walking abilities restored, Kennedy still knits almost every day to bring these beautiful accessories to market.

READER BONUS!

Promo code: **FLTECH** for 10% off \$250 or more

EK Dezoti [90] dezoti.com

ERYCK DZOTSI '05, management information systems, has long been fascinated by the fluidity and strength found in the water and in the human body and dreamed of designs to bring to life. Now, his avant-garde designs, blending Western couture with bold, vibrant tropical patterns, have inspired a clothing and accessories line of swimwear, resortwear, watches and sunglasses. The website jokes that although the brand officially launched in 2018, it was really established in 1983—when Dzotsi was born.





Dugout Mugs

[\$19.99-\$74.99] dugoutmugs.com

The Dugout Mug was dreamed up in the dugout at Florida Tech. After **RANDALL THOMPSON** '11, business administration, graduated, he signed with the Toronto Blue Jays. About a year later, he left the Blue Jays and tried his hand at coaching at Florida Tech. One day, the hitting coach, Matt Mecurio, was creating a training tool for his hitters by cutting wooden baseball bats in half with a handsaw. "Laying around the dugout were bat barrels," Thompson says. "I looked at one, and said, 'Huh, that could be a cool drinking mug.'" The rest is history.

READER BONUS!

Promo code:
PANTHERS30 for 30% off



MHiLL Shoes

[\$200-\$350] mhillshoes.com

While earning his degree at Florida Tech, **MATTHEW THOMAS** '07, business administration, played four years on the Florida Tech men's basketball team. After graduating, Thomas paired his love for basketball with his business prowess to design and manufacture high-end sneakers.





Sea Threads

[\$49.99] seathreads.co

Founded by **DYLAN CROSS** '19, business & environmental studies, during his junior year at Florida Tech, Sea Threads makes apparel from recycled plastic—each shirt is made from one pound of plastic removed directly from the ocean. Face masks and neck gaiters are also available. Cross says, “In addition to the Sea Threads signature line, we now offer the ability for others to customize our merchandise!”

READER BONUS! Promo code: **THREADS2021** for 10% off

Sculpted by Elise

[\$35] sculptedbyelise.com

At the ripe age of 18, **JAIDA HALL**, current junior, humanities–prelaw, wanted to make a difference in the world—and inspire other young people to do more and to do better. With fitness being one of her passions, Hall decided to create her own athletic and athleisure wear for men and women to feel comfortable and confident in. She says, “Do what the world says you can’t do, do the unimaginable, and most of all, be the change.”

READER BONUS! Promo code: **FIT** for 30% off





News from the desk of
Fin Bonset '96,
'99 MSA
 Florida Tech
 Alumni Association President

While positive things, such as in-person classes to facilitate learning, are taking place on campus, variants are restricting our ability to host full social interactions. Since the safety and well-being of our students on campus is our top priority, the Office of Alumni Affairs is bolstering its calendar of virtual events to continue to engage with alumni. The Alumni Affairs team and the Florida Tech Alumni Association are very hopeful that our in-person Homecoming slate of activities will take place in spring 2022. Our Alumni Affairs team has a talent for putting on one heck of a show, so mark your calendars now for March 24–26, 2022!

The spring and summer months have been active for the Alumni Association. Continuing to bring you quality virtual events, we launched our Alumni Impacts Interview Series, allowing our community to learn about the pathways our alumni take to rise to the top of their professions. Our Lunch & Learn series explored the restoration of the Indian River Lagoon, shark reproduction, space robotics and debris removal, and converting waste to energy and sustainable materials. If you missed any of these live events, you can find the recordings at floridatech.edu/alumni/events.

As we have completed the new Folliard Alumni Center project, we are refocusing on what is next for our association and our university. This consists of creating a strategic plan that emphasizes the best ways to enhance alumni and student relationships, mentoring, networking, fundraising, future infrastructure projects and, most importantly, ensuring that we meet current and future DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion) initiatives. We have always been a diverse university, but that does not mean we can't make it even better.

This fall, I very much look forward to working with all Florida Tech departments, colleges, students, stakeholders and our Alumni Association members to chart the evolving course for always improving our beloved university. There is an excitement in the air in this new normal. We're not there yet, but with our world-famous Panther "can do" attitude, we will always Ad Astra Per Scientiam!

YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Fin Bonset '96, '99 MSA | President | Indialantic, FL | fbonset@vhb.com
 Sherry Acanfora-Ruohomaki '93, '00, '05 M.S. | Vice President | Melbourne, FL | sherry@k9kampus.com
 Chad Shoultz '96 | Treasurer | Indialantic, FL | cshoultz@icloud.com
 Warren Pittorie '16, '18 M.S. | Secretary | Melbourne, FL | wpittorie2012@fit.edu
 Jody Palmer '07 | Member-at-Large | Melbourne, FL | jodybpalmer@yahoo.com
 Chris Fernando '02 | Member-at-Large | Raleigh, NC | cfernando@gmail.com
 Kim Bozik '87 | Past President | Chandler, AZ | kim.bozik@regan.com
 Bino Campanini '90, '92 | Executive Director | Satellite Beach, FL | bcampanini@fit.edu

SUBMIT YOUR NEWS TO
alumnos@fit.edu

1970s

HERB PIPER '72 M.S., a physicist and engineer who worked on various missile and satellite tracking, instrumentation acquisition, installation, missile launch and reentry performance projects on Florida's Space Coast, recently published *A Central Florida Historical Cornucopia*.

Lt. Col. **MICHAEL WILSON** (retired) '76 A.S. recently retired from U.S. Airways/American Airlines, where he served as a flight crew instructor for 31 years. Mike taught DC-9, B-757/767 systems and international flight procedures.

