

Florida Tech TODAY

A magazine for Alumni and Friends of Florida Institute of Technology SPRING 2008

Cover Story

**Pam Marcum '87, '89 M.S.
Mission Oriented**

CELEBRATING
50
YEARS

The Golden Anniversary
HOME COMING 2008
Registration details
inside!

In This Issue: **Online Program Launch | Sporting Affair a Huge Success
Professor Pursues Alzheimer's Origin Theory**

President's Perspective

Dear Florida Tech Alumni and Friends,

Welcome to the spring issue of *Florida Tech TODAY*. We are rapidly approaching the date of our 50th anniversary in September of this year. Florida Tech's story is a remarkable one, a history forged by engineers, scientists and entrepreneurs. Unlike our land-grant university brethren around the country, our roots may not be found only in the ground. Our roots are in space as well.

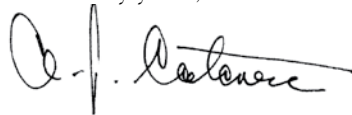
These roots are evident in our cover story on alumna Pam Marcum. A product of our physics and space sciences division, Dr. Marcum is on sabbatical from Texas Christian University to work on two NASA projects certain to greatly expand our understanding of our galaxy and the universe beyond.

Also inside these pages you'll meet a Florida Tech biologist, Shaohua Xu, who's working at Kennedy Space Center's Life Sciences Laboratory. He's made an amazing discovery that could challenge much of the conventional wisdom on the origins of Alzheimer's disease in the human brain.

Our last tie to space in this issue may be found in our On Campus section. In that section, you'll read about astronaut Sunita Williams' visit to campus. The Florida Tech alumna filled Gleason Performing Arts Center with a lively multimedia presentation on her six months living, learning and, well, running inside the International Space Station. While there, she participated in the Boston Marathon!

Finally, this issue introduces our new senior vice president for advancement, Ken Stackpoole, Ph.D. Ken takes the leadership role for the advancement team, which includes the alumni office, after serving for a year as the dean of the College of Aeronautics. I know he'll do a wonderful job as we continue the highly successful Golden Anniversary Campaign.

Sincerely yours,



Anthony J. Catanese, Ph.D., FAICP



Look for this symbol throughout the magazine to find stories and events for the Golden Anniversary.

Florida Tech TODAY

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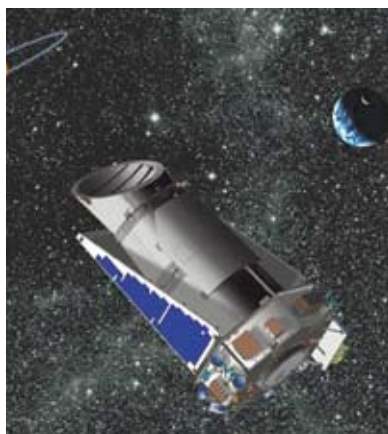


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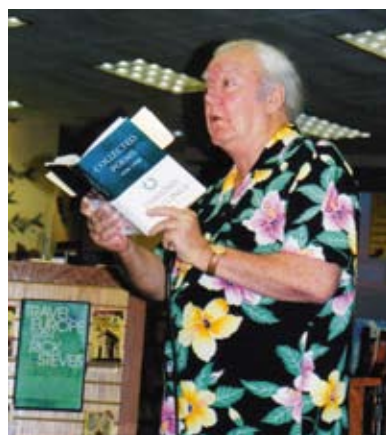
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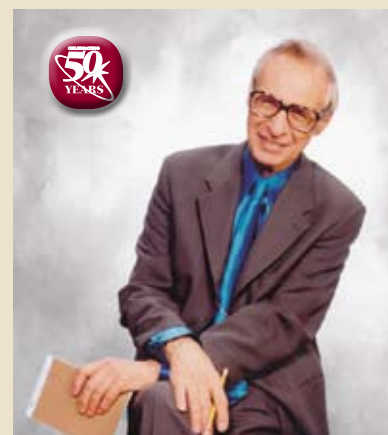
High Tech with a Human Touch



Cover Story: Pam Marcum '87, '89 M.S. is excited by the idea that project Kepler will soon be off the ground.



Faculty Profile: Edmund Skellings—poet laureate of Florida



The Amazing Kreskin, who has appeared on CNN-TV, ABC, NBC, FOX News, and FOX and Friends, will entertain at the homecoming banquet.

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Pam Marcum helped steer the \$600 million space-based telescope, Kepler, through miles of red tape and millions of dollars in potential budget cuts.

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Florida sunshine and balmy evenings will be the backdrop for a host of special events to help celebrate 50 years of Florida Institute of Technology.

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Florida Tech has increased its already successful online initiatives to include 15 new undergraduate and graduate degrees, including four new M.B.A. programs.

28 Professor Pursues Alzheimer's Origin Theory

Medical researchers familiar with Shaohua Xu's theory on the genesis of Alzheimer's disease believe his hypothesis is ground-breaking.

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This issue's cover: Pam Marcum '87, '89 M.S., at the McDonald 82-inch telescope, filling up the detector dewar with liquid nitrogen at the beginning of the night.

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Dear Mr. Wilson,

I was disappointed to see in your article on the “50th Anniversary to See Historic Building Boom” no mention of green buildings with LEED-certified construction, or minimizing increase of impervious surfaces or the loss of habitat.

Considering Florida Tech’s pulse on new technology, the environment and climate change, I would have expected better from my alma mater.

Michael Wright
Class of ’82 and ’86

Editor’s Note: The photo essay Mr. Wright refers to was never intended to be an in-depth analysis of our construction plans. However, since he asked, we’re pleased to provide a response.

Date: March 6, 2008
To: Jay Wilson
Ref: Michael Wright’s Letter to the Editor
Sub: “Green Buildings”

Dear Jay,

First let me express on behalf of Facilities Management in regards to Facility Planning and Design that we are very interested in “going green” and implementing Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) building practices. This is not only good for the environment, but can result in long-term cost savings, an improved work and learning environment, as well as pride in our university. To help assure Mr. Wright that we are moving in this direction, here is a brief history of the planning and design considerations that are included in our current campus expansion program.

During the planning of the new campus expansion program much consideration was given to

requiring the site and buildings be LEED Certified. At the time, the minimum qualification was a “Bronze” certification, and it was determined that this would be cost prohibitive. We therefore went forward with



The new Scott Center for Autism Treatment will be a LEED Silver Certified facility.

designs that included many of the prerequisites for meeting the LEED certification. The design process included a comprehensive review of all the aspects of the building process, building use, construction materials and maintainability. What we ended up

with are low impact, high-performing buildings that could be considered “LEED-lite.”

Some examples of our approach and implementation of LEED, or “green” building practices, included a comprehensive Sustainable Site review that resulted in leaving the wetlands, reduced site disturbance, additional sedimentation control, an increase in stormwater management (collection and retention) to allow for an increase in natural filtration of stormwater, use of the collected stormwater for irrigation (with future consideration for tying into the reuse water line that the City of Melbourne will be installing), retention of as many trees as possible and an increase in native plantings as a part of the landscape design. During design of the buildings, we incorporated many aspects of LEED, some of which include low VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) paints, adhesives and sealants, carpet and other finishes, low-use water fixtures, an increase in natural lighting, low energy-use artificial lighting, high efficiency chilled-water air conditioning systems with upgrades in the control system to provide computer monitoring and controllability, and geothermal heating of the pool. Consideration is also being given to the use of materials with a 10% or better recycled content and those that are “rapidly renewable.”

Due to very recent improvements in the United States Green Build Council (USGBC) LEED rating system and industry’s acceptance of the new technology, the cost of going “green” for certain types of buildings has decreased to a point that it is no longer cost prohibitive to achieve a LEED rating. Mr. Wright will be happy to know that the new Scott Center for Autism Treatment, which came along later in the design phase, will be our first LEED Silver Certified facility. He might also be pleased to know that Florida Tech is in the process of implementing and developing a comprehensive recycling program that will result in sustainable practices and resource conservation throughout the campus community.

We hope that Mr. Wright will continue to be a proud member of the Florida Institute of Technology community.

Thanks,
Rob Ghiotto, Project Manager
Florida Institute of Technology
Facilities Management Department

Tell us what you'd like to see and give us your responses to the articles that you've read in the magazine. We'd love to hear from you. Send your comments to the editor, Jay Wilson, jowilson@fit.edu.

Uncommon Threads Presents Luncheon Event, Fashion Lecture by Philadelphia Museum Textile Curator



From left, Cressie Murphy-David, Florida Tech textiles collections manager and exhibit designer for Uncommon Threads; Dilys Blum, Fourth Annual Ruth Funk Lecturer in Textiles, curator of costume and textiles, Philadelphia Museum of Art; Carla Funk, director of fine arts programs, event coordinator of Uncommon Threads.



The Uncommon Threads committee, from left: Nancy Austin, Jeanne Farmer, Ruth Funk, Carla Funk, Toni Alper, Judi William, Sara Catanese, Ritva Bowman. Not pictured: Mary Fox

Professors Honored

Professor of Engineering Systems **Wade H. Shaw** was named a Lifetime Honorary Member of IEEE engineering management society. The award, in recognition of long and exemplary service to the profession, will be presented in Lisbon, Portugal, in June 2008.

Shaw is a Fellow of the IEEE and editor-in-chief of the *Engineering Management Review*, a widely read international publication. He received the IEEE Centennial Medal in 2000 for his contributions to engineering management and education.



Wade H. Shaw

Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering **Pei-Feng Hsu** was named a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) in the research category. He is one of approximately 2,915 Fellows among more than 100,000 ASME members. With the grade of Fellow, the ASME recognizes exceptional lifetime engineering achievements and contributions to the engineering profession.



Pei-Feng Hsu

Hsu is the recipient of numerous grants and awards, including a National Science Foundation grant to study thin film materials.

Associate Professor and Director of Clinical Training **Richard T. Elmore** was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Florida

Society of Clinical Hypnosis. A Fellow of the organization, he has taught a hypnosis course at the university for more than 26 years.

The award cites Elmore as an inspiration to a generation of students, notable for his service to veterans, contributor to the clinical knowledge base and a compassionate healer. In 1991, Elmore established the Center for Traumatology Studies within the School of Psychology to address combat readjustment issues.



Richard T. Elmore

AAA Florida Tour Book Adds Florida Tech Botanical Garden

The picturesque Florida Tech Botanical Garden is noted for the first time in the American Automobile Association (AAA) 2008 Florida Tour Book. Before a site may be included, AAA representatives conduct inspections and evaluations.

The tranquil preserve is designed as a forum for horticultural display, education, research and outreach. It features sandy uplands of pines and palmettos, a lush hammock of hardwoods, including oaks, maples, hickories, and one of the most historic and diverse collections of palms in Central Florida.





Botanical Fest

Will Saver of Tropical Plant Solutions, Dover, Fla., (right) helps customers look over some tropical plumeria, or frangipani.

Researcher Develops Predictive Technologies

Gary Zarillo, professor of oceanography, received first-year funding of just under \$100,000 from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The grant funds work on predictive technologies with three objectives: reduce the cost of dredging, promote navigation channel reliability and boost understanding of the sediment-sharing interactions between inlets and adjacent beaches.

Potential savings in channel maintenance costs depend on efficiently managing waterways and tidal inlets. "Our goal is to support the army's Coastal Inlets Research Program. We will provide a quantitative assessment of sediment exchange at and around federal inlet navigation channels and quantitative descriptions of changes at maintained tidal inlets," said Zarillo. "The model takes out the guesswork."

Zarillo is beta-testing in inlets at Sebastian and St. Augustine, Fla.; Ponce, P.R.; and on the south shore of Long Island, N.Y. Although completing the tool is expected to take three years, the product will be in the public domain before then, available to academic institutions, for example.

Telescope Dedication

Raymond Gompf, '62 M.S. in space sciences, shows future scientist Caitlin Barker how the new Ortega 0.8m telescope works at the April 18 dedication event. The 32-inch telescope is the largest research telescope in Florida and is located on top of the F.W. Olin Physical Sciences Center.



