

# *Florida Tech* TODAY

A magazine for Alumni and Friends of Florida Institute of Technology

SPRING 2010



## THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

### IN THIS ISSUE >

A Bird's-eye View

20 Questions with John Fisher

Graduate Gets Her Feet Wet

# President's Perspective

Dear Florida Tech Alumni and Friends,

Need is all around us, and takes many forms. Food pantries need canned goods. School children need community mentors. Vanishing animals need advocates for sheer survival.

Our individual passions and interests are as distinct as we are—but the need to re-invest in our shared society is as old as our civilization, and equally critical to securing our common future. This issue of *Florida Tech TODAY* spotlights what a few of our alumni are doing to give back to their world ... and also reviews some of our on-campus efforts. I hope you find these stories interesting, even inspiring.

The needs of our world often seem overwhelming, but there is no obstacle that cannot be overcome when our willingness to help equals our resolve to improve the human condition.

In the words of the great philosopher and physician Albert Schweitzer: "I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."

Thanks for all you do to make our world a better place.

Sincerely yours,



A.J. Catanese, Ph.D., FAICP



## Igniting Innovation

President Catanese is featured on the March 2010 cover of *Space Coast Business* magazine, discussing the university's new research park. For more information and to read the complete article, visit [www.fit.edu/researchpark](http://www.fit.edu/researchpark).

## Florida Tech TODAY

<http://today.fit.edu>

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Send your new address to Florida Tech, Office of

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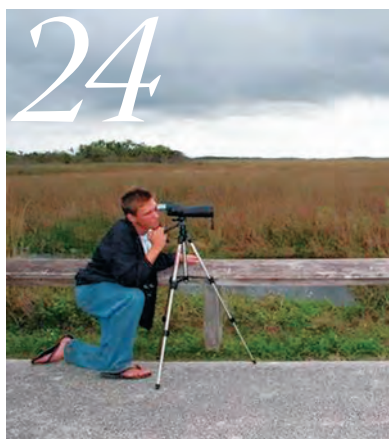


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Feature: Andy Bankert has observed 1,000+ species of birds in his lifetime



Faculty Profile: Wanfa Zhang views the world through a different lens



Alumni Profile: Vic Verma '87, his wife Sandy and their two Shih-Tzus

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Three alums are making big impacts through nonprofit careers.

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Vic Verma has been on the move, through a string of achievements, since graduation.

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On the cover: Jonathan Gorham is vice president of Inwater Research Group, a nonprofit organization focused on sea turtle research and conservation. Inwater Research Group—NMFS permit #1144

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## Airport transformation

Your article and photograph about New Research Park Ignites Innovation (Winter 2010 issue, page 5) sparked memories for me. When I attended BEC (Brevard Engineering College) in the early '60s I lived in Cocoa, worked at the Cape, Patrick AFB and attended college at BEC three nights each week. Because of time and travel constraints, I frequently ate before classes at a small restaurant at the Melbourne airport. I don't remember if I was ever there when it was light enough to see; I do remember being there after dark. Although there may have been aircraft traffic at the airport I do not remember ever seeing or hearing any, although I visited it frequently to eat before classes.



Your photographs of the Research Park and other things in the area really surprise me as I left Florida in 1967 and haven't been back since then. My memories of the BEC campus, if it could be called that at that time, and the airport, are primarily dark (i.e., night time—few lights except for those in the school (nee barracks) buildings). The only lights I remember at the airport came from the restaurant I ate at. Seeing what has occurred since then was indeed a surprise and pleasant to see.

*RG Kunze '65,  
Electrical engineering*

## Call for writers

Are you an amateur journalist, have a knack for the written word or would like to be published? *Florida Tech TODAY* is seeking contributing writers. Receive story assignments from

## Alumni Show Support for the Shuttle Program

*(Left) Kara Schmitt '06, '09 M.S., is an orbiter structures engineer with United Space Alliance. This summer, she is enrolling in Florida Tech's Ph.D. program in aerospace engineering.*

*Photos by Andy Sokol*

our editorial staff or pitch your own ideas for feature consideration. If you are interested in writing for a future issue of *Florida Tech TODAY*, submit three writing samples of 300–500 words to [ccallaha@fit.edu](mailto:ccallaha@fit.edu).