1 RICH SCHERCH '79 visited the Melbourne campus in April and posed with his granddaughter, Coralie, in front of the Florida Tech seal artwork in the Folliard Alumni Center.

1980s

2 STEVE BAREIS '79 A.S., '80, found himself in the cockpit with another Panther, **MICHAEL WISNIEWSKI** '07, in a recent FedEx Boeing 757 flight. They may have attended Florida Tech

during different decades, but both pilots are proud to be a #Panther4Life.

3 RICHARD COOK '80 retired after a 36-year career in corporate aviation. He writes a monthly column for *Antique Trader* titled "On the Road with Rick: Vintage Camper Trailers" as well as the Antique Advertising Association of America's monthly and quarterly newsletters, *Checkerboard* and *Past Times*.

4 MEGAN DAVIS-HODGKINS '81, '92 M.S., '98 Ph.D., a research professor at Florida Atlantic University, has spent over four decades growing queen conch, a species in steady decline, and safeguarding the species through community-based solutions.

5 JORGE MESQUITA '83 was named CEO of BlueTriton Brands, formerly Nestlé Waters North America, which includes a family of water brands.

6 CONNIE STEINMAN '83 A.S. published a teaching memoir, *Behind the Wall*, based upon her experiences in the classroom about teaching, learning and self-reliance. Born with an 85% decibel hearing loss, she has been teaching American Sign Language and English to underprivileged



Take a trip down memory lane, and relive your time on campus by flipping through your yearbook!

Find the digital yearbook library at
floridatech.edu/alumni

students in the Sacramento, California, area for over 20 years.

DAVID JEROME '85 MBA, Ph.D., director of the procurement technical assistance center for the University of Missouri System, earned his Ph.D. after his retirement from the U.S. Army and edited the book *Examining War and Conflict Around the World*.

7 BRENDA BEHAN '86 is deputy director for the United Nations World Food Program's East Africa region. World Food Program received the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts in combating hunger, bettering conditions of peace and preventing the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict.

8 JIM FLYNN '86 M.S. recently joined Microsoft as a contract performance benchmark engineer.

9 ANDREW MALEK '86, a registered professional engineer in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Florida, became chief growth officer for architectural, engineering, environmental and surveying firm PS&S.

10 SCOTT OLSON '86 recently joined Inspire Environmental as senior field and innovation manager to enhance and expand the company's underwater engineering capabilities.

11 MICHAEL R. MULLANEY '88 is the new CEO of Fraport USA, a wholly owned subsidiary of Fraport AG Frankfurt Airport Services Worldwide and a leading developer of award-winning airport retail, food and beverage concession programs.

RAMIN ELAHI '89 M.S., a technical training manager with Cisco Meraki and adjunct faculty and program chair at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and UC Berkeley, used his time during the COVID-19 lockdown to complete his book, *Bringing Down Sales Barriers and Challenges: A Road Map for Closing More Deals Faster!*

Capt. **JAMES M. HANN** '89 A.S. recently upgraded to Airbus 300 captain with UPS Airlines based in Louisville, Kentucky, flying all over North America, San Juan, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic.

JENNY LYONS '89 M.S., who is helping lead the Gateway deep space commercial supply chain to the moon, was named a 2021 Rainmaker awardee from *DC Velocity* magazine, a logistics supply chain industry magazine.

12 CESAR SORIANO '89, '02 MSM, who served as captain in the U.S. Army as a military intelligence officer and is currently CEO at Confie, was recently appointed as a board member of eHealth Inc.

13 ED THOMAS JR. '89, Ph.D., professor of physics and associate dean for research and graduate studies at Auburn University, has been appointed interim dean of Auburn's College of Sciences and Mathematics.

1990s

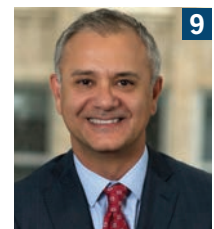
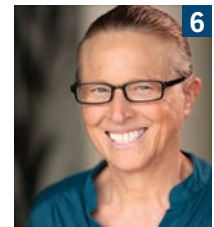
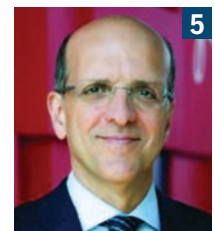
14 MARK CARTWRIGHT, a member of the NCAA National Championship team in 1991, was named the first-ever sporting director of the United Soccer League (USL). He will oversee player development, coaching and club education across the USL's professional leagues.

15 RAVI PENDEKANTI '90 M.S. became the senior vice president of product management and marketing with Western Digital. He is on the advisory boards of Solix Technologies and Olixus.

16 ED TORRES '90, '93 M.S., joined Orange County Utilities as the department's new director. Torres has dedicated his career to managing public works, previously serving the City of Altamonte Springs, City of Casselberry and City of Palm Bay.

17 ROGER FURR JR. '91 M.S. retired after 35 years in the aerospace and defense industry. He served as executive director of contracts at The Mitre Corp. for over 23 years and as a principal director of contracts for the civil systems group of The Aerospace Corp.

MIKE MOSES '91 M.S., president of Virgin Galactic, was a part of space history with the VSS Unity spacecraft making the first commercial spaceflight in sub-orbital altitude.



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JOHN P MCCONNELL '93 M.S., Ph.D., earned his doctorate in information systems from Nova Southeastern University. He is a technical manager with Johns Hopkins Hospital and teaches cybersecurity at Community College of Baltimore County.

director of programs at the University of Miami's Institute for Data Science and Computing, joined the advisory board of Neuvana LLC.

TONY DENKINS '01 M.S., Ph.D., joined Southeast Health as director of human resources operations.



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JEAN-CLAUDE NASR '93 MBA was appointed vice president of growth for Averda, a leading waste management and recycling company operating in India, the Middle East and Africa.