New Consulting Services Aid Projects

New at the university, Florida Tech Consulting offers clients a spectrum of services that use faculty, staff, alumni, external partners and facilities to assist organizations. Recent projects include an airport master plan, breakwater structure study, chemical testing, pharmaceutical study, vibration testing and zooplankton survey.

Florida Tech Consulting welcomes alumni who are interested in contributing to consulting projects. For more information, contact **Tim Hollingsworth**, director, at (321) 674-8945, e-mail consulting@fit.edu or visit www.fit.edu/consulting.

\$415,000 for Collaborative Biofuels Research

A \$415,000 grant from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services supports a Florida Tech project to produce biofuels and animal feed from microalgae. The university is collaborating on this work with Aurora Biofuels Inc. of Alameda, Calif., at Florida Tech's Vero Beach Marine Laboratory.

The project is one of 12 chosen to support the state's "Farm to Fuel" initiative. This program was designed to help Florida's agriculture industry meet 25 percent of the state's energy needs by the year 2025.

The Florida Tech-Aurora Biofuels research focuses on developing biofuel with co-products to enhance animal feed as a means to improve the economics of the fuel-production process.

A key goal is to produce algae biomass with a high content of triglycerides suitable for conversion to biodiesel and with a high content of valuable

omega-3 fatty acids and carotenoids, which can augment animal feeds.

“We will work with Aurora to develop and test algal strains for their long-term outdoor production viability,” said **Junda Lin**, Florida Tech director of the Institute for Marine Research and principal investigator on the grant. “We also want to harvest the alga by a low-cost sedimentation process for biofuel.”

Co-principal investigators on the grant are **Paul Jennings**, Florida Tech head of the department of chemical engineering, and Joe Weissman, vice president of operations of Aurora Biofuels.

NSF Grant Funds Fertile Field

A three-year National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to Florida Tech offers interdisciplinary training for undergraduates in biological and mathematical sciences in what will be the UBM program.

“This is a fertile field for both disciplines as results in one area can lead to advances in the other. There are few people, however, who can work in this intersection,” said **Semen Koksals**, professor of mathematical sciences.



Semen Koksals

Annually, six qualified mathematics and biology majors will be mentored by Koksals and **Eugene Dshalalow**, professor of mathematical sciences, as well as **Robert van Woesik**, **Richard Sinden** and **David Carroll** of the department of biological sciences. The faculty mentors will direct student research in such areas as molecular, cell and developmental biology and population ecology. They also will expose students to cutting-edge mathematical and statistical tools.

State Supports Near-Shore Data Collection

Florida Tech was granted \$166,000 by the State of Florida to install and operate an array of moorings in the coastal waters between Sebastian Inlet and the southern Oculina Bank. The bank is a fisheries Habitat of Particular Concern (HAPC) that runs north-south along Florida’s east coast from Daytona Beach to Palm Beach, situated in about 250 feet of water.

University physical oceanographers will submerge moorings to measure the ocean’s current velocity from the seafloor to the surface. The scientists will feed the data into computer models to map and predict the currents off Central East Florida.



International Festival

Assistant Director of Career Services Elizabeth Farney, left, and Natalie Dopson, a school psychologist in Seminole County, do a variation of flamenco, the traditional dance of Spain. Both grew up in Spain.

Resulting data will aid understanding and help forecast events such as harmful algal blooms, also known as red tides.

On the team, led by **George A. Maul**, are doctoral student **Aurelie Moulin** and faculty from the department of marine and environmental systems, **Gary Zarillo**, **Kevin Johnson** and **Steven Jachec**.

Fort Lee Commander Tapped as Top Logistician

Maj. Gen. **Mitchell H. Stevenson** ’83 M.S., commander of the Fort Lee U.S. Army post, was nominated by President Bush for promotion to lieutenant general and assignment as the Army’s deputy chief of staff for logistics at the Pentagon. He has been commander of the service’s Combined Arms Support Command at Fort Lee since October 2005.

Stevenson replaces Lt. Gen. **Ann E. Dunwoody** ’87 M.S. his predecessor at Fort Lee and the Support Command. Dunwoody is the Army’s top-ranking woman.

Stevenson was commissioned through the ROTC program at West Virginia University in May 1974 and graduated from the Army’s Command and General Staff College and the Army War College. He commanded a support battalion for the 24th Infantry Division during the Persian Gulf War.

Logistics deals with the supply, movement and sustainability of people and equipment. Based at Fort Lee, the Combined Arms Support Command trains soldiers to provide support services and supplies to the Army’s combat forces around the world.



Maj. Gen. Mitchell H. Stevenson



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University Names Two New Trustees

Ruth Funk and **Richard McNeight** were named members of the board of trustees in January at the winter trustees meeting on campus.

An artist, teacher and collector, Funk has enriched the university by her donations of books, international textiles and wearable art as well as by major financial donations. She funds the annual textiles program, the Uncommon Threads symposia and made possible the university's Funk Textiles Gallery, located in the Crawford Building. Her \$1.25 million gift anchors the financing for the Ruth Funk Center for Textile Arts on campus—the only such museum in Florida. It's scheduled to open in 2009.

After a long career in software engineering, McNeight founded Paravant Computer Systems Inc. in Satellite Beach, Fla. He took it public on NASDAQ in 1996 and sold it to DRS Technologies Inc. in 2002. He continued as president of DRS Tactical Systems Inc. until his retirement in July 2006. Under McNeight's 24 years of leadership, Paravant/DRS Tactical Systems grew to become the worldwide leader in the design and production of rugged portable computers for military systems.



Ruth Funk



Richard McNeight

Conference Leads to Disaster Preparedness Center

At a Florida Tech conference on disaster preparedness, Associate Provost and University College Dean **Clifford R. Bragdon** announced that, with a donation from an anonymous donor, a disaster think tank is coming to the university. Bragdon, who will head the new center, began planning last March.

The conference brought together four generals to discuss strategies for disaster preparedness and response. Held at the Technological Research and Development Authority (TRDA) and at Harris Corp. in Melbourne, the conference drew almost 100 attendees from public and private agencies and companies.



Conference speakers, pictured from left, were: Maj. Gen. Michael H. Sumrall, assistant to the chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff for National Guard Matters, Pentagon; University College Dean Clifford R. Bragdon; Brig. Gen. Peter M. Aylward, deputy director, Anti-Terrorism/Homeland Defense Joint Chiefs of Staff, Pentagon; and Maj. Gen. John Basilica Jr., director of logistics, National Guard Bureau, Pentagon. Not pictured was Brig. Gen. (ret.) Ralph Locurcio, director of the College of Engineering construction program and distinguished research professor.

in the news Florida Tech

■ Examining Erosion

In a Newhouse News Service story in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* and *Seattle Times*, Lee Harris, associate professor of ocean engineering, weighed in on the erosion affecting Mexican resort beaches south of Cancun. He speculated the problem to be both natural from wave action and man-made from near-shore structures. A collaborative plan among the resorts is called for, he said, with affected resorts working together to conserve the beaches.

■ Coral-Killing Sunscreen?

National Geographic News online reported a study conducted in the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans, which indicates sunscreen chemicals kill off coral. According to the research, the chemicals cause viruses that attack the algae living in the coral, leaving naked the skeleton of the coral, bleaching and coral death. Robert van Woesik, professor of biological sciences, was not involved in the research. His quoted opinion, however, was that the study was not an identical simulation of natural conditions.

■ Unequal Employment

Arthur Gutman, professor of psychology, performed data on employment practices in a Kansas sheet metal workers union. The data was

considered in a lawsuit contending that the union discriminated against African Americans who worked a significant number of hours less than white workers. His findings, of workers in the local No. 2 union between 2000 to 2006, were in a story about the suit published in the *Kansas City Call*.

■ Close Call

When WESH-TV Channel 2, the Orlando NBC affiliate, reported on a near mid-air collision at Orlando International Airport, the reporter called upon Nat Villaire, professor of aeronautics, to ask why the mix-up may have occurred. Villaire said he wasn't surprised by the close call. He pointed out that air traffic controllers are in high demand and the system is aging.

■ Countering Concussions

Research on soccer heading led by Frank Webbe, professor of psychology, showed that extroverts were more willing to go head-first into the ball. His findings were published in the *Chicago Tribune*. "If heading the ball is part of a player's personality dynamics, it's hard to change," said Webbe. "They see themselves as aggressive players who are willing to take risks."



Astronaut on Campus

Astronaut Sunita Williams '95 M.S. poses in Florida Tech's Panther Plaza with President Anthony J. Catanese and Provost T. Dwayne McCay. The astronaut-alumna, who holds the record for longest duration space flight by a woman—29 hours and 17 minutes—addressed students in Gleason Performing Arts Center last February.

16th Annual Sporting

On March 14, hundreds of donors, supporters and Florida Tech student-athletes gathered at Suntree Country Club for the 16th annual Sporting Affair Golf Tournament and Chopper Dropper event.



The event marks the biggest annual fundraiser for athletic scholarships and its sweet sixteen proved to be the most profitable year yet, raising a record \$320,000. Over half of Florida Tech's 300-plus student-athletes benefit from some form of athletic financial aid, with that number expected to grow each year as the university has pledged to infuse more scholarship dollars into the athletic budgets. This commitment from the school has spurred on hundreds of other supporters to contribute as well, which ensures numerous student-athletes have the opportunity to compete both on and off the playing fields.

The day teed off with the golf tournament and the top 10 finishers had a chance to shoot a hole-in-one for a million dollars. At about 6 p.m., the masses gathered outside the tent to watch 2,000 golf balls drop from a hovering helicopter in hopes of winning thousands of dollars in prizes. Along with the usual festivities of live and silent auctions, the coaches added their own flair this year with gift baskets full of their favorite things to be raffled off. Donors were able to purchase tickets to enter a drawing held for each basket, which included things like sports memorabilia, gift certificates and the chance to have coaches come to the winner's house to cook for the family. It gave supporters the opportunity to see the personal side of their favorite Florida Tech coaches.

Featured items in the live auction included Tim Wakefield's Boston Red Sox jersey and a trip to the 2009 Master's Golf Tournament. The night was capped off with supporters placing bids for outright scholarship donations, asking nothing in return.

In addition, over 25 student-athletes representing several of the Panther teams attended to help out with the evening's festivities.

Florida Tech Hall-of-Famer Bino Campanini '90, '92 M.B.A., was the master of ceremonies. Five-time chair of the event was Brent Peoples, vice president and branch manager of Raymond James Financial in Melbourne. Peoples passes on the torch to current vice chair Travis Proctor '98, owner of Artemis IT.



Affair a Huge Success!



Chopper Dropper Winners

\$25,000: William Muns

\$10,000: Dan Faherty

\$ 5,000: Madeline Fielding

\$1,000 Winners:

Fay Baud

Justin Brown

Bryan Clark

Ed Retter

Tom Waite

William Muns

Mike Renfro

Stan Kooyenga

Matthew Hendrian

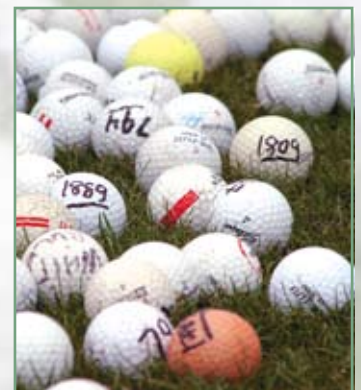
Richard Laird

Manatees tickets:

Carolyn Potter

Jane Baxter / Wendy Bettson

Lorelie Bennett



Stackpoole Assumes Advancement Reins



Ken Stackpoole and his wife, Susan

Florida Institute of Technology's new senior vice president for advancement, **Ken Stackpoole, Ph.D.**, believes the mission of the advancement office is a simple one.

"Advancement is all about establishing and communicating a good image for the university and utilizing that image to raise friends and funds so that the end result of our efforts is a better educational experience for our students."

"An important role of advancement is to energize the entire alumni body to a level that will help the university continue to grow and prosper."

More specifically, at Florida Tech, advancement includes alumni affairs, annual fund, athletic partnerships, development, communications, publications and the university's public radio station, WFIT. Stackpoole takes over the university's advancement

operation after spending more than a year as the dean of the College of Aeronautics. Prior to arriving at Florida Tech, he served in a variety of academic and administrative positions at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, including vice president for university relations.