## Correction

On page 20 of the Winter 2010 issue, photo #3 of the Pi Kappa Alpha/Alpha Phi homecoming float was mistakenly credited to Tau Kappa Epsilon. The TKE float is uncaptioned at the top of the page. Thank you to **Christopher Deighan '06** for his keen eye.

*We'd love to hear from you. Tell us what you'd like to see and give us your responses to the articles you've read in the magazine. Send your comments to [fltechtoday@fit.edu](mailto:fltechtoday@fit.edu).*



*Ken Revay '82 is manager of hypergolic systems with United Space Alliance and a board of trustees member.*



## Elementary Donation

*The alumni association recently donated a new outdoor bulletin board to University Park Magnet School in Melbourne. Florida Tech is a longstanding partner in education with University Park, and the alumni association has made annual donations to the school for years. Unveiling the bulletin board were, from left: President Anthony J. Catanese; media assistant Claudia Sprague and acting principal Pamela Blount, University Park; and Ken Calcaterra '72, alumni association university relations committee.*



## \$1 Million from NIH Furthers Cell Growth Studies

The year 2010 began on a high note for **Alan Leonard** and **Julia Grimwade** (pictured above), professors of biological sciences, when they learned their National Institutes of Health grant, which they have held for the last 11 years, had been renewed for four more years. The competitive renewal brought the team more than \$1 million to continue their research. The reproduction of organisms, from bacteria to humans, is tightly regulated to ensure that cells grow and divide only when it is appropriate for them to do so. When the regulation fails, diseases such as cancer can arise.

“We study how cellular proteins and DNA join together to form a very small molecular machine that acts as an ‘on’ switch, telling cells that it is time

to begin a new replication cycle,” said Leonard. “Because bacteria have far fewer protein and DNA components acting as cell growth regulators than mammalian cells do, we use the rapidly growing human gut bacterium, *Escherichia coli*, as a model system. However, the studies should shed light on cell growth regulation in all organisms.”

The researchers hope to use the information they collect about how the switch is assembled to develop inhibitors that would prevent the cellular components from coming together. Such inhibitors could be the precursors to novel antibiotics that would fight bacterial diseases that are resistant to existing therapies, or could even be used to discover new drugs to treat cancer.



### *In Memoriam*

**Ron Jin**, Florida Tech associate professor who was on the faculty 1969–2006, passed away in January 2010 in Boulder, Colo. Born Rong-sheng Jin in 1933 in Fuchow, China, his family moved to Taipei, Taiwan, in 1945. He earned a doctoral degree in physics from Ohio State University in 1963 and moved from California to Indian Harbour Beach, Fla., to join the Florida Tech faculty. He moved to Boulder with his wife Shirley in 2007 to be near their daughters. To express condolences, send e-mail to [shirleyjin1430@gmail.com](mailto:shirleyjin1430@gmail.com).

## Uncommon Threads A Success



Striking a pose, Trustee Ruth Funk, left, and Dean of the College of Psychology and Liberal Arts Mary Beth Kenkel, third from left, join art collectors and Funk Center donors, William D. Roth and Norma Canelas Roth of Winter Haven, Fla.



Chair of the Florida Tech board of trustees Dale Dettmer '71 with Uncommon Threads Honorary Chair Pamela Dettmer.

## Creative Writing Institute Set for June 6–13

Authors, poets, journalists, essayists, novelists and scribblers, take note. The department of humanities and communication's Second Annual Creative Writing Institute will run June 6–13, offering something for almost everyone.



John Dufresne

Scheduled are many classes and one-time lectures in different genres of creative writing. Classes will include journalism, fiction (beginning and advanced), science fiction, historical fiction and novel writing, military thriller, mystery, poetry, playwriting (beginning and advanced), historical writing and writing for film and comics, as well as writing for the mass media. There will also be class-time, or one-time lectures on writing for independent film, fantasy and horror writing. All classes are taught by college professors and published writers and are offered at a variety of times in order to accommodate the schedules of all those in the community who wish to participate.

This year's keynote speaker is John Dufresne. His short story *The Timing of Unfelt Smiles* was in Best American Mystery Stories 2007. He has published short story collections, four novels and the nonfiction *The Lie That Tells a Truth: A Guide to Writing Fiction*.