GEORGE KENNETT '01 M.S. (right) became the 41st inductee into the Commander Naval Installations Command U.S. Navy Fire & Emergency Services Hall of Fame. He retired in 2008 after a 30-year career and is currently in his 49th year with the volunteer fire and emergency medical services in St. Mary's County, Maryland.

Maj. **JAMES THOMAS** '94 M.S. is interim CEO for Reach Inc., a nonprofit organization working with adults with disabilities.

Maj. Gen. **CEDRIC WINS** '95 M.S. won unanimous approval in April as superintendent of Virginia Military Institute, becoming the first Black man to lead the school.

SERENA THOMAS '01 was promoted to field sales leader for USHealth Advisors.



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PAUL CECALA '85 (left) & **DAN NAZZARO** '95 (right) toured campus and the Folliard Alumni Center. Paul is a past president of the Alumni Association and a career coach. Dan is a software engineer for UPS.

PINAR YILMAZ '01 M.S. joined Pegasus Airlines as a senior project manager.

MELROY COELHO '02 recently joined Epicor Software as a principal product developer.



19

JO DAMATO '95 A.S., '97, was promoted to senior vice president of education, training and workforce development for the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA).

ADELE LUTA '02, an American Association for the Advancement of Science If/Then ambassador, is part of a team of researchers and scientists who became aquanauts at the Jules' Undersea Lodge in Key Largo, Florida.



20

ADRIENNE SOMERVILLE '98 M.S. authored a book published in March, *WINGSPAN: Talent Management - Gaining Corporate Dominance*.

Col. **GAVIN GARDNER** '02 M.S., commander of the U.S. Army Joint Munitions Command, was promoted to brigadier general. He received various accolades, including one Joint Meritorious Unit Award, one Valorous Unit Award, two Meritorious Unit Commendations, the Legion of Merit (one Oak Leaf Cluster), the Bronze Star Medal (one Oak Leaf Cluster), the Meritorious Service Medal (six Oak Leaf Clusters), the Combat Action Badge and Parachutist Wings.



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JOSHUA DANDEL '97, '12 MBA, was promoted to director of network operations with Southwest Airlines.

MATHIEU DURAND '99 M.S. was promoted to senior manager for the product security team with Nuance Communications, bringing him back to Melbourne.

MICHELLE MALONE '02 M.S. began a new role in 3M's consumer business group as a plan-to-deliver plant coach, supporting all the company's manufacturing plants in the deployment of a new ERP solution. She is a certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt.

SACHIN DEKATE '00, '04, '07 Ph.D., was recently promoted to technology group leader with BAE Systems Inc., leading the development of digital twins, photonics and fused signal processing in defense applications.

Col. **AARON STANEK** '03 M.S. was selected by the Defense Commissary Agency as Defense Commissary Agency HQ Chief of



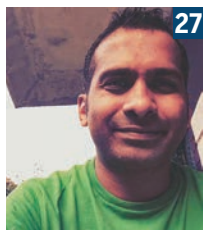
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MICHAEL MANNINO '00, Ph.D., who has served as the

2000s



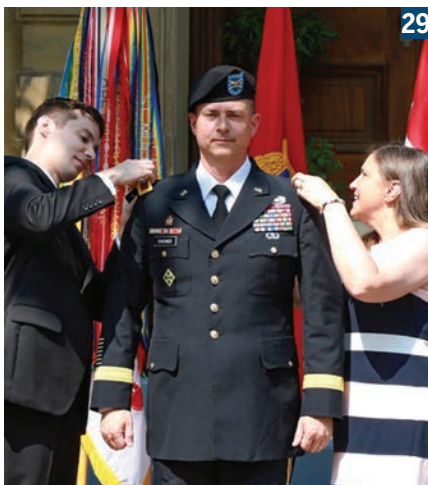
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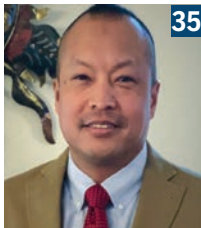
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Staff. Stanek previously served as the Army Logistics University commandant.

31 TERENCE KADLEC '04, practice leader of the construction and defect group with Envista Forensics, spoke at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the world's largest technical professional organization, about the top 10 things design professionals need to know about forensics.

32 CHRISTINE COOPER '06 M.S., '08 Psy.D., became a support psychologist with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and credits the skills gained during her degree programs for helping to alleviate mental illness, empower individuals and create positive organizational change.

MELISSA SHEFFER '06, '08 M.S., recently joined the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 5 office in Chicago as a meteorologist.

SWAPNIL ADHAV '07 M.S. recently joined Infosys as delivery lead. He credits the practical project experience in his master's program for helping him advance professionally and personally.

33 RUSS AYSCUE '09 M.S. has been named vice president and chief information officer at

Eastman Credit Union (ECU). He joined ECU in 2016 and was previously the director of technical services at Wellmont Health System.

34 JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ BORGES '09 became a K-12 science coordinator with the Martin County School District. She previously spent over 11 years with Orange County Public Schools in Orlando, Florida.

2010s

GARRETT DUFLO '10, '11 M.S., was appointed senior flight test operations and safety engineering leader with Boeing's test & evaluation organization, leading the enterprise operational and safety engineering team responsible for Boeing's flight test programs.

35 Col. STEVEN D. GUTIERREZ '11 M.S., '12 MPA, was recently promoted in the U.S. Army and named director of the Defense Contract Management Agency Americas in Ottawa, Canada.

36 GAËL LE BRIS '11 MSA (left) and LOUP-GIANG NGUYEN '19 MSA (right) published *ACRP Research Report 229: Airport Collaborative Decision Making (ACDM) to Manage Adverse Conditions*. This research effort was conducted for the

Transportation Research Board, a division of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine based in Washington, D.C.