"When Florida Tech reached out to me for the dean position in the College of Aeronautics, I was intrigued because it was a position that allowed me to build on the totality of my experience at Embry-Riddle," said Stackpoole. "Now that my mission to

reinvigorate the college is successfully under way, I'm honored by the opportunity to lead the university's advancement mission."

During Stackpoole's tenure as dean, the college undertook a revision of its academic curricula and instituted a five-year plan to grow its place among the top university aviation programs in the country. Now, as the new senior vice president, Stackpoole plans to bring the same discerning eye and vigor to the university's advancement organization.

"The good news is that I inherited a well-oiled machine that has many of the parts in place for continued success," said Stackpoole. "This team's next challenge is really one of degrees—how successful can we be in the capital campaign, what areas can we improve upon to bring the whole operation to a higher level?"

Stackpoole lists expanding fundraising capabilities, stronger outreach to core constituencies, including alumni, and expanding the budget for strategic communications and marketing among his priorities.

As the Golden Anniversary Campaign for Florida Tech continues, the university's alumni will have an enormous say in its ultimate success.

"My first impressions are from College of Aeronautics alumni, which I think is one of the most active groups Florida Tech has," said Stackpoole. "An important role of advancement is to energize the entire alumni body to a level that will help the university continue to grow and prosper."

The role alumni play in the lifeblood of a university goes far beyond dollars and cents.

"Alumni can help a university in many ways—providing jobs for new graduates, helping faculty integrate into professional associations, helping colleges and departments maintain a curriculum to meet the needs of industry and help us grow friends of the university," he said. "Most importantly, alumni represent their alma mater in their industries, creating our image—who we are and what we do."

For Stackpoole, the advancement message, and mission, is a simple one: Image, message and friends supporting Florida Tech and its students.

"I've grown to understand that Florida Tech is a great institution with a great mission and great programs and great people. Our job now is to make sure this story is told as often, and in as many ways, as possible."

Jay Wilson

from the FTAA President

From the desk of Association President Russ Ballagh '74



On behalf of the board of directors of the alumni association, I bring you golden greetings—golden anniversary greetings that is!

Under the outstanding leadership of Golden Anniversary Chair John Valente '76, much preparation has gone into planning for the 50th. Some deliverables have already been completed:

- The Golden Anniversary alumni directory is completed and in the hands of those who ordered it.
- The Edwin Link trainer has been restored and is in the Melbourne International

Airport's new museum. Between 1941 and 1945, more than 500,000 pilots learned the basics of flight in the various Link trainer models. This restored one was built in 1941 and was number 85 off the assembly line.

- The Vanguard first stage rocket engine used for teaching rocket propulsion beginning in the early '60s is displayed alongside the Link trainer.
- The association oversaw the digitization of 8,900 feet of Keuper family video. Historic clips from the project can be found in the award-winning DVD, "The Golden Anniversary Campaign for Florida Tech."
- The association has given \$5,000 for three consecutive years to the university's History Committee and its efforts to collect and digitize documents of historic significance. The professors emeriti organization has done an outstanding job in leading this important effort.

Yet to come and in progress:

- City, county and state proclamations for the Golden Anniversary. An effort will also be extended to have the university's 50th anniversary read into the federal congressional record.
- The state of Florida commemorative 50th anniversary road marker will be dedicated soon.
- A first-ever commemorative piece of art has been commissioned and renderings will be available for purchase in the near future.
- Pioneer interviews continue. To date, about 20 "pioneers" have been interviewed totaling about 15 hours of audio/video history.
- A time capsule is scheduled for burial on Sept. 22, 2009, the last day of the celebration.
- Fundraising for the Keuper statue continues. With over \$30,000 received to date, the goal is \$79,000.
- The grandest alumni banquet ever is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 18. Held in the Clemente Center, the organizing committee expects a minimum of 400 attendees. Special entertainment for the evening will be the Amazing Kreskin. Also part of the program, University College's 10 Extended Studies sites will present two-minute mini-DVDs of congratulations to the main campus on its anniversary.

Finally, we need you, too, to help the 40-plus members of the board by recruiting other alumni to come back for the 50th. It's a special time, and we only get to do this once. When we see it in the rearview mirror, it's too late. So, get everyone you know to start talking it up and make plans to join us the week of Oct. 13–19, 2008. See you soon!



Dave Munion '80 and son, Devlin

Panther and Cub Corner

Dave Munion '80 didn't need to do much of a selling job on son Devlin to attend pop's alma mater. Dave, who earned his degree in environmental systems, had already passed on his love of the water to Devlin, a boating, surfing and scuba diving enthusiast. "We visited the campus when Devlin was a junior, while waiting to take a cruise out of Port Canaveral," said Dave. "After that we could barely get him to consider another university." Devlin, an honor roll student and golf team captain at New Jersey's Haddon Township High School, will enter Florida Tech this fall as an ocean engineering major.



Alumni Receptions Reconnect Old Friends and Make New Ones

Puerto Rico



From left, Axel Rivera '02, president of Express Media; Juan Chipi '98; President Anthony J. Catanese; and Felix Colon '73.



Juan Chipi Sr. and wife Carmen enjoy a glass of wine at the alumni reception held at the Old San Juan Hotel and Casino.



President Anthony J. Catanese presents Daniel Chardón '03 and Juan Carlos Chipi '98 with gifts in recognition of their contributions in making the Puerto Rico alumni reception in San Juan possible. Here, they join about 20 others in a dinner for representatives of the government, academia and private business at Platos Restaurant in Isla Verde.



Prospective students join Elsa Lopez (center) at the San Juan reception, which was attended by about 45 alumni and guests.

Washington, D.C.



An all-alumni portrait with Florida Tech's president, from left, Helen Johnston '06, Megan Carey '04, Cheryl Fossani '04, President Anthony J. Catanese, Andrew Stanton '03, Victoria Zalevsi '05, Lyndsay Freeman '04 and Elizabeth Stoien '04.



From left, Robert Haines, Trustee Henry Heflich '73; President Anthony J. Catanese; and Trustee Joe Caruso '73, '75 M.S. are among 50 attending.



Enjoying an evening out, from left, are Todd West '95 with fiancée Stacey and Mike Dubois '78, '87 M.B.A.



Socializing at the Capitol Hill Hyatt alumni reception are, front to left: Yuliya Malikova England '02 and husband Simon; Karleen DuBois and husband Mike Dubois '78, '87 M.B.A.; and Larry Pollock '85.

Raleigh, N.C.



President Catanese, right, greets Stacy Lamb '99 and husband Richard, who were among the 30 alumni and guests attending the Raleigh reception.



Blair Hinkle '04 with guest Meghan Hanks relax in the restaurant of the historic former home of Mayor William H. Dodd.



Ken Stackpole, center, Florida Tech senior vice president for advancement, gets to know Raleigh alumni. Jay Langley '88, left, and Ed McCarthy '75 at Raleigh's Dodd-Hinsdale House, Second Empire Restaurant and Tavern, tell him what's going on in the area.

Biology Alumni Bond in Common Goals



Enjoying the reception, from left, are Mark Bush, head of the department of biological sciences; Janie C. Park '79 Ph.D., president of Chadron State College, Chadron, Neb.; and Dean of the College of Science Gordon L. Nelson.



A winter weekend drew about 250 department of biological sciences alumni and friends to campus for the Biological Sciences Reunion and Symposium. Alumni reconnected with former colleagues and attended presentations that covered the latest genetics research and the challenges for marine populations.

The weekend also paid tribute to **Gary Wells**, Ph.D., faculty member of the department for 34 years before retiring as head in 2007. Fundraising for a scholarship in Wells' name took a big jump at the symposium.

Bob Crossley '75, a product development scientist/manager for M&M Mars, brought to the reception a sweet surprise—several cases of M&Ms candy. He also created this special memento (left) for Wells. All agreed it was an exceptional likeness.

ART SHOW



Featuring Elizabeth D. Schafer '85 and Fritz Van Eeden

Opening Reception
Sat., Oct. 18, 1–4 p.m.

Come as you are!

At FRA Art Studio
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Show runs Oct. 17–Nov. 17, 2008

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HELP PRESERVE OUR HISTORY

The History Archive Project needs your help. This effort is dedicated to preserving and displaying the dynamic story of Florida Tech for future generations. Its mission is a long-term commitment to find and maintain critical information and memorabilia.

Please consider a monetary gift or gift-in-kind. The project also seeks gifts or loans of photographs, documents and memorabilia.

Professor Emeritus Harry Weber leads the project's committee. To help, contact Tama Johnson at (321) 674-6162 or johnsont@fit.edu.



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!

A special edition of the Florida Tech student literary/arts journal, *Kaleidoscope*, is being published for the 50th anniversary celebration of our university. Alumni submissions of poetry, short stories, artwork and/or photography are sought for inclusion in the journal. E-mail your creative works to the humanities department at kkiser@fit.edu by June 15, 2008, and please include a short bio with your submission.

Best Teacher

Delilah Narvaez '91, an advanced placement and honors chemistry teacher at West Shore Junior/Senior High School for five years, was named Brevard Public Schools Teacher of the Year.

Debra Blenis '91, Florida Tech director of teacher education (science and mathematics), began her studies at Florida Tech the same semester as Narvaez and knows her well. She said, "Delilah was as passionate about teaching then as she is now and is well deserving of this honor. She always strives to make learning fun and is a very effective teacher. I am so happy for her."



Delilah Narvaez

Narvaez, who spent four years as an instructor in Misawa, Japan, teaching science and mathematics, was chosen to participate in the Zero-G Microgravity Flight. Winner of the Exemplary Science Teacher Award for Brevard County in 2006, she was among 89 nominated for Teacher of the Year for 2007–2008.


Another alumnus, Tracey Bailey '88, was named National Teacher of the Year 1993 after just five years as a Florida high school science teacher.




Serving In Iraq

Second Lt. Jonathan Logan '06 meets General David Petraeus, commanding general, multinational force in Iraq. A graduate in forensic psychology, Logan is serving in Iraq in the infantry branch.

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"Let me say that the instructors I've had, both as a classroom and a distance education student, have been outstanding. All seem on top of what is happening in industry—and for me—the Department of Defense."


Daniel McLean, M.S.
Logistics Management,
Fall 2007

"I am leaving with an extensive amount of knowledge about computers ... much more than when I entered Florida Tech ... for that I'm grateful."

Patrice Zerlina Frites, M.S.
Computer Information Systems, Fall 2006

Why Florida Tech...
"... outstanding reputation. Don't delay. Your education is an investment in your future that you should take seriously and approach with vigor."

Demetrius Darnell Brooks, Major, U.S. Army, M.S.
Acquisition and Contract Management, Fall 2007



"I intend to use my education to seek a position of greater responsibility and eventually a promotion ..."

Julian O. Boggan Sr., Major, U.S. Army, M.S.
Acquisition and Contract Management, Spring 2007

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06/17/2007

Fraternally Speaking

The fraternity/sorority community has wrapped up its recruitment events. More than 100 new members were welcomed into fraternities and sororities this fall. The Kappa Eta chapter of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity received its charter on Nov. 17, 2007. This has finally come after a few years of hard work on our campus. The chapter put forth much effort to reach this ultimate goal, including initiating 39 members, progressing through the stages of reaching a charter, hosting its first formal and participating in various community service events. We are happy to see the fraternity and sorority community growing on campus.

Fraternity Recruitment Statistics Fall 2007:

Chapter	Recruited
Alpha Tau Omega	24
Chi Phi	10
Lambda Chi Alpha	12
Pi Kappa Alpha	24
Pi Lambda Phi	4
Tau Kappa Epsilon	24
TOTAL	98

Sorority Recruitment Statistics Fall 2007:

Chapter	Recruited
Alpha Phi	10
Gamma Phi Beta	12
Phi Sigma Sigma	9
TOTAL	31

In October, Order of Omega welcomed nine new members in the chapter. These seven sorority women and two fraternity men exemplify what it means to be a leader in the Florida Tech and fraternity/sorority community. Also in October, the Fraternity and Sorority Life Housing Committee gave a presentation to the president of the university. The committee showed the work overview, what the committee has accomplished, purpose, building and community space layout, cost and current status with respect to the created timeline.