Housing is available on campus. For more information, contact **Kristy Kiser** at [kkiser@fit.edu](mailto:kkiser@fit.edu), call (321) 674-8073 or visit <http://411.fit.edu/cwi>.

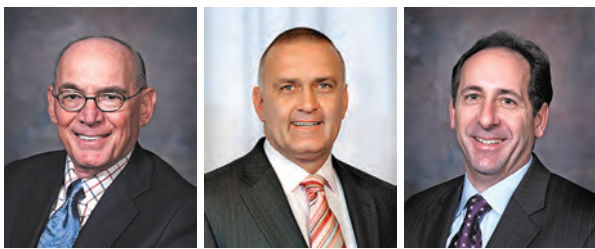
## First Fraternity Ever for Online Students

Florida Tech has organized the first-ever fraternity specifically for online students. The co-ed service fraternity, Theta Omega Gamma (TOG), was initiated by online student **Darrek Battle**. Battle is pursuing a bachelor's degree in business administration, concentrating on computer information systems.

"I wanted students who attend Florida Tech classes online to have a place to belong, network and socialize," he said. Battle set up the TOG page on Facebook, which currently has more than 80 members.

**Vicky Knerly**, online program administration and the group's adviser, said, "The intent is that the fraternity not just be a networking or social club and that members will join regularly in service projects they decide on. Because online students are all over the world, the organization's projects have the potential for a global reach."

For more information, contact Recruitment Officer **Quiana Bradshaw** at [qbradshaw@fit.edu](mailto:qbradshaw@fit.edu) or President **Darrek Battle** at (813) 458-1505 or [dbattle2009@my.fit.edu](mailto:dbattle2009@my.fit.edu). For information about Florida Tech's online programs, visit [www.floridatechonline.com](http://www.floridatechonline.com).



Nathan M. Bisk Steven Freeman Jonathan Zung

## Three Join Board

Three distinguished leaders were recently added to the Florida Tech board of trustees. **Nathan M. Bisk**, **Steven Freeman** '86 B.S. and **Jonathan Zung** '90 B.S., '92 M.B.A., are the newest members of Florida Tech's leadership body.

Bisk is founder, chairman and chief executive officer of Bisk Education based in Tampa. He is a nationally known author of taxation, accounting and auditing texts, as well as continuing education programs. Additionally, he has pioneered the development, writing and production of audio, video and multimedia continuing education and distance online education programs.

Freeman, a member of the 1988 National Champion soccer team and Florida Tech Athletic Hall of Fame inductee, is Tampa Bay complex manager for Morgan Stanley Smith Barney. His past positions include financial adviser and manager for Merrill Lynch, as well as branch manager for Morgan Stanley.

Zung is vice president at Bristol-Myers Squibb in Princeton, N.J. He is responsible for the integration of the \$2.1 billion acquisition of Medarex and for operations at the Medarex Bloomsbury, N.J., development site. He is also responsible for the leadership of the project management organization that consists of more than 60 staff and provides project management support across the Bristol-Myers Squibb R&D organization.

## Scholarship Funds Space Industry Worker's Transition

It was one small step for all six transitioning Kennedy Space Center aerospace program employees, but a very big step for one. The six participated in a free business-training program in summer 2009 through a Florida Tech and Brevard Workforce partnership. One participant, **Ken Tauer**, of Rockledge, won a full-tuition scholarship in the Florida Tech Online MBA program for his promising new business idea.

Tauer, a tech operator at United Space Alliance, participated in the Entrepreneurial Training Services (ETS) program under Florida Tech's Institute for Entrepreneurship and New Business Development, where he developed his idea. He hopes to start a submarine sightseeing business in the Florida Keys. His plan is to offer underwater excursions for three to six people at a time to enjoy a unique Keys experience.

Tauer noted that before the program his project was just a hypothetical business plan. "The bottom line is that I have learned so much by going through the process of building this plan with the skills acquired from the sessions."



Ken Tauer

## New Lecture Series Provides Assured Information Updates

A grant from Harris Corp. of \$10,000 founded the Harris Distinguished Lecturer Series at the university's Harris Institute for Assured Information. The quarterly lectures are free and open to the community.