37 MICHAEL D. PARRISH '11 M.S. recently assumed the role of associate director of governance, risk and compliance with Marriott Vacations Worldwide. He is also an adjunct instructor of cybersecurity at the University of Central Florida.

38 AMANDA DERLETH '12 moved to Los Angeles after receiving her degree in communication and serves as director of operations for Fearless TV. She and her husband welcomed their firstborn son, Lorenzo David, in February 2020.

39 AMEYA SHRIRANG VIPAT '12 MBA was recently promoted to associate with JPMorgan Chase & Co. in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.

40 CORICKA WHITE '12 MBA was promoted to refinery manager at Domino Sugar's Baltimore facility. She became the first woman in 99 years in Locust Point to run the sugar refinery.

JULIE FAINBERG '13, '16 M.S., recently joined Array as a senior business development analyst, building and maintaining a pipeline of strategic opportunities in the government contracting

space with a total value of over \$2 billion.

BRIAN CRANE '14 recently joined LogicSource as an associate IT buyer, consulting retail clients in IT procurement.

41 DON GATTON '14 MBA was named CEO of Four County Electric Membership Corporation. He began his career as a first-class lineworker and moved up to director of safety, training and loss control and eventually vice president of HR.

42 HSUANHU LEE '14 MAT and his wife welcomed their daughter in August 2020.

EMAN MAREH '14 M.S. recently joined Panda Retail Co., part of the Savola Group, as a design and development specialist. She previously worked as an educator in Saudi Arabia.

43 SHANNON SULLIVAN '14 was promoted to senior marketing team leader with The Ad Leaf marketing firm.

NICK TOUFEXIS '14 earned his Juris Doctor this year after his retirement from the U.S. Navy and is currently an associate attorney with Saputo PLLC.

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ALUMNOTES

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BILL DAVIS '15 M.S., '16 MBA, was appointed director of fleet operations for BHI Energy.

44 PATRICK GREEN '15 M.S. joined GoDaddy as senior manager of incident response and security operations.

TIZIANO BERNARD '15, '16 M.S., '18 Ph.D., joined Gulfstream Aerospace as an experimental flight test engineer. He is also a collaborator with new site ilGornale.it on aerospace, science and Italo-American relations.

45 LEEANNA LAPORTE '15, '18 M.A., was promoted to customer operations supervisor at Cardinal Health. She feels her career path has unlimited potential after earning her master's degree in organizational leadership.

46 AMAR BAYASGALAN '16, a director with Alliance-Tech Co. Ltd. in Mongolia, was recently named to the World Energy Council's Future Energy Leaders.

AISHA CATO '16 became a clinical research coordinator with Duke University School of Medicine.

47 NAKEYA JOHNSTON '16 MBA was promoted to manager with Deloitte, supporting federal government agencies on mission-critical initiatives related to accounting and finance processes. She has also taken on multiple national roles to support the implementation of diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives.

ASHLEY KOMINSKY '16 M.S. was recently promoted to

superintendent within the nuclear propulsion division of Newport News Shipbuilding, a division of Huntington Ingalls Industries.

48 ZAMI LAM '16 married his college sweetheart, **SHELBY LANGNER** '17. They met during their first day on campus. Zami recently joined Amazon Web Services as a talent acquisition specialist.

49 STEPHANIE LICARI '16 M.S., '18 MBA, recently joined Florida's Natural Growers and Citrus World Inc. as director of procurement.

50 TIMOTHY ROSSER '16 Ph.D., who served as an associate professor at Florida Tech from 2008–2020, joined the faculty of Middle Tennessee State University as associate professor.

51 ZACHARY RUBENFELD '16 was promoted to senior manager of automation services at Government Acquisitions Inc., where he leads a 10-person team of robotic process automation engineers who support the federal government.

52 MICHAEL ARENELLA '17, '19 MBA was recently promoted to principal budget analyst at Northrop Grumman Corp.'s operation in Palm Bay, Florida. He is a graduate of the company's Pathways Rotation Program and supports information technology budgeting where he oversees rates and allocations with the company's Enterprise Services.

53 GURJOT BANDASHA '17 M.S. was promoted to vice president of engineering with DataSeers. She

Psychologist-turned-lawyer **MELISSA CHAPMAN** '15 has followed her passions across industries and applications. After earning her undergraduate degree in psychology from Florida Tech, she went to Eastern Michigan University to study for a master's degree in higher education. While there, she worked part time as a legal assistant at an intellectual property (IP) law firm.

Through this experience, Chapman remembered how much she enjoyed her undergraduate law classes. Coupled with her interest in technology and how things work (She had a knack for tinkering and rebuilding engines in high school!), she took a chance and applied to Wayne State University Law School. Chapman has worked full time throughout her doctoral studies, gaining experience in different areas of IP law at various law firms, automotive suppliers and Ford Motor Co. Now in her last semester of law school, she is a law clerk for Fishman Stewart PLLC, protecting future innovations for automotive companies that the general public will see in the era of autonomous vehicles.

"While practicing IP law, I get to help protect inventions that may not be commercialized for another 5–10 years," Chapman says, "and seeing what is coming down the pipeline in terms of technology that will be available—well, that's just really cool!"

A point of pride in her career thus far is the work she did at Ford when the pandemic began. As demand for personal protective equipment (PPE) mounted, Chapman helped swiftly draft and negotiate licensing agreements to enable the company to manufacture PPE and other necessary medical equipment.

"Being able to help with a project so impactful and that benefitted our local community made my work much more meaningful," she says.

Even with a career shift, Chapman still relies on her undergraduate psychology education in the field of law—specifically, what motivates people and how to identify those motivations when speaking to clients, interviewing trademark examiners or negotiating agreements.