This January, Jessica Pettitt from Campuspeak presented an in-service event titled "Be the Change You Want to Be." The goal of the event was to have chapters realize and break down the behaviors, assumptions and actions that limit their organization and to create goals and action steps to

follow. The event was hosted by the Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic and Student Activities.

The chapters have also been busy with various philanthropic endeavors this past year. In October, Chi Phi helped out with the Brevard County Special Olympics. Phi Sigma Sigma volunteered at the Junior League's Festival of Trees in November. In January, Gamma Phi Beta hosted its annual Date Auction to help raise money for the Yellow Ribbon Project. And Alpha Phi kicked off its Cardiac Care Month on Feb. 1.

In March, the fraternities and sororities competed in the annual Greek Week competition. The events began on March 14 and continued through March 22. Each chapter anxiously prepared for a week of fun and friendly competition. Also in March were Campus Clean-Up and Relay for Life.

Check out the fraternity/sorority monthly newsletter at www.fit.edu/fsl.

Sara Mayer



The six fraternities and three sororities will present the university with a 50th anniversary gift during the homecoming celebration. A bronze plate will feature the 50th anniversary logo surrounded by each chapter's letters. This memento will be set into the ground, centered within a landscaped seating area, in the academic quad. All are welcome to join the chapter leadership for the dedication ceremony on **Sat., Oct. 18, at 2 p.m.** For more information, contact Sara Mayer at smayer@fit.edu.

Florida Tech Fraternity and Sorority Life

In fall 2007, Florida Tech Fraternity and Sorority Life had a successful semester. First, the community finished strong academically with an overall GPA of 2.58, with 2.70 from the sororities and 2.52 from the fraternities. With the widely accepted minimum of a 2.50, the organizations reached their goal. Second, recruitment was an overall success with the extended week. Different from previous years, recruitment was held a week after orientation, but the numbers held strong with the fraternities gaining 67 members and the sororities gaining 27 members. Third, the service statistics showed an overall improvement from the previous year. In fall 2007, \$13,588.77 was raised for philanthropy, 2,834 campus service hours were committed, and 2,800 service hours were donated to the community. In fall 2006, \$5,554 was raised for philanthropy, 1,517 campus service hours were committed, and 1,977 service hours were donated to the community. Lastly, overall membership in fraternities of 240 men was higher than the previous year at 225 men, and the sororities stayed consistent at 105 women with 104 the previous year. With all this in mind, Florida Tech Fraternity and Sorority Life is on a steady road to a bright future.

Also, Greek Week this year showed some interesting competition. Pi Kappa Alpha was in the lead, but Alpha Tau Omega was close behind them. Tau Kappa Epsilon and Chi Phi were also in a tight race for third. The week did have some upsets, and it came down to the wire with chariot races on Saturday night. To keep up with the standings, schedule and brackets of the annual competition, visit <http://activities.fit.edu/greekweek/main.cfm>. The week closed with all fraternities and sororities reflecting on how they showed friendly competition and came together for some fun.

Campus Stalwarts

Few employees of Florida Institute of Technology have devoted the number of years to their positions as have **Richard MacKenzie** and **Hank Hughes**, yet not too many recognize their names.

Not only have they given the better part of their working lives to Florida Tech as members of the Facilities Management staff, but there are few employees who look back over their careers with the satisfaction of a job well done as these men do.

These two men truly embody the spirit of the university.

MacKenzie has been the supervisor of transportation for most of the past 30 years, maintaining and repairing the university's fleet of vehicles. Florida Tech also relies on him to ensure that diesel fuel is available whenever emergencies require the use of generators on campus, such as after hurricanes.

MacKenzie came to work at the university in January 1980, almost 30 years ago, back in the days when founding president **Jerome P. Keuper** roamed the campus, personally encouraging each employee to continue his contribution, knowing that they could make more money elsewhere.

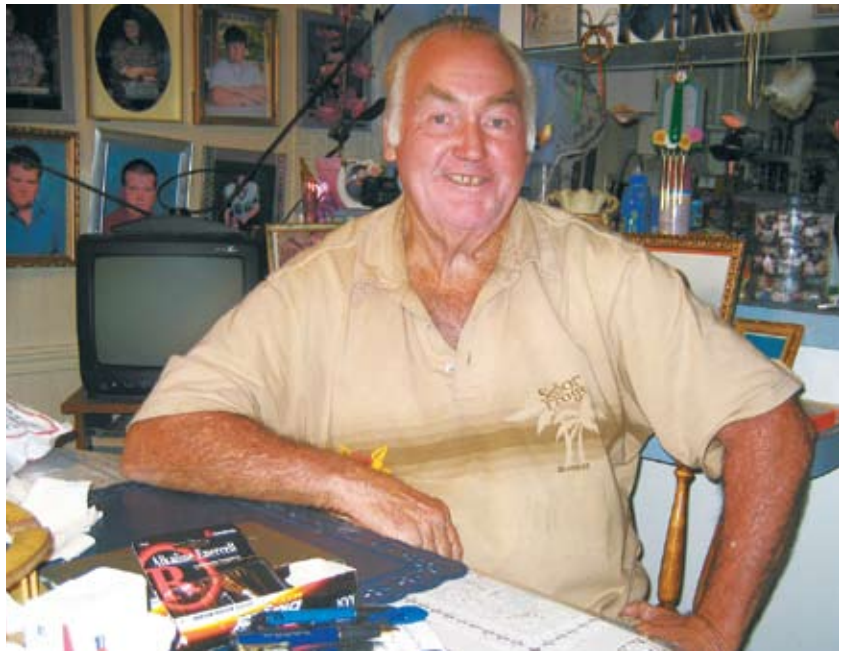
MacKenzie cherishes a letter he has kept in his file from Keuper, praising him for his effective contribution despite "tight budgets, obsolete and worn out equipment and constant demands for service."

"I remember the real hard times; not like now," says MacKenzie.

He also remembers the day that **Dale Simcox**, beloved long-time superintendent of facilities, called the maintenance staff together and warned them that each of them had better be prepared to stop what they were doing and help a fellow employee in trouble, or risk being fired. Simcox reminded his employees, "You are part of a family."

Simcox enticed Hughes away from Nelson's Nursery on his third day of employment there when he saw the effort he put into moving a tree to campus. Hughes became a groundskeeper at Florida Tech on Sept. 22, 1969, almost 40 years ago.

"You couldn't move a tree without Dr. Keuper being close by," said



Hank Hughes

Hughes. "He used to help us pull weeds, too."

Both men were often called upon to work outside of their job descriptions, and both were asked to chauffeur. MacKenzie remembers round-the-clock trips with two drivers, **Bill Jurgens** and the rowing team. Hughes had a commercial license and often drove the school's bus.

These men can tell endless stories about the early days at the university. For example, Hughes will never forget the day he drove to the Miami airport to pick up college officials returning

from a trip to Colombia, S.A., only to find that Keuper had thrown his back out of whack. "I carried him to the bus," said Hughes.

Neither would trade their work experiences for any other. Hughes commented, "It's a comfort to get up in the morning."

MacKenzie added, "I've been here a long time and I'm content. I could have made more money elsewhere, but I wouldn't have been as happy."

Joan Bixby



Richard MacKenzie

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by Jay Wilson

Thirty-seven cents. This first donation to Jerry Keuper, made at least partly in jest at a bar in Indian Harbour Beach, led to the creation of one of the nation's top technological universities, Florida Institute of Technology. The remarkable story of the university as it unfolded over the intervening decades is handsomely told in words and pictures in *No Small Dreams: Florida Institute of Technology, 1958–2008*. This beautiful coffee table book details the university's journey from its origin as the "night school for missilemen" to the vibrant university still growing today.

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<http://411.fit.edu/coffetable>
Questions? jowilson@fit.edu





HOMECOMING 2008

SCHEDULE

Friday, Oct. 10–Sunday, Oct. 12

Physics and Space Sciences Reunion

Monday, Oct. 13 (Columbus Day–Holiday)

All day Evans Library 50th Anniversary Exhibit
All day Alumni House 50th Anniversary Exhibit

Tuesday, Oct. 14

All day Evans Library 50th Anniversary Exhibit
All day Alumni House 50th Anniversary Exhibit
10:30 p.m. Basketball's Midnight Madness—Clemente Center

Wednesday, Oct. 15

All day Evans Library 50th Anniversary Exhibit
All day Alumni House 50th Anniversary Exhibit
All day Delta Delta Tau Fraternity Reunion (continues through Oct. 19)
4 p.m. Dept. of Marine and Environmental Systems,
Speaker and Topic TBA, P-133
7:30 p.m. Wacky Wars

Thursday, Oct. 16

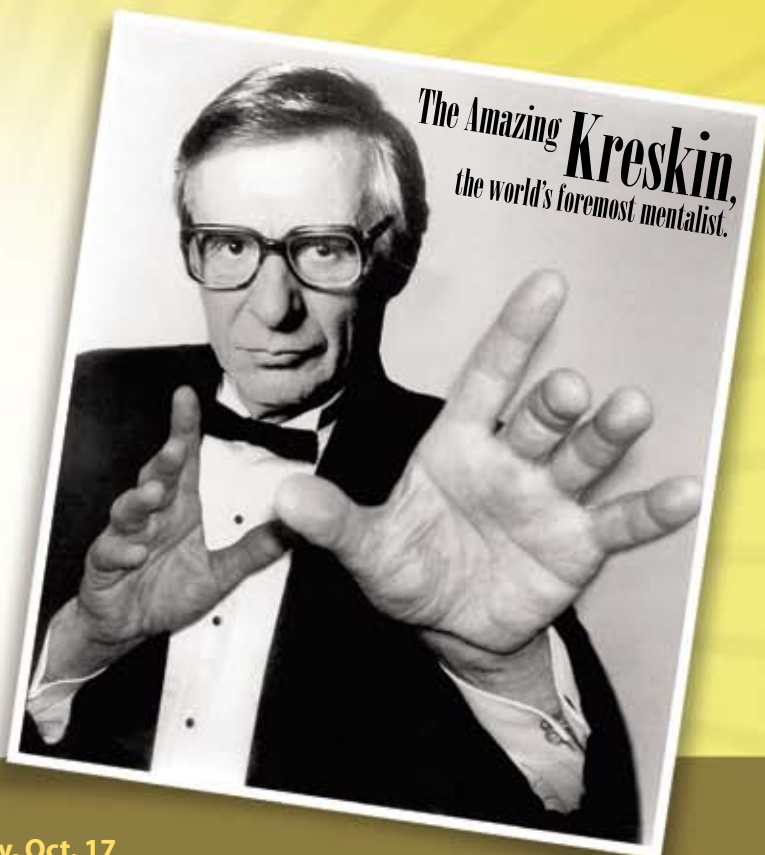
All day Evans Library
50th Anniversary Exhibit
All day Alumni House
50th Anniversary Exhibit
TBA Cape Tour
4 p.m. Faculty and Staff Bike Race,
Site TBA
5:30–7 p.m. Welcome Reception,
Hartley Room
7–9 p.m. CSA Talent Show,
Gleason Performing Arts Center
11 p.m. CSAA, Games Galore, Rathskeller

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or fill out form on page 32

50th ANNIVERSARY

Florida Institute of Technology

High Tech with a Human Touch



It's a Golden Anniversary Homecoming!

It's a homecoming like those in the past yet like no other. It will have all that you would expect in October: Florida sunshine and balmy evenings. But because this year marks the university's Golden Anniversary, Homecoming 2008, Oct. 10–19, offers some added glitter.

On Friday night, at least a half dozen affinity groups, including Alpha Epsilon Pi, Delta Delta Tau, College Players, alumni athletes and Pi Kappa Alpha (the Pikes) will gather for their own banquets. The Pikes, in fact, hope more than 250 return to campus. The Saturday morning parade promises to be bigger and livelier than ever, with an expected 100 floats this year. Look for the nationwide campus favorite, The Amazing Kreskin, who will entertain at the Saturday night banquet. The Kennedy Space Center tour will be available again this year.