Florida Tech President **Anthony J. Catanese** said, "the grant will provide funds to support public lectures by top security researchers and aims to increase the visibility of the Space Coast as a national hub of assured information research."

Jim Burke, Harris vice president for corporate communications, agreed. He said, "the lectures will help to provide access to established thought leaders and new perspectives on the hard problems of cyberspace."

The new series is part of a broader effort to build the information assurance capabilities of the Space Coast, a joint undertaking of Harris and Florida Tech. For more information, call **Richard Ford** at (321) 674-7473.

## Naval Architecture Program Prepares to Launch

"About 40 of our 100 or so ocean engineering students take naval architecture courses," said **Prasanta Sahoo**, associate professor in the department of marine and environmental systems and a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Naval Architects. One of a very few naval architects in South Florida, he came to the university from his post of senior lecturer in hydrodynamics at the Australian Maritime College.



Prasanta Sahoo



*Florida Institute of Technology*  
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## **Styling the Modern: Fine Art Meets Fashion**

**Jill A. Wiltse and H. Kirk Brown III  
Collection**

**MAY 8 – AUGUST 21, 2010**

*Curated by Guest Curator, Shanna Shelby*



Alexander Calder  
*American, 1898-1976*  
*La Mer*  
1947  
Screen-printed silk twill  
From the collection of Jill A. Wiltse  
and H. Kirk Brown III, Denver, CO

Featuring 41 scarves and two couture dresses created by the famed Ascher Studio. By 1947, the most prominent artists of the day were invited by the Ascher team to work in their screen-printing workshop. The three-foot square scarves were printed in limited editions of 200–600 each and the screens were destroyed after printing. The artist scarves, made by modernist masters like Calder, Cocteau, Matisse and Henry Moore are an extraordinary combination of fine art, fashion and printmaking.

**Tues. – Fri., 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**  
**Saturday, Noon – 4 p.m.**

<http://textiles.fit.edu>

RUTH FUNK CENTER FOR TEXTILE ARTS

Sahoo arrived at Florida Tech in January 2009 to teach some of these courses, such as high-speed small craft and fundamentals of offshore engineering. He’s now developing a plan to launch a four-year program in the discipline. His course structure, awaiting approval, is ready to put in place.

A naval architect is a professional engineer who can design, build and repair ships, boats, other marine vessels and offshore structures for industry or for the military. These may include merchant, passenger and war ships; submarines and underwater vehicles; offshore drilling platforms; high-speed craft; workboats such as fishing vessels and tugs; and yachts, power boats and other recreational craft.

Sahoo enjoys designing ships and loves to teach. “All of it is so interesting,” he said. “You can design a ship as a whole or just its parts. You can use different technologies to enhance the performance of a ship. All of it is what I like to do.”

He initiated several new courses offered for the first time in fall 2009 and spring 2010, such as Structural Design of Marine Vehicles.

“A naval architect requires a creative, enquiring and logical mind, the ability to communicate clearly, sound judgment and qualities of leadership. I think our students show potential to become fine naval architects,” said Sahoo.

## **Engineering Student Named NASA Ambassador**

Florida Tech aerospace engineering student **Lindsay Greene** was selected as a member of the NASA Student Ambassadors Virtual Community. She is a senior and member of the Panther women’s basketball team.

Greene is one of 10 students selected from Florida and among the 105 who were chosen from among NASA interns. Other students come from universities such as Harvard, Cornell, Purdue, Penn State, Carnegie Mellon and the University of California, Los Angeles.



*Lindsay Greene*

“NASA will always be my ultimate career goal,” said Greene, who has had two internships already at NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center.

Ambassadors will interact with NASA, share information, make professional connections, collaborate with peers and help NASA inspire and engage future interns and fellows.





## *Botanical Fest Draws Big Crowds*

*The 5th Annual Botanical Fest Plant and Garden Sale drew a record crowd of nearly 3,500 patrons to campus on March 6. Attendees browsed among booths from 45 plant, garden and food vendors and enjoyed a variety of demonstrations including container gardening, Florida native plants and landscape design. The event raised \$8,000 for the ongoing maintenance of the Botanical Garden.*

**Be Part of the Florida Tech**

## *Alumni Online Community*

As a graduate of Florida Tech you will be able to:

- > Locate old friends and classmates through the alumni online directory.
- > Update your information online.
- > Use the Career Center as a resource for correspondence and professional networking.
- > Participate in bulletin boards and live chats.
- > Be assured of permanent e-mail forwarding.