"Understanding what is most important to a person on the other side of the table can help you identify what areas of an agreement you may be able to leverage. It's not exactly psychology, but those simple concepts they really drill into classes like Learning and Motivation have been a huge asset in my career so far."



TV SHOW OF THE MOMENT: Currently re-watching "New Girl."

MOST IMPORTANT QUALITY IN A BUSINESS LEADER: Someone who thinks outside the box.

ALTERNATE CAREER: Training dolphins, the reason I originally went to Florida Tech.

PETS: Two treeing walker coonhounds, Paisley and Levi.

USUAL WEEKEND ACTIVITY: Enjoying Michigan craft breweries.

YOUR HAPPY PLACE: In the sun, looking out over any body of water.

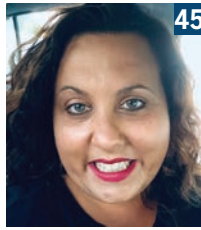
FAVORITE FLORIDA TECH MEMORY: Tuesday nights at Old School Pizza.



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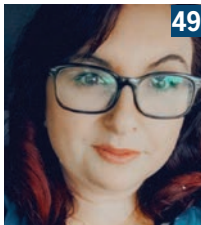
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credits the cultural variety of her master's program with helping her connect with her profession.

54 CASSANDRA DAHLM '17 joined Egret Consulting Group as an executive recruiter specializing in the utility industry.

55 KEVIN GRIGGS '17 assumed a new role with KPMG US as director of CIO advisory, providing strategic consulting to information technology leaders in the areas of service management.

56 ALEXANDRA LINNABARY '17 gained hands-on medical experience as a Certified Nursing Assistant after earning her undergraduate degree and is now a board-certified physician assistant in Appleton, Wisconsin.

57 PAMELA FORERO LOZANO '17 joined Humacyte as a process development engineer in biomaterials. Her work involves the creation of human acellular vessels with universal implantability, which shows great biocompatibility with patients.

58 JORDAN SAMUELS '17 joined National Airlines as an operations analyst. He is working toward his goal of becoming a commercial pilot by earning his flight instructor certification (CFI) and CFI instrument rating.

59 SCOTT THERIOT '17 M.S. was named general manager of supply chain services for Danos. He credits the online program for allowing him to continue building on his career and apply the learnings in real time.

60 VINAYAKA KONANUR SHIVASHANKAR '17 M.S. began a new journey at Paychex as a network engineer.

61 YOUSEF ALSHEHRI '18 M.S. recently joined the Royal Commission of Jubail and Yanbu as private projects coordinator.

62 AKASH CHANDA '18 joined M1Finance as an Android engineer. He also authors a personal finance blog at sensemonkey.com.

63 STEVE FARRIS '18 MBA, who earned his MBA while serving in the U.S. Navy from 2011 to 2019, recently joined Northrop Grumman Corp. as a principal electronics engineer.

64 BRIANNA JONES '18 M.A. was promoted to senior talent acquisition recruiter with Ochsner Health.

65 TORI LANE '18 MBA was recently promoted to associate director of career education for Tulane University's A.B. Freeman School of Business.

She says she used strategies learned during her studies to adapt facilitation approaches in her current role during the COVID-19 pandemic.

66 JONATHAN CIRILLO '17 graduated from medical school in March and is now an internal medicine resident in Citrus County, Florida.

67 CODY KRUEGER '17, '20 MBA, and **CAROLINE DUNLEAVY** '18 came back in June to where it all started: the Columbia Village parking garage! Cody arranged to propose to Caroline where they first met, and of course, she said yes!

68 ZHE WANG '17, '19 M.S., recently joined Jasci Software as an industrial engineer.

SAMUEL BOYD '18, '20 M.S., became a coastal engineering specialist with Stantec to help minimize the company's impact to the natural environment and, in

some cases, improve the surrounding environment.

69 JOSHUA J. MILLER '18 M.S. was promoted to product manager of e-commerce and payments at Giant Eagle.

70 TETIANA PIELOCH '18 MBA and her husband, Mark, welcomed Matthew Mark Pieloch on May 20. After 38 hours of labor, mom and baby are doing well!

71 1st Lt. HANK ABELL '19 successfully completed U.S. Army Ranger School and will now serve as a company commander in the 10th Mountain Division, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, located in Fort Polk, Louisiana.

72 JUSTIN DAIMLER '19, '20 M.S., joined Quantum Signal AI as a mechanical engineer.

TREVOR OLDS '19, '21 MBA, became director of marketing and business development with Heka.

continued on page 38



Welcomed a Panther Cub?

Contact us for a free infant T-shirt, bib or onesie. Then, send a photo of your cub in his/her Panther swag with an AlumNote about yourself to share in the magazine.

For details: alumni@fit.edu

ALUMNOTES

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73 SYDNEY SULLIVAN '19 joined WYFF News 4 in Greenville, South Carolina, as a weekend morning meteorologist.

2020s

JUSTIN CHOI '20 M.S. joined InComm Payments as security risk analyst following the completion of his master's in cybersecurity.

74 BRENDAN DIERSEN '20 MBA was recently promoted to senior project engineer with Lockheed Martin.

ARCHITA GALA '20 M.S., a chartered accountant from India, joined Windham Brannon in Atlanta as an experienced assurance associate.

75 BO GODFREY '20 MBA moved from public accounting to the private sector, joining Craig Technologies, after completing his graduate degree in December 2020.

DE'SHANNA HAYDEN '20 M.S. recently joined Dell Technologies as an IT project manager. She previously held information technologies roles with Boeing.