Count on your old favorites, too: Wacky Wars, a talent show, receptions, symposia, golf tournament, alumni-faculty competitions, tennis matches, parade, barbecue, a banquet and dance.

Friday, Oct. 17

All day	Evans Library
	50th Anniversary Exhibit
All day	Alumni House
	50th Anniversary Exhibit
8 a.m.	Tin Cup Golf Tournament, Duran Golf Club
11 a.m.–2 p.m.	College of Business Open House
11 a.m.–1 p.m.	Caribbean Alumni Luncheon, Southgate Field
1–6 p.m.	Caribbean Alumni Reception, Southgate Field and basketball court
6 p.m.	CAB Night
6 p.m.	50th Anniversary Sports Hall of Fame Banquet, Clemente Center
8:30 p.m.	Hockey Game
TBA	College of Aeronautics Hangar Party sponsored by COA alumni CSA, Club Vegas

Saturday, Oct. 18

All day	Evans Library 50th Anniversary Exhibit
All day	Alumni House 50th Anniversary Exhibit
All day	College of Aeronautics Aviation Day, F.I.T. Aviation
7:30 a.m.	Alumni Homecoming 5K Race/Walk, Athletic Department
9 a.m.	Alumni Rowing Races, Anchorage
10 a.m.	Alumni Baseball, Seminick-Hall Baseball Field
10 a.m.	Homecoming Parade
	Following parade, All Campus and Community BBQ, Panther Plaza
TBA	Alumni Bands, Pantherium
TBA	Alumni Soccer, Men and Women, Stottler Soccer Field
2 p.m.	IFC and Panhellenic 50th anniversary gift dedication
3–5 p.m.	GOLD Alumni Reception
5:30–6:45 p.m.	Alumni Association Hospitality, Clemente Center
7–10 p.m.	Alumni Association Golden Anniversary Banquet, Clemente Center
9 p.m.–2 a.m.	Homecoming Dance
9:30 p.m.	Alumni Boathouse Party, Anchorage

Sunday, Oct. 19

10 a.m.–noon	Brunch, Alumni House
11 a.m.	Alumni Mass, All Faiths Center

MISSION

When she was a student, Pam Marcum '87, '89 M.S., could step onto her back porch and see the launches from Kennedy Space Center. Despite the Florida heat, the sight of a spacecraft heading skyward never failed to send shivers down her spine.

When NASA's exoplanet-finding mission, Kepler, rockets into orbit in February 2009, she's liable to get more than the shivers. As a program scientist at NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C., Marcum has helped steer the \$600 million space-based telescope through miles of red tape and millions of dollars in potential budget cuts.

So will she do a victory dance? Whoop and holler? Cry? Terry Oswalt, Ph.D., head of Florida Institute of Technology's department of physics and space sciences, doesn't think so. He has known Marcum since her first days as an undergraduate.

"Pamela is unflappable," he said.

But even the unflappable Marcum is excited by the idea that a project she's overseen for the past three years will soon be off the ground. "The most thrilling part of it all is that the data Kepler gathers could be the first baby steps toward discovering that we are not alone in the universe," she said. ▶

O R I E N T E D





Kepler is the space agency's first attempt to find Earth-size planets in the habitable zones (where there is liquid water that can support life) around distant stars. Using the technique of transit photometry, Kepler will monitor 150,000 stars for 3½ years.

The brainchild of William Borucki at NASA's Ames Research Center in California, the Kepler spacecraft (*left*) is outfitted with a .95-meter (37-inch) aperture Schmidt photometer with a 1.4-meter (55-inch) primary mirror.

As it orbits the sun, staring continuously at a portion of the sky in the constellation Cygnus, Kepler's array of 42 charge-coupled devices (CCDs) will register tiny fluctuations in light.

Each time a planet travels between Kepler and a planet's parent star in orbit, the planet will block some of the starlight. "A slight dimming of total light on a periodic basis, say once a year during Kepler's mission lifetime, would be a telltale sign of the presence of a terrestrial-size planet," said Marcum.

As if one weren't enough, Marcum is program scientist for yet another NASA telescope launching next year. Much different from Kepler, WISE (Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer) is a \$300 million mission to map the whole sky at thermal (mid-infrared) wavelengths. "It's like looking out into space with a giant set of orbiting night vision goggles," said Marcum.

"WISE will take a census of stars in the local universe, looking for lukewarm, low mass stars near our own sun. We may discover that we have hundreds of stars right in our own backyard that we didn't know about before."

WISE could also see the most distant galaxies in the universe, the earliest galaxies formed, or an asteroid hurtling toward Earth. "There's a whole infrared sky out there full of surprises," said Edward L. (Ned) Wright, Ph.D., principal investigator for the mission. The survey will compile more than one million images during seven months of data collection, from which hundreds of millions of space objects will be catalogued.

That's enough data to keep astronomers busy for decades to come, including Marcum, who is passionate about her own research on galaxy evolution. When first considering the NASA post, Marcum knew she'd have to put that research largely on hold. She'd also need to request a leave of absence from Texas Christian University (TCU), where she has taught physics and astronomy since 1996.

She phoned Oswalt for advice. "Terry was my first research mentor and is someone from whom I still seek counsel when I have important career decisions to make," Marcum said recently. Oswalt, who spent two years as a National Science Foundation program scientist 10 years ago, recommended the move. "It's a career enriching experience to see the other side of proposals for research support. It's hard work but worth it. You have input on the creation of new programs and the next generation of funding."

Marcum, who completes her assignment at NASA this summer, agrees. Aside from the

Previous page: In her free time, Pam Marcum enjoys hiking. She is pictured at Bryce Canyon during a recent hiking vacation in the canyons of Arizona and Utah.

combined \$900 million budget for Kepler and WISE, she's responsible for another \$22 million in NASA's research and analysis programs, supporting detector development, laboratory astrophysics and suborbital payloads. She also organizes grant proposal peer-review committees, participates in federal multi-agency meetings and is actively engaged in national policy-making decisions impacting science research.

Science research was the main item on Marcum's agenda when she came back to Florida Tech last month. Oswalt invited her to give a faculty workshop on grant-seeking. Having managed more than 150 NASA grants, Marcum knows the best practices for writing successful proposals and is glad to share them.

"NASA is one of the biggest grant-making institutions for astronomy; now Pamela's teaching us, rather than the other way around," said Oswalt.

He adds that her visit coincides with the unveiling of the new research telescope at Florida Tech. Marcum seems to attract telescope activity wherever she goes. "In addition to earning her bachelor's degree in space sciences at Florida Tech, Pamela also earned two master's degrees, in space sciences and in physics. She was a pioneer here: she was our first observational astronomy master's student."

Marcum's research for the degree left its own legacy. Oswalt recalls that she used a set of very old photographic spectra of white dwarfs at the beginning of her thesis project. This required Marcum to "make measurements of velocities and masses from microscopic shifts in the spectra on these plates." In order to make these measurements, she applied for and received competitively awarded time to use equipment at the National Observatories. The measurements she made and the new data she collected are still useful today."

Although Oswalt thinks of Marcum now as a friend and colleague, he remembers her as a student.

"In class she was shy and polite. She was also very hard-working and inquisitive."

The shyness seems to have disappeared, but the other two traits are definitely hallmarks of Marcum's personality. The first in her family to go to college, she had a country girl's early love for the natural world. She still adds to the rock collection she began at three years old. When she was a young teen in a small town in eastern Kentucky, Marcum found a book in the public

library about stars. "I did a lot of reading about black holes; they really sucked me in," she laughs. But when she asked her high school counselor what an aspiring astronomer needed to study, the counselor didn't know. Marcum did her own investigating.

Marcum gained her doctoral degree in astronomy from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. She did postdoctoral work at the University of Virginia, where she collaborated with a team at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center on the shuttle-based ASTRO science missions, analyzing data taken with the Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (UIT).

Her own research goes back to the excitement she felt when she read that first book on stars.

"It was a revelation to me that stars have a finite lifetime, that they go through life stages just like everything else." Now she studies the evolution of galaxies. She's

got a theory that refutes an idea accepted since the first supporting computational model in the early 1970s:

the notion that elliptical galaxies result from two or more spiral galaxies merging together.

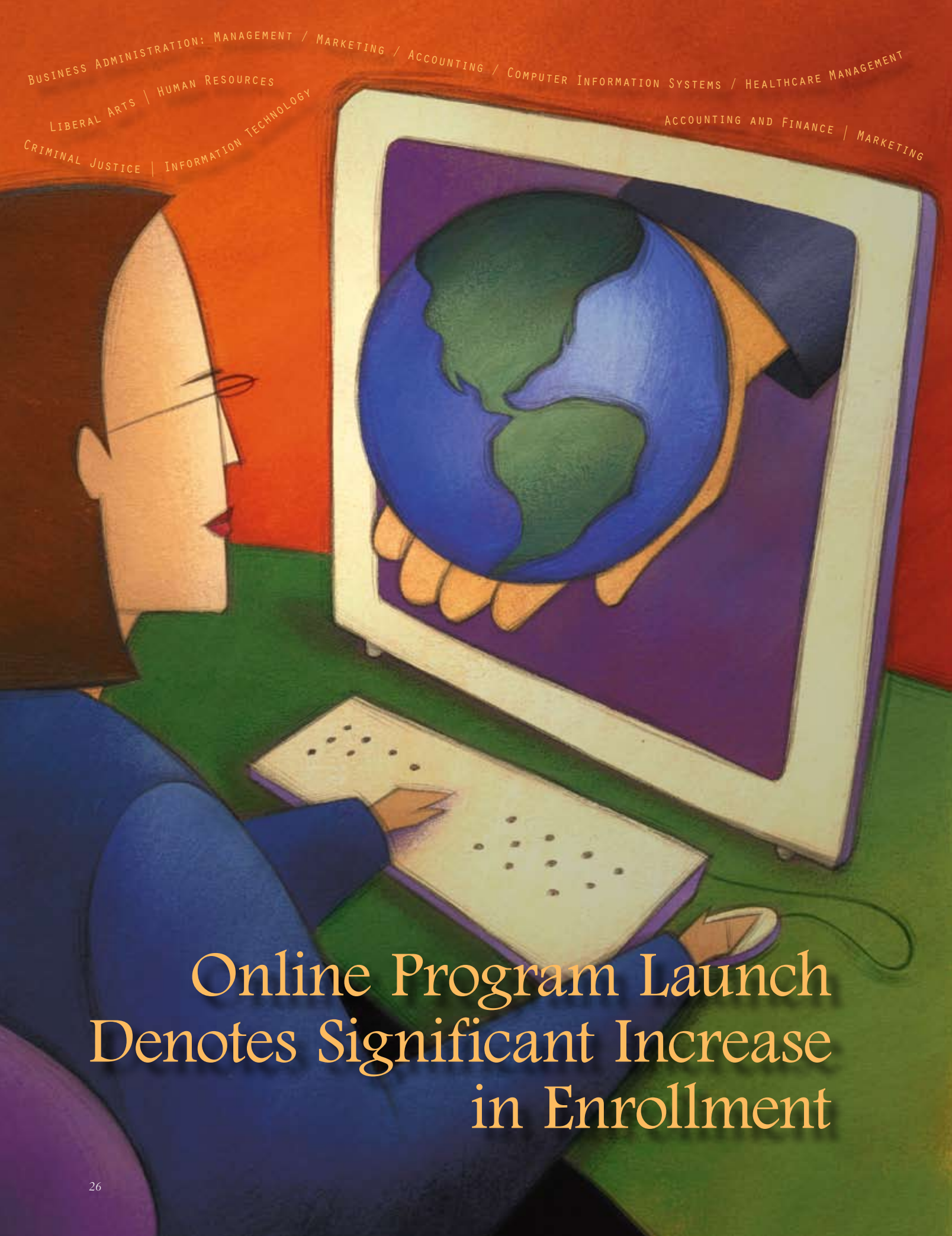
The provocative results from the initial study—two of the galaxies appear to be free of any signs of a merged history—received press coverage. Her work convinced NASA to fund Marcum's lab in an expanded three-year study of this class of objects and to award competitive observing time on the ultraviolet satellite telescope, GALEX, for follow-up data.