***Available FREE to all alumni!***

[www.fit.edu/alumni](http://www.fit.edu/alumni) | click on Alumni Online Community

To obtain your security ID# so that you may register for the alumni online community, contact Marjorie Beckett, assistant director, at (321) 674-7642 or e-mail [mbeckett@fit.edu](mailto:mbeckett@fit.edu).



 Find us on Facebook

**Did you know the Florida Tech Alumni Association is on Facebook? Contact [ftaa@fit.edu](mailto:ftaa@fit.edu) for more information.**

## *Eckerd Family Foundation Bestows Generous Gift*

The Eckerd Family Foundation of Tampa, Fla., is donating \$100,000 to the Scott Center for Autism Treatment to help subsidize families in need of treatment. The funds will go toward early interventions using applied behavior analysis with children who have autism spectrum disorders.

“We so appreciate the foundation’s recognition of the needs of underserved families affected by autism spectrum disorders. We are extremely grateful for the role the foundation is playing in improving the lives of those who struggle with this condition,” said Florida Tech President **Anthony J. Catanese**.

Dedicated last October, the \$5.2 million Scott Center provides services for individuals with autism spectrum disorders, training for parents, teachers and other professionals, and research on effective treatments for autism. **Fran Warkomski** is the center’s executive director.

The Eckerd Family Foundation supports programs and organizations whose work reflects the principles of positive youth development. The foundation’s mission is to provide leadership and support for innovative, educational, preventative, therapeutic and rehabilitative programs for children, youth and their families.



## *Wireless Donation Boosts Center’s Capabilities*

Faculty and students recently welcomed a donation of hardware and software valued at \$332,227 for the university’s Wireless Center of Excellence (WiCE). The donation was made by Agilent Technologies Inc., a global company based in Santa Clara, Calif. Agilent designs and manufactures instruments and equipment for measurement and evaluation.

Agilent donated a set of wireless receivers and appropriate software for collecting performance measurements of existing wireless cellular technologies. “The equipment represents the state of the art in wireless cellular system engineering,” said **Ivica Kostanic**, electric and computer engineering associate professor and director of WiCE.

The receivers will be used in two graduate courses and to support the graduate research of many electrical engineering students pursuing their master’s and doctoral degrees in wireless communication. Within WiCE, the research that makes use of the receivers is geared toward the resolution of many practical engineering problems.

# Phenomenal Phonathon

If you received a phone call from one of our Phonathon students this academic year and you made a pledge to The Florida Tech Fund, thank you. Gifts to The Florida Tech Fund support the university's mission in many direct and meaningful ways. Scholarships, upgraded classroom equipment, research projects, operational expenses and, yes, even landscaping are just a few of the university needs that this fund supports.

Alumni pledged approximately \$93,371 during the fall and spring Phonathon programs—the most ever raised during any Phonathon! On behalf of the many students, faculty and staff your gift will touch, thank you again for supporting Florida Tech.



Rosalind E. Weiss  
Director of Annual Giving



## Sporting Affair/Chopper Dropper Lands Winner



A serious-looking Pete the Panther is flanked by happy John Fielding and Jeff Ville, Chopper Dropper winners holding their giant \$25,000 grand prize check. They represent Platt, Jacobus, Fielding & Ville Trial Lawyers LLC whose numbered golf ball fell from a helicopter, landing closest to the flag at the Suntree Country Club March 19. The event was part of Florida Tech's annual Sporting Affair, the Department of Athletics' biggest fundraiser. Also pictured, from left, are Director of Athletics Bill Jurgens, President Anthony J. Catanese and Director of Athletic Partnerships John Thomas.

# University Charts \$5 Million Campaign to Revitalize Anchorage



Artist's Rendering

This spring, President **Anthony J. Catanese** outlined the future of the university's three-acre Anchorage property at the mouth of Crane Creek on Melbourne Harbor.