76 PAYTON LYNCH '20 MBA was promoted to senior product manager with Disney Parks, Experiences and Products and recently published her first book, *Rise From the Ashes: Stories of Trauma, Resilience, and Growth from the Children of 9/11*.

SANTIAGO MAURO NGUEMA JR. '20 recently joined Broadridge as a senior AWS Lambda engineer.

MITZI MIRANDA '20, team manager with Currency Exchange International, is currently managing four businesses in the Charlotte Douglas International Airport.

77 VICTOR MONCADA '20 M.S. joined Northrop Grumman Corp. as a principal system engineer supporting the aeronautics systems sector. He has also been accepted into the electrical engineering doctoral program to add another Florida Tech degree to his name.

78 DARSHAN PATEL '20 M.S. recently became a project manager with Mammoth Inc.

Lt. Col. **JUAN VILLATORO** '20 M.S. assumed command of the 902nd Contracting Battalion and Mission and Installation

Contracting Command at the Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington state.

79 ZACHARY BEHLOK '21 A.A., a senior software technician with Raytheon Technologies, published his first book, *The Requiem of Apathy and Sorrow*.

DARREN "RANDY" HODGES '21 MBA was named primary care service line executive director with Munson Healthcare.

80 NICOLETTE MURPHEY '21 joined The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas as a genetic counseling assistant. She is also serving as ambassador for the United MSD Foundation to spread awareness and help find a cure for multiple sulfatase deficiency, a rare genetic disorder.

A duty to environmental stewardship is something Amazon does not take lightly—nor does **MARK TANNER** '14, '17 M.S., the global environmental leader at Amazon Air. He is responsible for all environmental impacts at the company's air sites, creating programs and processes that better care for ecological resources and fulfilling Amazon's commitment to sustainability.

In this role, Tanner has realized just how vital an understanding of a product's lifecycle is. "I have learned more about waste disposal than I thought was possible in my last six months in this role. I look at the way water drains—and where it ends up—in a way that I never considered before."

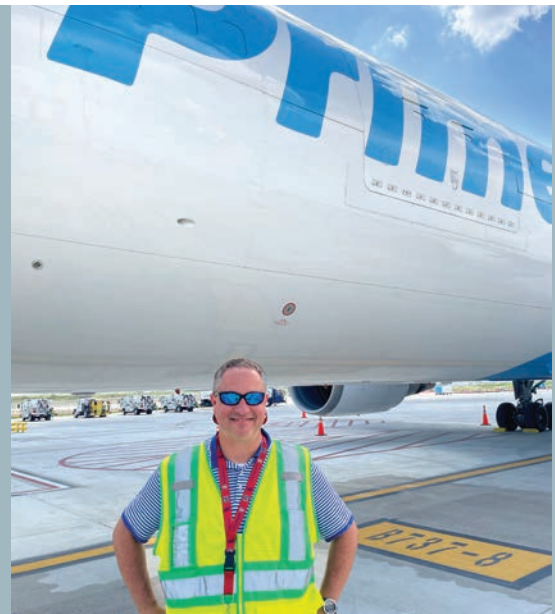
He encourages anyone looking for environmental progress within their company to keep an eye on the end of the lifecycle of the things you consume. "Be good stewards of the resources we are given. Every item we use today must have an end disposition," he says.

Tanner's career began in the U.S. Navy before moving into retail management and regional supply chain management. Then, the hard times of the recession shifted his career and led Tanner to Florida Tech. He credits his degrees—a bachelor's degree in accounting and finance and a master's degree in supply chain management—for opening up the opportunities that led to his current role.

"When I realized that my career had stalled, I knew that I needed a catalyst, which proved to be my education from Florida Tech," Tanner says. "As I have progressed in my career, I realize now that this was an intricate mechanism for my development, and I would not be where I am today if not for my education."

Tanner advanced through procurement roles of increasing responsibility at Amazon and found his team partnering with the environmental team when the pandemic began, leading the company's health and safety procurement initiatives. From this, he was offered his current role, leading the environmental team for all Amazon Air sites globally.

Besides his positive ecological impacts, Tanner also takes his responsibility to coach the managers in his charge very seriously. He serves as an emotional intelligence ambassador, creating better work-life harmony within the organization. He also coaches veterans and transitioning military on how to translate their valuable skills to a civilian career.



EARLY BIRD OR NIGHT OWL: Night owl.

TV SHOW OF THE MOMENT: "Deadliest Catch."

YOUR SUPERPOWER: Parenting.

ALTERNATE CAREER: Business owner.

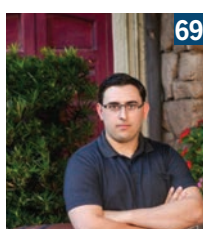
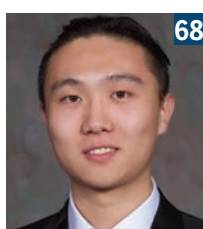
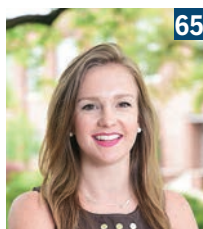
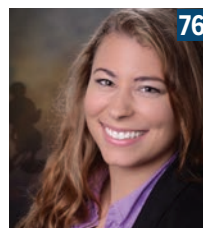
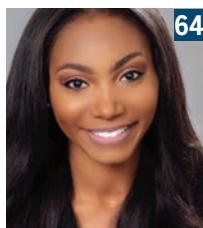
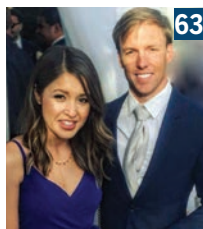
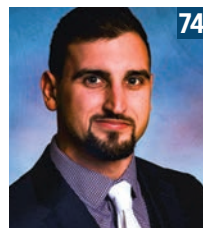
YOUR THEME SONG: Tim McGraw's "Humble and Kind."