"The unusual isolation of these galaxies greatly simplifies the possible explanations for their existence: they could be the product of a merger that occurred a very long time ago, or even more tantalizing, their existence may not have involved a merger at all," said Marcum.

If the galaxies were born as ellipticals, Marcum may be on the verge of an, ahem, astronomical discovery. But give her time. She'll be back at TCU to teach and continue her research this autumn. At the moment, she's juggling two telescopes for NASA.



Pam Marcum at Kitt Peak National Observatory; the tallest dome in the background is that of the 4-meter telescope.



Online Program Launch Denotes Significant Increase in Enrollment

Florida Tech's new online program has virtually increased enrollment by 8 percent for the university.

W“We were pleased with the number of students,” said **Mary S. Bonhomme**, associate provost for online learning at Florida Institute of Technology.

The new undergraduate program for Florida Tech University Online received 588 applications for spring 2008. With the 184 enrolled in the already established graduate program in information technology, virtual classes represent a substantial increase in enrollment for Florida Tech. The M.B.A. program, set to launch this May, is expected to draw a lot of attention too.

Even with the increased number of students, high tech with a human touch prevails at Florida Tech. “It (the number) was robust enough to allow us to offer a variety of courses, yet not so large that we aren’t able to give attention to the individual student needs,” Bonhomme said.

“We’re very excited by the interest Florida Tech’s online programs are generating and by the high caliber of prospective students who inquire about the program,” said **Adrian Marrullier**, executive vice president of marketing at Bisk Education, which provides the technology and a host of student services for the program.

“Interest is high for all offerings with strong demand across the board for associate’s, bachelor’s and master’s degrees,” Marrullier added. “We believe this is a testament to the reputation that Florida Tech enjoys and the fact that it is one of the most recognizable traditional universities offering degrees online.”

“The launch of the program has been a resounding success that surpassed our enrollment expectations for the first term,” Marrullier continued. “Initial feedback from the students is that the program meets their expectations and that they are excited to be part of the Florida Tech community.”

“With the launch of Florida Tech University Online, we’re able to deliver a world-class university experience with courses taught by internationally recognized faculty to students almost anywhere in the world,” said **Anthony J. Catanese**, Florida Tech president. “We’re excited about providing the next generation of leaders in business, engineering and technology with a Florida Tech education they can fit around their busy schedules.”

Florida Tech has extended its already successful online initiatives to include 15 new undergraduate and graduate degrees, including four

new M.B.A. programs. The degrees are awarded by Florida Tech with academic oversight by various colleges, including University College, College of Business and College of Psychology and Liberal Arts. All courses are taught by Florida Tech faculty and include dynamic features, such as online chat rooms, professor-led streaming video, message boards, e-mail and downloadable MP3 lectures. Services are available around the clock.

“We’re proud to offer a comprehensive array of undergraduate and graduate degree programs from a nationally ranked university widely recognized for its emphasis on academics and research, specifically in the fields of business, engineering and technology,” said **Nathan M. Bisk**, founder and chairman of the University Alliance. Bisk’s organization provides the technology and a host of student services.

“This initiative builds on the already existing partnership that Florida Tech has with University Alliance and Bisk Education Inc. by which we award the MS/IT (Master of Science in Information Technology),” said Bonhomme. “Already 47 students have graduated with this degree. Now we are offering undergraduate degrees, which we had not done before.”

Enhanced Internet technology allows Florida Tech to offer adult learners the same education online that was previously available exclusively to students on campus. Students can choose from the following online programs:

- ▶ **A.A. Liberal Arts**
- ▶ **A.A. Business Administration**
- ▶ **B.A. Criminal Justice**
- ▶ **B.A. Accounting**
- ▶ **B.A. Business Administration/Management**
- ▶ **B.A. Business Administration/Marketing**
- ▶ **B.A. Business Administration/Accounting**
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- ▶ **B.A. Business Administration/Healthcare Management**
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Melinda Millsap

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PROFESSOR PURSUES ALZHEIMER'S ORIGIN THEORY

Brain cells proteins join to form tangled fibers at disease's onset

Shaohua Xu's theory on the genesis of Alzheimer's disease, both controversial and praised, is a dramatic departure from conventional wisdom. Medical researchers familiar with his work, however, believe that his hypothesis is ground-breaking.

The Florida Tech associate professor of biological sciences and sole medical researcher at the State of Florida's Space Life Sciences Laboratory at Kennedy Space Center (KSC) has earned a \$150,000 grant from Space Florida to test it. Matched with \$30,000 from NASA's Aerospace Medicine and Occupational Health Branch, it's a start.

Xu finds that the disease begins when molecules of a normal brain cell protein called "tau" do something abnormal: they join to form tangled fibers that the cell cannot remove. The fibers accumulate until essential substances cannot move through the cell and the cell dies.



Using the new technology of atomic force microscopy, Xu has observed for the first time the actual process by which the fibers develop. He has been able to synthesize the fibers from purified tau protein.

"It's a three-step process," he says. "First, molecules of the tau protein cluster together into spheres, each almost the same size. Next, the spheres join in linear chains like beads on a string. In the third stage, the beads merge together to form a uniform filament identical to those found in the brains of Alzheimer's patients."

Advocates of Xu's theory include KSC physician Daniel Woodard, the first medical doctor to review the research. He says, "Shaohua's theory is revolutionary; his evidence is overwhelming. The medical implications are beyond anything in my experience."

NASA physician David Tipton, chief of the Aerospace Medicine and Environmental Health Branch at KSC, says, "This could be the most important biomedical discovery ever made at Kennedy Space Center."

Additionally, Pamela Tronetti, medical director of the Parrish Senior Consultative Center, predicts, "If this theory is correct, it may well have as great an impact on neurodegenerative disease as the discovery of germs had on infection."

The more common theory of the disease's origin is that the filaments form by the addition of individual tau molecules to the tip of the fiber.

"From our own observations, we believe this theory is incorrect," says Xu. "The process we have observed closely resembles that of colloid formation. Colloids are mixtures like milk or ink in which tiny particles are

suspended in a fluid. Our theory is based on colloid science."

Xu affirms that if he is on the right track, it may be possible to halt the disease with drugs that hinder the aggregation of the spherical colloidal particles into linear chains. Similar chemicals are already used to stabilize artificial colloidal materials such as inks and paints.

Xu began developing this theory in 1997, when he conducted Mad Cow disease research at the University of Chicago. The research continues to have applications for Mad Cow disease as well as Parkinson's disease, both of which appear to have very similar mechanisms. Xu will be testing potential drugs that may be able to halt the formation of the filaments.

Working with Xu are former astronaut **Sam Durrance**, Florida Tech professor of physics and space sciences, who focuses on the biophysics aspects of the research, and graduate students. In March, Xu, Durrance, Woodard and students presented a poster about the research at the Florida Academy of Sciences Annual

Conference in Jacksonville, Fla. The poster won first place. At the end of May, Xu will present his findings to the American Geriatric Society's Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Still putting his team together, he just signed on one of his current undergraduate students, **Lisa Cole**, to join him this fall. She joined him, following May graduation, when she started her master's degree in chemical engineering with a specialization in biomedical engineering.

"He is a great teacher and student mentor," said Cole. "Working on this research project will be very satisfying because I know that it has the potential to help many people in a big way someday, hopefully, soon."

Karen Rhine



Dr. Shaohua Xu with the atomic force microscope that reveals how protein molecules stick together to form identical spherical particles.

Edmund Skellings— *Florida Tech's Electronic Poet*

Poet, pilot, pioneer—three small words that describe one tremendous career, that of **Edmund Skellings**, Ph.D., poet laureate of Florida and Florida Tech's newest university professor of humanities.

Walk into his office and you receive a warm welcome. He immediately invites you to have a seat and a discussion of poetry and technology ensues. Smiling back at you from the office walls are snapshots of literary history—Skellings alongside Robert Frost, Skellings with Norman Mailer.

The breadth and depth of his career are fascinating. Quite remarkable, you think, the fearlessness with which this poet, who honed his craft among literary legends of our time, would embrace technology to communicate his thoughts.

As we talk, Skellings recalls the famous comment F. Scott Fitzgerald made to Thomas Wolfe—writers are either “putter-inners” or “taker-outers.” Skellings explains he is a taker-outer, using poetry to distill a thought to its very essence. A minimalist, like Ernest Hemingway.

And while his poems get to the root of the idea, his communication media are often quite dynamic and elaborate. Early in his career he experimented with poetry on magnetic tape, then video-poems. Next it was poetry by air. As founder of the Alaska Flying Poets, Skellings and his poet-pilots would bring poetry to the remote reaches of the American arctic.

With the birth of the information age, Skellings was quick to incorporate the personal computer into his work, creating interactive poems and teaching software. He earned the moniker, the “Electronic Poet.”



Edmund Skellings, top right, with the Alaska Flying Poets.

Florida Tech is fortunate to host the next phase of Skellings' illustrious career. He chose to settle here at the invitation of President **Anthony J. Catanese** who describes the poet as “the 21st century version of the Renaissance Man.”

Indeed, Skelling has done it all—taught at the University of Iowa, Maryland State College, University of Alaska, Florida Atlantic University and Florida International University; supported IBM as a consulting scholar; founded Control Color Corp., a company that developed educational software including “Comma Cat” and “Dictionary Dog;” coordinated writers conferences from Alaska to Florida; and written seven books of poetry.

Most recently, Skellings served as the director of the Florida Center for Electronic Communication at Florida Atlantic University. His long and distinguished career in technology and the arts makes him a perfect fit for Florida Tech, where high tech meets the human touch.

An idea on the horizon is the implementation of a computer arts program at Florida Tech. Provost **T. Dwayne McCay** says there is an interest in “expanding the artistic component of the university.” While he stresses that Florida Tech is a technology-focused university, there is an effort to incorporate the arts—as demonstrated with the recent addition of textile arts and music programs.

“We want to broaden the horizons of our students,” he says. “Computer arts meshes the two [technology and art] together.”

“Dr. Skellings is an expert,” says McCay. His experience will be put to use in planning and integrating computer arts into Florida Tech.

Currently, Skellings is busy organizing his archives, which he will donate to the Evans Library. He will also be lecturing, interacting with the community and participating in community events.

“It is a point of pride for Florida Tech that the poet laureate of Florida is a member of our faculty,” says McCay. “When you have the opportunity to interact with a scholar of his magnitude—a star, really—it benefits everyone.”

Christena Callahan



Books of Poetry

Collected Poems, 1958–1998,
University Press of Florida, 1998

Living Proof,
University Press of Florida, 1987

Showing My Age,
University Press of Florida, 1978

Face Value,
University Press of Florida, 1977

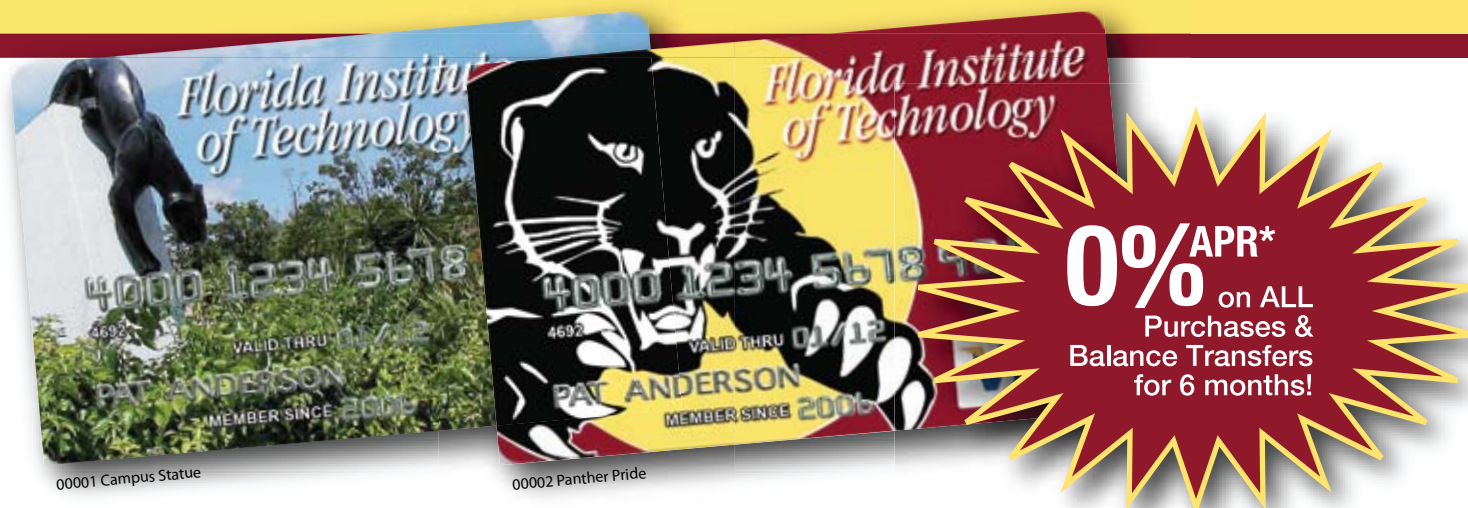
Heart Attacks,
University Press of Florida, 1976

The Marriage Fire,
Qara Press, 1963

Duels and Duets,
Qara Press, 1962

To learn more about Edmund Skellings and his poetry, visit www.edmundskellings.com.