Catanese said that he has received numerous offers and proposals to either sell or take advantage of joint-venture opportunities to commercialize the property with retail space, offices, restaurants and condominiums. After much thought and consideration, Catanese concluded that, while potentially financially lucrative, these commercial offers would not further the interests of Florida Tech's marine/

ocean research, educational, recreational or athletics needs.

"Florida Tech is committed to offering our students academic and athletics opportunities that are unmatched," said Catanese. "A revitalized Anchorage would be a tremendous asset to our university, our students and the community as a whole."

Catanese announced the launch of a \$5 million fundraising campaign to redevelop the Anchorage property on the Melbourne Harbor. The goals are to restore the 4,400-square-foot Roberts Annex, which housed so many oarsmen, to a community alumni and athletic office center while maintaining the original exterior look; renovate the original two-car garage to become the Anchorage dock master's office; and add a 16,250-square-foot rowing center to be located on the west side of the property. The current boathouse will be renovated for Florida Tech's sailing club and championship concrete canoe team.

For more information on contributing to the Anchorage campaign, call **John Thomas** at (321) 674-6220 or e-mail [johnthomas@fit.edu](mailto:johnthomas@fit.edu).

## Online Giving Made Easier

The university has upgraded its online giving interface to make it more convenient for donors. The new Web presence is easier to use with fewer mouse clicks.



Enhancements include:

- More intuitive menus
- Discover and American Express cards are now accepted, along with Visa and Mastercard
- Gifts can be broken into recurring payments, rather than lump sums

To experience the new online giving site, visit [www.fit.edu](http://www.fit.edu) and click on the "Support Florida Tech" button at the bottom of the page.

## The Florida Tech Fund Needs You

Gifts to The Florida Tech Fund support the university's most vital needs and make a lasting impact on the overall campus community. Financial aid in the form of scholarships, enhanced programs and various campus projects are all supported by the Fund. Large or small, donations to The Florida Tech Fund truly make a difference where the need is greatest.

The Florida Tech Fund also supports equipment and other upgrades for the university's academic labs.

"Undergraduate research opportunities are a key component of the Florida Tech educational experience, and we hope that donors will consider designating their gifts for this important area," said **T. Dwayne McCay**, provost and executive vice president.

Please contact **Rosalind E. Weiss**, director of annual giving, at (321) 674-6849 or [rweiss@fit.edu](mailto:rweiss@fit.edu) with any questions.



## from the FTAA President

*From the desk of Alan Prestwood '73, '80*

An ongoing goal of the alumni association board of directors is keeping alumni connected to each other and to their alma mater. This year at Homecoming, Nov. 3–7, we'll be celebrating the class of 2000's 10th anniversary and the class of 1980's 30th anniversary. Using a "cluster" format, we're also inviting back the class years just before and after the anniversary graduating class. So, for the class of 2000 reunion, we will invite the classes of 1999 and 2001; for the class of 1980, special invitations will also go to the classes of 1979 and 1981. For grads from these years, please save the dates and more information will be coming soon. Please spread the word to those you know from these classes.

From the anniversary year 2000, do you remember?

- The final original Peanuts comic strip is published, following the death of its creator, Charles Schulz.
- The Summer Olympics are held in Sydney, Australia.
- The first resident crew enters the International Space Station.
- The U.S. Supreme Court stops the Florida presidential recount, effectively giving the state, and the presidency, to George W. Bush.

From 1980:

- Who Shot JR? On Nov. 21, the conclusion of Dallas draws more viewers than any other show in TV history up to that point.
- The U.S. boycotts the Summer Olympics in Moscow, USSR.
- Post-It Notes are introduced by 3M.
- John Lennon is assassinated by Mark David Chapman.
- CNN is launched as the first all news network.

The board also continues to support affinity group anniversaries and reunions. Our Caribbean alumni, College of Aeronautics, former student-athletes, College Players, Greeks and other organizations come to campus during Homecoming to reconnect and hear current campus news.

Chapter development also helps keep alumni connected. Each year, interest in creating chapters grows. Just recently, alumni have taken the reins in Houston and Dallas to form new chapters. Stay tuned.

If you have questions about a chapter, a reunion or activities in your area, please contact **Bino Campanini** at [bcampanini@fit.edu](mailto:bcampanini@fit.edu) or (321) 674-8434. *Ad Astra Per Scientiam!*

## Campanini Joins Alumni Relations

Alumnus **Bino Campanini** has been named assistant vice president for alumni relations, also serving as executive director of the Florida Tech alumni association.