PETS: A dog, Kona, and seven chickens.

USUAL WEEKEND ACTIVITY: Projects at our 41-year-old house we bought.

YOUR HAPPY PLACE: On a run wherever I happen to be.

FAVORITE FLORIDA TECH MEMORY: Graduation—it was my first time on campus.



Connect with Us & Join the Fun

Visit [FLORIDATECH.EDU/ALUMNI/EVENTS](https://floridatech.edu/alumni/events) to catch up or mark your calendar for new offerings.



Save the Dates

Homecoming 2022 March 24–26, 2022

- » **MARCH 24**—Homecoming 5K Walk/Run
- » **MARCH 25**—Homecoming Fest in Downtown Melbourne with free concert (artists TBA)
- » **MARCH 26**—Annual Alumni Awards Gala

Full details at
floridatech.edu/alumni/events/homecoming

Beta Nu Zeta Chapter of Lambda Chi Alpha 50th Anniversary Banquet

April 30, 2022

Hilton Melbourne Beach Oceanfront

Details and registration at
sites.google.com/view/bnzalumniassociation/50-years

Questions?

Contact Jeff Benes, Beta Nu chapter treasurer:
benes.nc@att.net



LUNCH & LEARN LECTURES

Join us for the next session, and learn something new.



SHARKS: Reproduction, Conservation, and the Myth of the Shark Attack

Presented by Toby Daly-Engel, Ph.D., director of the Shark Conservation Lab at Florida Tech



DID YOU KNOW? 97–99% of shark attacks in the U.S. are nonfatal. You are more likely to be killed by cows, texting, falling out of bed or Black Friday shopping than you are by a shark.

Space Junk, Robotics and Creating a Sustainable Space Economy

Presented by Markus Wilde, Ph.D., director of the ORION Spacecraft Robotics Lab at Florida Tech



DID YOU KNOW? Currently, about 4,100 active satellites are in Earth's orbit. The number of satellites in low-Earth orbit has roughly doubled in the past two years.

Alumni Impacts with Angie Lassman



ANGIE LASSMAN '12, '14 M.S., is a member of the First Alert Weather Team for NBC 6 (WTVJ-TV) in Miami, where she anchors and produces weather segments and creates environmental/climate stories for weekly segments. She received a bronze Telly Award for her work on the documentary "Unprecedented: A Climate Check Special" and a Suncoast Regional Emmy Award for the NBC 6 First Alert Hurricane Special.

HAPPY HOURS

Brevard Alumni Happy Hour at The Landing Rooftop, Hotel Melby, Melbourne



INTERACTIVE VIRTUAL DEMOS

Spanish tapas cooking class

Empedrat

By Josh Weitzer with The Tour Guy

Serves 3-4 people

Ingredients

- 3-4 high-quality salad tomatoes, diced or sliced
- 1 green pepper (you can also add red pepper)
- 1 spring onion or a pack of green onions
- 10-17 oz. canned white beans, rinsed
- 10-17 oz. canned bonito tuna, canned tuna or bacalao salt cod
- 5-7 oz. black Spanish olives (Kalamatta will work very well)
- 2 hard-boiled eggs
- Black pepper, salt, olive oil and vinegar



Directions

1. Chop the tomatoes and green pepper into small pieces or slices and put into a bowl.
2. Slice the onion very thinly and rinse with cold water to cut down on the acidity. Add it to the bowl with some salt and vinegar. Stir a few times so the mix can marinate.
3. Wash the beans well after removing from the can or jar, and place them into the bowl, followed by the tuna. Mix well.
4. Chop the hard-boiled eggs and olives into small pieces and sprinkle on top.
5. Finish the salad by adding a bit of black pepper and a generous amount of extra virgin olive oil.
6. Serve cold, especially on a hot day!

TRIVIA NIGHTS

"Star Wars" Edition

WINNER!

ADAM PRINKEY
'13, '19 M.S., '19 Ph.D.



The force is strong with Panthers on "Star Wars" Trivia Night.

Left: Kevin Flynn and Bella DeMeo '18

Below: Lisa Turocy '96 and family



IN MEMORIAM

DAVID RICHARD BEALL '72, '75 MBA, a Zeta Sigma brother, passed away July 15.

Maj. Gen. **EDWARD M. BROWNE** '73 M.S., who retired from the U.S. Army and later as a Martin Marietta executive, died in April. He earned his master's in contract and acquisition management.

Col. **HUGH WILSON** '74 M.S., who earned his master's degree in contract and acquisition management, passed away in March 2020, just three days short of his 93rd birthday. Wilson, who also taught at Florida Tech, exhibited his Panther Pride with memorabilia throughout his home.

FRANCIS "FRANK" DEENEY '77 passed away at his home in Boca Raton, Florida, on May 24.

Lt. **EUGENE BROWN** '89 M.S. died May 22. Brown earned his master's degree in contract and acquisition management.

WILLIAM "BUFF" CROWELL '99 M.S., a former U.S. Navy pilot and Ironman, died in April. He flew the U.S. Navy's EC-130s, supporting the Take Charge and Move Out strategic communications missions, and he later was a manager with Northrop Grumman Corp.

RACHEL FREY ZANARDI '13 M.S. died June 7 after a five-year battle with stage 4 lung cancer. Her career spanned many areas, including serving as an editor and a sports journalist, as well as various positions in marketing, government and fashion. She co-hosted a live weekly radio broadcast on ESPN San Antonio discussing college football.

Professor emeritus **FREDERICK BUELL BUONI**, a faculty member in mathematics and computer science who spent 20 years at Florida Tech before retiring in 1999, passed away Aug. 1 at 87.

JERALD N. LINSLEY, a former professor of chemical engineering, passed away.