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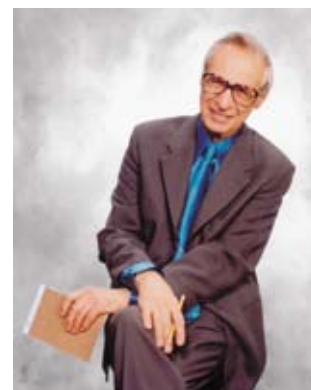
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Dave Edwards '87:

From Top of Class to Top in Field

Citing his fondest memory as “graduating top of my class and carrying my two-year-old daughter up to accept my diploma,” **David N. Edwards Jr.** '87 describes himself well. He's a goal-oriented achiever and family man.

Director of the Asheville (N.C.) Regional Airport since 2003, Edwards came to Florida Tech as a non-traditional student with professional experience under his belt.

Barely out of high school in Freeport, Maine, he had married his “high school sweetheart” Lisa and began his academic career at another university, where he learned to fly. He took a four-year “time-out” from college to work as a custom cabinet maker and a shift supervisor for a major grocery chain before resuming studies at Florida Tech.

“I can't say enough about the foundation of real-world education that Florida Tech gave me,” said Edwards. “The professors brought their professional experiences to the classroom and it was invaluable.”

He most warmly recalls faculty members **Jim Constantine**, Judge **John Faulk**, the late **Michael Demchak** and **Paul Davis**, who is still on the College of Aeronautics faculty.

It may have been 20 years ago, but Davis said, “Of course I remember Dave Edwards. He had a 3.91 grade point average and it's hard to forget someone who does that well. Dave was outgoing, popular and the person everyone wanted to have for a partner when group exercises were planned.”

Between earning his bachelor's degree in aviation management and

now, Edwards stayed in Florida, the goal of becoming an airport director always before him. He earned an Accredited Airport Executive accreditation along the way and credits wife Lisa, a medical office manager, for her willingness to stick by him during his position changes and relocations.

Edwards spent 12 years with the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority and two years with the Dade County Aviation Department. He's been assistant director of properties, assistant director of governmental affairs and manager of airline operations.

Immediately before his Asheville promotion, Edwards was executive director of the Titusville-Cocoa Airport Authority. The organization oversees three general aviation airports in Brevard County and more than 400 aircraft based there.

What stands out for him there is helping to develop his assistant's career. “He's now a director in Amarillo, Texas,” said Edwards. “Training and professional development are two aspects of my work I like the most.” At Asheville, he develops and leads about 50 staff members.

His main job there is to support the air service, general aviation and economic development needs for western North Carolina. “Running a successful airport,” said Edwards, “is about investing for the future and attracting and expanding services. You communicate and influence as best you can to keep and add air carrier service at your airport.”

An activist promoting the cause of small community air service development, Edwards testified before the House Transportation



David N. Edwards Jr.

and Infrastructure Committee Subcommittee on Aviation in 2007. He urged the preservation of programs that support the strengthening and sustainability of the nation's smaller airports.

Edwards currently serves as the president of the North Carolina Airports Association and is past president of the southeast chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives. He also is on the Airports Council International board of directors.

“We all knew he would be successful,” said Davis. “Becoming manager of an important airport this soon is proof we were right.”

Edwards' home life in the Blue Ridge Mountains Asheville metro area, he reiterates, sustains him. Two-year-old Jessica, tucked under his arm at Florida Tech graduation, is now a 22-year-old pharmacy student at the University of Florida. Second daughter Sarah, 17, begins this fall to study chemical engineering at North Carolina State University.

That he chose a career he is passionate about must aid his success as well, because he says, “I love what I do. I don't look at it as work. It's what I'm excited about every day.”

Karen Rhine



Lisa and David Edwards pose with their daughters for a holiday keepsake.

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Diane Deaton at ddeaton@fit.edu
director of membership, marketing and programs,
associate director for the Florida Tech Alumni Association



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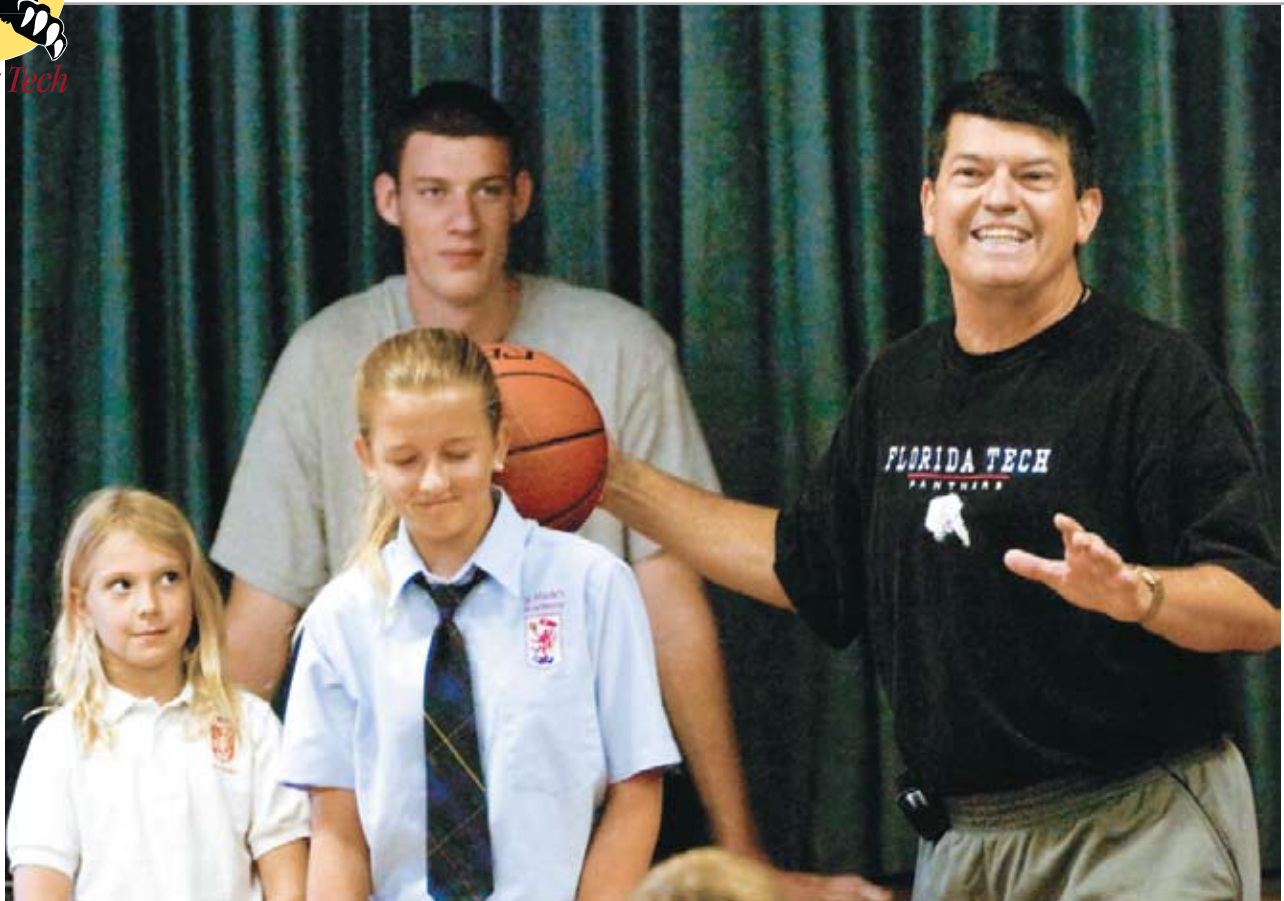
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Florida Tech Men's Basketball Gives Back

Head Coach Billy Mims prepares a basketball skill drill with two students from St. Mark's Episcopal Academy while Florida Tech basketball player Paul Sturgess looks on.

The men's basketball team just wrapped up a phenomenal year. Individual workouts, practices and games, not to mention classes, has made life on the Space Coast hectic for these men. But when they were presented with the opportunity to give back to their community, they all wanted in.

Head coach **Billy Mims** piloted the Slam Dunk Smoking program while he was coaching in England, after learning of an alarming statistic about young people and smoking. The idea for the name came from the most exciting shot in basketball—the slam dunk. The kids aren't tall enough to slam dunk a ball now,

but they are encouraged to slam dunk cigarettes.

"I had an idea that taking high profile athletes in the schools will get kids attention," said Mims.

"I had an idea that taking high profile athletes in the schools will get kids attention."

Billy Mims

"This way they are more willing to listen to the message."

This highly interactive program gets the kids involved in the show. In exchange for enthusiasm and answering questions correctly, they get to meet the athletes and compete in basketball skill challenges for prizes. While they are having fun, they are learning about the dangers of smoking and how to say no.

"We don't want them to ever start smoking," said Mims. "This is

about enjoying life, playing sports and having fun."

In addition to Slam Dunk Smoking, Mims and his team are involved in the Read to Succeed program, which he brought over with him from his time in England as well. In Brevard County, the program is targeted specifically to third graders. Their curriculum requires them to read a book called *Ally's Basketball Dream*. In the story, Ally dreams of becoming a professional basketball player, but everyone tells her it's not possible.

"This is a great tie-in to bring our players as positive role models to reinforce the message that reading is critical to success in life," said Mims.

Similar to Slam Dunk Smoking, this program is

interactive as well as more personal because the presentations are done for smaller groups. It gives the athletes the chance to get to know the kids better and vice versa. At the end, the kids also have the opportunity to ask the athletes questions.

The team usually brings in newspapers, magazines and Internet clippings to the presentation to emphasize the importance of reading in everyday life.

Although Mims is running these programs, he doesn't make his players get involved. It's entirely on a volunteer basis. These student-athletes know they are part of the community and the community is a part of them.

"One of the beauties of Division II is being close to the community," said Mims. "We aren't just sports stars on the court; we're role models to these kids."

Think Pink!

On February 16, Florida Tech joined the Women's Basketball Coaches Association and hundreds of other schools across the country in Thinking Pink to raise breast cancer awareness. This was the first year the Panthers took part in the event, and they plan to continue in the future.

Keeping with the theme, the women's basketball players all wore pink shoelaces, the coaches wore pink and all the men's players and athletic training staff wore pink ribbons. Additionally, all game day staff wore the official "Think Pink" t-shirts, and many fans participated.

The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee got involved as well in raising \$200 for breast cancer research by the sale of t-shirts and ribbons. At halftime of the women's game, Florida Tech teamed up with Wuesthoff Health System Foundation and honored seven survivors with a special ceremony. Between games, there was a reception for those who were honored in conjunction with the Panther Club reception, which featured several pink items in the spirit of the day, including pink popcorn and pink lemonade.

Breast cancer is the most invasive cancer among women in the United States, accounting for nearly one third of cancers diagnosed. In the United States, breast cancer is expected to be newly diagnosed every three minutes. Florida Tech and Wuesthoff Health System Foundation will continue to work together in the coming years to raise breast cancer awareness and support the cause.