A 1990 and 1992 graduate with a bachelor's degree in communication and a master's degree in business administration, Campanini was captain of the 1988 national championship soccer team and an assistant coach of the 1991 champions. He has remained active in the university community, having served as a member of the board of trustees. He is also a past member of the Nathan M. Bisk College of Business's board of overseers and the alumni board of directors. His

community involvement includes serving on the executive board of LEAD Brevard as its immediate past chairman, president of the Space Coast Tiger Bay Club, board of directors of the EDC of Florida's Space Coast, the Brevard County Civilian-Military Council and as a youth soccer coach.

"We are extremely proud that Bino will be putting his passion for Florida Tech to work with the alumni association," said **Ken Droscher**, associate vice president for advancement. "We have a dedicated core of alumni who are committed to supporting this great university, and Bino's energy and enthusiasm are an excellent fit as we expand our efforts."

"I am looking forward to working at my alma mater and working with its alumni to help strengthen the university and its outreach," Campanini said.

Most recently, Campanini served as chief executive officer of Stottler Stagg & Associates, Architects, Engineers, Planners, Inc., headquartered in Cape Canaveral. He lives in Satellite Beach with his wife, Trish, and three children.



*Bino Campanini*



**On The Road**  
**Alumni Receptions Reconnect Old Friends and Make New Ones**

**ATLANTA ALUMNI PROFILE (PHOTO 2)**

Physics major **Robert Sarkissian '78** joined with **Robert Biczek '86** and two other partners to create Texas-based IRTG, a technology consultant firm. “We counsel high-tech businesses, assist with their business plans and substantiate their business model, helping the investment community see their value,” said Sarkissian. IRTG also has offices in Atlanta—where Sarkissian lives—New Jersey, Dallas and in the San Francisco Bay area.

“A critical role for alumni,” he said, “is to get out and recruit for Florida Tech. It doesn’t take much time, and it’s a lot of fun. Whenever I can I’ll be the rep from Florida Tech.

“Alumni should think of themselves as ambassadors. The better the reputation and stature of the university, the better it is for all of us who graduated from it.”

One of his fondest memories of his Florida Tech years was helping to build and run an observatory on Dairy Road when it was just a seldom-traveled track. “Many times we stayed up all night,” he said. “We had a great time, and I learned that winter nights can be cold in Melbourne.”

*Atlanta*



The December 2009 reception at the exclusive Ritz-Carlton Atlanta near Peachtree Plaza drew alumni, prospective students, family and friends together in the spirit of the season.

- 1)** Royce Williams '80 M.S., right, and husband Raymond Williams, left, visit with Mary Helen McCay, research professor.
- 2)** Robert Sarkissian '78, second from right, encourages prospective student Zane Trott and his father, with support from Ken Stackpoole, senior vice president for advancement, right.
- 3)** Prospective student Greg Rice and family, left, connect with alumni and family: Tom Schuman, Lauren Schuman '91 M.S., Royce Williams '80 M.S. and Raymond Williams.
- 4)** Cecilia Shea Middleton '90 M.S. and husband Charles Middleton enjoy an evening of socializing and networking.

# Dallas



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Dallas-Fort Worth alumni and guests were treated to a panoramic view of the surrounding area from the downtown Dallas Tower Club.

**1)** Enjoying the view while networking are: John Narciso '82, Vanessa DeVary '99, Elizabeth White '99, Jorge Brown '98, Georgia Kelly and Jack Kelly '80. Jack Kelly is organizing an alumni chapter in the Dallas area. **2)** President Anthony J. Catanese gets acquainted with a prospective student and her family. **3)** Phil Andrews '84 M.B.A., Larry Perna '75 and John Balcerowski '77 share a drink in a prime spot overlooking Reunion Tower. **4)** Jack Kelly '80 discusses plans for the Dallas chapter with other alumni. **5)** Catharina Haynes '83, center, shares some Florida Tech experiences with prospective students and families while Ken Stackpoole, right, looks on. **6)** President Anthony J. Catanese surveys the crowd with Thomas Brown '77.