JONI FRANCIS OGLESBY, who worked in Florida Tech human resources, compliance and diversity, passed away Aug. 11 at age 64.

Former Dining Services staff member **ROBERT RHOADS**, who worked from 2005 to his retirement in June 2020, passed away July 13.



Day of **GIVING**

11.9.21

DAYOFGIVING.FIT.EDU

FLORIDA TECH HOMECOMING 2022

RELENTLESS TWENTIES

MARCH 24-26

Visit floridatech.edu/alumni/events/homecoming for the latest information.

FLORIDA TECH

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PANTHER PROFILE

Secure and Sound

Lonnie Price '87 reflects on a stellar security career through support to U.S. embassies.

Lonnie Price '87 has a passion for Florida Tech that still runs deep. His voice perks with pride at the mention of his time as a Panther and graduating as an electrical engineering major. He still even remembers his school ID number, rattling off the five digits with ease.

That time as a Panther not only provided great memories but a strong foundation as he would embark on a career that concluded earlier this year when he left his role as deputy assistant secretary and assistant director of cyber and technology security directorate in March.

Price started working for NASA as an engineer, but the 1986 Challenger explosion changed his thoughts on the feasibility of a career in space at that time. The State Department seemed like an appealing option, and in 1987, Price began working as a security engineer, making use of camera and alarm systems to protect embassies across the world.

The changes of the world altered Price's career a few more times. Following embassy attacks in Tanzania and Nairobi in 1998, his job focus shifted from counterespionage to counterterrorism. Eventually, the counterterrorism focus would shift to his passion, cybersecurity. As the senior leader of cyber and technology, he and his team worked to protect

centrally managed systems, such as cars, buildings and other technology.

Price began serving as assistant director of the Cyber and Technology Security Directorate for the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security on May 30, 2017. Price was then appointed the director's deputy assistant secretary in a new position Aug. 30, 2018.

As assistant director, Price oversaw planning, policy development, coordination and implementation of the State Department's technology innovation and cybersecurity programs. Price directed the offices of cyber monitoring and operations, cyber threat and investigations, and technology innovation and engineering, managing multiple efforts to enhance the organization's cybersecurity, technical countermeasures, counterintelligence technology, counterterrorism technology, threat analysis, cyber investigations/forensics and Internet of Things.

He has provided security support to U.S. embassies in more than 100 countries. He served 17 years abroad, including assignments in Frankfurt, Germany; Moscow, Russia; Canberra, Australia (supported the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade); Pretoria, South Africa; Cairo, Egypt; and Bangkok, Thailand. Working in a diverse environment, Price



CURRENT CITY: Springfield, Virginia.

FAMILY: Wife, Barbara, also Florida Tech class of 1987; Children, Aaron, 29, Thayne, 26, Bailey, 22, Lance, 18.

HOBBIES: Kayaking, photography and raising koi.

FAVORITE FLORIDA TECH MEMORY: Intro to Poetry taught by Dr. Stoekel, many fun Tau Beta Pi parties and their activities, like inter-house football.

understood the importance of inclusion and embracing cultural backgrounds as a team leader.

"The reason that person can contribute what they've done to this is because they came from a completely different background than I know about," Price says. "They were raised differently, which has different experiences, so they've shone a light on this problem that blew my mind. So, it's an appreciation of what diverse elements can bring to your table."

During his time at Florida Tech, Price learned time management, organization and interpersonal skills, working with team members in various projects.

"Assessing the talents of the various team members and how they can contribute, even if they don't know it themselves—all of that is super, super important and served me for the rest of my life," Price says.



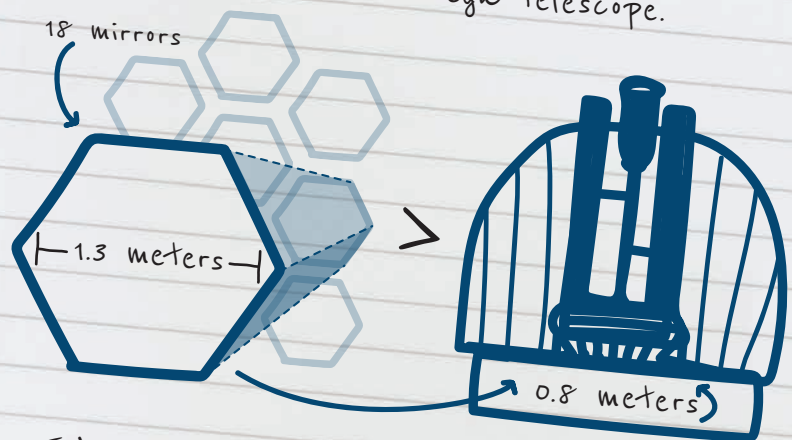
Telescope Facts

The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), the successor to the Hubble telescope, launches later this year. It will be the largest telescope ever placed in space—100 times more powerful than Hubble. The telescope is so big, it must fold in multiple parts to fit in the rocket and will unfold in space. The JWST will help astronomers compare early galaxies to today's grand spirals and ellipticals, allowing for a better understanding of how galaxies assemble over billions of years.

Unlike many launches, the JWST will launch from the European launch site in French Guiana.

In honor of the JWST, build upon your knowledge of this and other Webb-related trivia, courtesy of aerospace, physics and space sciences assistant professor Saida Caballero-Nieves.

The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) will be the largest space telescope launched. It is made up of 18 hexagonal, gold-plated mirrors. Each mirror is more than 1.5 times the size of that on Florida Tech's Ortega telescope.



JWST will orbit the Earth almost four times farther from the Earth than the moon, or 1% of the distance from the Earth to the sun. At that distance, we are not able to send crewed missions for repairs, unlike with Hubble. So, it needs to be just right.