Head Coach John Reynolds, center, stands with assistant coaches Delicia Phillips and Ursula Norris on "Think Pink" day in the Clemente Center.

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1976

Darrel Williamson '85 M.S. has received NASA's space flight awareness award for his work as the Orion flight test senior manager. He resides in Highland Ranch, Colo., with wife Sandra and three children, Chris, Eric and Matt.

1977

Cesar Fermin, M.S., '81 Ph.D., is a professor of pathobiology and associate dean for research and advanced studies in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Tuskegee University in Alabama.



L-R: Dr. Fermin, daughter Juliana, wife Mary, son Aaron and daughter Caroline, taken at Caroline's graduation from Julliard.

1978

Robert Maxson has been named director of the Aviation Weather Center in Kansas City, Mo., which is the nation's primary source of weather information for domestic and international flights. It is operated by NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). He has 30 years experience in aviation weather as a NOAA research pilot and agency office.

1980

Charlotte (Krosecz) Phillips and husband Mark are co-authors of *Hacksaw: First in the Eva Baum Detective Series*. It's a story of ruthless gangsters and unscrupulous federal agents as they collide with Houston PI Eva Baum's hunt for a serial murderer in an exciting detective novel. The second installment of the series is due for publication in summer 2008. Char and Mark live and write in Houston, Texas. The book can be ordered at amazon.com or visit MarkandCharlottePhillips.com.



1983

Mitchell Stevenson, M.S., is a Maj. General in the U.S. Army and has been nominated by the president to become the Army's top logistician. He serves as commander of the service's Combined Arms Support Command at Fort Lee since 2005.

Irasema Ortega '88 M.S. is a Ph.D. student at Arizona State University, with a full tuition scholarship plus a research/teaching assistant position at the Tempe, Ariz., campus.

1986

Michele Bullock is a NOAA captain who is in command of the day-to-day operations of the 10 research and survey ships in NOAA's Pacific fleet. She is the first woman to hold this position. She resides in Brier, Wash., with her husband, Cliff Wilson.

1987

Lt. Gen. **Ann Dunwoody**, M.S., currently serves as the deputy chief of staff, G-4, U.S. Army, Washington, D.C., and is the U.S. Army's top-ranking woman. She is nominated by the president for reappointment to the rank of lieutenant general and assignment as deputy commanding general/chief of staff, U.S. Army Materiel Command, Fort Belvoir, Va.

1988

Steve Morton '90 M.S. received the NOAA Bronze Medal for Research Excellence. He works at the NOAA Charleston, S.C., laboratory as a research oceanographer in the Marine Biotoxins Program.

1989

George Hale III and wife Nicole announced the birth of their third child, Elizabeth Claire, born March 2007. Twin brothers George and Nathaniel, age 5, welcomed their sister to the family home in Jacksonville, Fla. Dad George is director of client services for System Innovators Inc.



Miguel Adao and wife Lyndie became parents on Christmas 2007 when Olivia Isabel was born in London, England. Dad is a Microsoft alliance director for Europe,

the Middle East and Africa for Hewlett-Packard. Mom is taking a break from acting to stay home with Olivia.

1992



Rob Kleinhans and wife Grace welcomed Emma Joy in February 2007. She joins big brother Aidan, who is three. The family lives in Ashburn, Va. Rob is an international airport planner for MITRE.

1993

Thomas and Karen (Edwards) Czarniak are parents of Ivy, their first child. She was born May 2006. Thomas is employed by Comprehensive Health Services at Kennedy Space Center, Fla.



Yuko (Nitta) Kanagy and husband Brian '89 are parents to Toma, born May 2007, and 3-year-old brother, Kenjiro. The family lives in Sunnyvale, Calif.

1994

Alif McFadden and wife Andrea welcomed their fourth child, Maya, in September 2007. She joins siblings Monique, 12; Jordan, 9; and John, 6, to the family living in Alpharetta, Ga. Proud dad works for IBM.



Robert Hillman and wife Lyuda are parents to Jake, born December 2007. The family lives in San Diego, Calif., where Robert works for Maxwell Technologies as a senior electrical engineer.

1995

Gregory Praino and wife Jennifer (Tiefenbacher) '99 welcomed their second daughter Elizabeth Ann in March 2007. Older sister Victoria is 2 years old. Greg is with United Space Alliance, and Jenn owns Country Club Cruise and Travel. The family resides in Rockledge, Fla. Their contact is jenn@cc-cruiseandtravel.com.



1996

Chelsi (Todd) and Kyle Cacciatore '94 are proud parents of Ethan, born June 2007. Kyle is a software engineer at Harris Corp. and Chelsi is a former biologist turned stay-at-home mom. The family resides in Indian Harbour Beach, Fla.



1998



Jason Alday and wife Amy became parents in August 2007 when Colby Reid was born in Orlando, Fla. The proud dad is a software engineer at AMD, and mom is a media specialist with the Orange County, Fla. Public Schools.

1999



Liz (Whiting) Kuntz and husband Clark have two children, Shane, 3 1/2, and Anna, 2. They live in Tallahassee, Fla., where Clark is a computer consultant and Liz is a stay-at-home mom.

Elizabeth (Ouellette) White and husband Brian are parents to Samantha Marie, born May 2007. Mom is employed by Raytheon, dad works for Bell Helicopter, and the family lives in North Richland Hills, Texas.



2001



Kelly (Bonner) and husband Patrick Engel '00 welcomed Camryn in March 2007. Kelly is a stay-at-home mom who received her doctoral degree in biology from Boston University. Dad is employed at United Space Alliance. The family lives in Merritt Island, Fla.

2003

Ernie Tonhauser '03 M.S. and wife Jenny welcomed daughter Victoria Elaine in August 2007. Ernie is a manager at Kennedy Space Center for Space Gateway Support, and Jenny is an elementary school teacher. The family resides in Merritt Island, Fla.



2004

David Willard is a Navy lieutenant and has completed his warfare qualifications aboard the nuclear attack submarine USS Dallas. He received his Dolphin Pin in recognition of successful completion of submarine training. His submarine is home-stationed at Groton, Conn.

Andrew Thomson, M.S., is an associate in the law firm of Wadley & Patterson, PC, in Nashville, Tenn. He is the holder of six U.S. patents.



**ECE Alumni Event
During Homecoming**

Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, **Dr. John Hadjiligiou**, will be hosting an **OPEN HOUSE** from 6 p.m.–midnight on Friday, Oct. 17, at his home in celebration of the university's 50th anniversary.

All alumni, family, friends, faculty and professors emeriti are invited to an evening of Greek food, Greek dancing and camaraderie!

For additional information and directions, please contact Dr. Hadjiligiou at jh@fit.edu.

No gifts please.



IN MEMORIAM

Leo Craiglow Jr. '90 M.B.A. passed away in January 2008 in Rome, N.Y. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Ginny, a daughter and two sons.

Mark Geiger '77 M.S. passed away in January 2008 in Pass Christian, Miss. His survivors include wife Connie and three children.

Hesham Hussein died in a car accident in January 2008 in Saudi Arabia, where he was visiting family. A resident of Minneapolis, Minn., he is survived by his wife Abeer and five children.

Henry Shackelford Jr. '95 M.S. died in December 2007 at his home in Newport News, Va. He is survived by his wife Sherry, one daughter and one son.

David Reed IV '90 M.S. of Leonardtown, Md., passed away in December 2007. He is survived by his three daughters and longtime companion, Diana Bromley.

Showcase your Panther Pride far and wide in *Florida Tech TODAY*.



The next issue of *Florida Tech TODAY* will commemorate our 50th anniversary. Send your "Happy Anniversary Florida Tech" messages and well wishes to be published in the next issue of your alumni magazine. Be sure to include your class year and feel free to add fun photos.

Send to Verna Layman, vlayman@fit.edu



Happy Anniversary, Florida Tech!
Alli (Manion) Taylor '05 aeronautical science and space science, Systems Control Mission Specialist, Bigelow Aerospace, Las Vegas, Nev., and husband Richard.



Happy 50th Anniversary, Florida Tech ad astra per scientiam!
Amy Simon-Miller '93 Chief, Planetary Systems Lab, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md.

Did you know the Florida Tech Alumni Association is on Facebook?

Search for Florida Tech Alumni Association or FIT groups and look for Pete the Panther. Join the group and invite others to join with you. Check out the current reception schedule, events calendar, join the alumni online community and more. Contact ftaa@fit.edu for more information.

Calling all Panther Cubs!



Congratulations on your new arrival! If you've recently welcomed a new Panther Cub to your family, contact us for your **free infant T-shirt**. Your only obligation is to send us a photo of your baby wearing the shirt—we will proudly display it in this section of *Florida Tech TODAY*. E-mail hrosskam@fit.edu to receive your shirt.

share your good news!

Fill out our online form at: www.fit.edu/alumni/ftaaform.html
or send this to: Florida Tech, Alumni Affairs, 150 W. University Blvd., Melbourne, FL 32901-6975

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City/State/ZIP _____

Year Graduated _____ Degree _____

Employer _____ Business Title _____

E-mail _____

Maiden Name (if applicable) _____ Spouse's Name _____

Children's Names and Ages (if applicable) _____

Your news (please print) _____

(Attach additional sheet, if necessary)

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Online form available

"SAVE THE DATE" EVENTS | HELD ON CAMPUS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

2008

June

13—*Capstone Classic Golf Tournament, Turtle Creek Golf Club, Rockledge*
28—*Alumni Picnic, Washington, D.C.*

July

2–9—*World Congress of Nonlinear Analysts Conference, Orlando, Fla., Hyatt Grand Cypress Resort. A fundraiser for the Dr. Vikram Lakshmikantham Scholarship (mathematics alumni) is on July 3.*
11–14—*Science and Mathematics Education Reunion (see ad on page 38)*
20–25—*Fifth North American Echinoderm Conference*

August

TBD—*Alumni Reception, Space Coast Chapter*

October

10–12—*Physics and Space Science Grand Reunion (see ad on page 38)*
15–19—*Delta Delta Tau Fraternity Reunion, contact George Poidomani at voicetypeg@yahoo.com*
17—*ECE Open House at Dr. John Hadjiligiou's home (see ad on page 40)*
18—*Art Show at FRA Art Studio, 1405 Highland Ave., Melbourne*
Featuring Elizabeth D. Schafer '85 and Fritz Van Eeden (see ad on page 15)

REGISTER NOW!

HOMECOMING 2008
October 10–19



Preliminary schedule on page 20–21
Registration form on page 32

27—*Alumni Reception, Miami Beach*

Contact the Alumni Office for more information on alumni events.

ONGOING EVENTS | HELD ON CAMPUS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

WFIT Concerts and Special Events—Visit www.wfit.org

Women's Business Center—Visit <http://wbc.fit.edu>
The WBC provides training, counseling, mentoring and technical assistance targeting women entrepreneurs and women-owned small businesses in Brevard, Indian River and St. Lucie counties.



Did you know that Florida Tech's public radio station, WFIT, first went on the air in 1975?

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www.fit.edu/development/terrace.html

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During the university's golden anniversary, the legacy of Dr. Keuper, founder and first Florida Tech president, will be recognized in perpetuity with the dedication of a life-size bronze statue.

Join us today by making a gift to this important and historic project!



Contributions of any amount are welcome—and consider adding 37 cents to your gift as a reminder of our humble beginnings and Dr. Keuper's unwavering vision.

Gifts may be securely made online at <https://www.merchantamerica.com/fit/echopay>.

Or, send a check payable to the Florida Tech Alumni Association designated to the Keuper Statue Project to:

Florida Institute of Technology
Office of Alumni Affairs
150 W. University Blvd.
Melbourne, FL 32901

Support the Keuper Statue Fund and Honor Florida Tech's Visionary Founder



*Statue Project
Committee Leadership*

Denton Clark, retired president of RCA and former trustee

Melanie Keuper, daughter of Jerry and Natalie Keuper

Gene Fetner, retired RCA administrator

Gene Buzzi '65, chair of the association's alumni relations committee

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