# Saudi Arabia

Associate Provost for Academic Outreach **Muzaffar Shaikh** hosted two alumni receptions in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, for 38 Florida Tech alumni who dined on traditional Saudi fare.

Joining Dr. Shaikh, second from right, are a group of his former students: Akil ALAkil '03 Ph.D., Abdullah Namlah '03 Ph.D. and Rafea AlShehri '02 Ph.D.

# Orlando



Orlando and Kennedy Space Center area alumni, friends, faculty, staff and local business leaders gathered at the Citrus Club in the BB&T Bank Tower high above downtown Orlando in January.

**1)** In this glowing group are, from left, Bob Butterfield '88 M.S., Anthony Call '00 M.S., Wilbur Mathurin '01 M.S., Bruce Doig '00 M.S. and husband and wife alumni Shannon Medeiros '02 and Steve Medeiros '01 M.S. **2)** Parker McClellan '82 and Kipp Minter of BB&T—J. Rolfe Davis Insurance visit with Assistant Vice President of Development Beverly Sanders. **3)** President Anthony J. Catanese joins Professor Emeritus Dave Clapp. **4)** Glad Kurian '90 M.B.A. and Ken Stackpoole catch up. **5)** Development Officer Cynthia Smith gets acquainted with Whit Cotten '79 M.B.A. and Martha Cotten.

## ORLANDO ALUMNI PROFILE (PHOTO 4)

**Glad Kurian '90** earned an M.B.A. at Florida Tech. Now he has an office in Windermere, Fla., an upscale Orlando neighborhood and home to famous sportsmen and golfers.

Glad started his career in finance with Dean Witter in 1995, before it merged with Morgan Stanley, and went on to win the firm's National Sales Director Award in 1996. He remains with Morgan Stanley Smith Barney today, a joint venture of Morgan Stanley and Smith Barney. He earned the prestigious C.I.M.A. credential (Certified Investment Management Analyst) from The Wharton Executive Institute at The University of Pennsylvania in 2008.

"Florida Tech is always close to my heart. It was my springboard to success in America," he said.

Kurian, in fact, was a College of Aeronautics instructor in the '90s, teaching business law, management and economics. "It was one of my best experiences," he said. The late finance professor **Gerry Cahill**, he said, played a major role in shaping Glad's ambition to enter the field of finance and investments.

He called a recent campus tour "an eye opener." "I had no idea of all the growth. Visiting the school was like visiting a different city," he said.



# Houston



**1)** Laura Lloyd and Jason Lloyd '94 get acquainted with James Prappas '85 M.S. **2)** Ken Stackpoole visits with Bob Watkins '87 and Mark Rausch '76 **3)** Associate Director of Admission Steve Koenigsberg, left, and Derek Novak '94, center, encourage prospective students and families who attended the reception to learn more about Florida Tech. **4)** Patrick Stevens, former Florida Tech aeronautics instructor, gets to know Winston Scott, dean of the College of Aeronautics. Stevens is in the process of organizing a Houston alumni chapter. **5)** Susan Krabbe '75, Jeanne Lynch '94 M.S. and husband William Lynch, Christian Marin-Muller '03 and his wife Adele Luta '02 smile for the camera.

# Washington, D.C.



A valiant group of Florida Tech alumni braved an impending snowstorm to attend the reception held in Washington, D.C., at the City Club of Washington.

**1)** Cheery duo Larry Pollack '85 M.S. and Vice Provost for Research Frank Kinney greet the attendees. **2)** Barry Benson '83 and Provost Dwayne McCay sample the lavish buffet. **3)** Provost Dwayne McCay, Barry Benson '83, Frank Kinney and Lawrence Wilkerson '93 M.S. enjoy a networking opportunity. **4)** Provost Dwayne McCay introduces President Anthony J. Catanese to a warm crowd on a cold night.

## William C. Potter: Service Leader

Soft-spoken and modest, much of **William Potter's** life has been invested in serving his fellow man. Retired today, he no longer serves on the chamber of commerce and economic development boards. However, he continues to serve on the Florida Tech board of trustees as well as the boards of the Airport Authority, United Way, Health First and Holmes Regional Hospital, among others. His involvement has often been a leadership role.

Potter has been closely associated with Florida Institute of Technology for more than 30 years. He chaired the athletics advisory committee for a number of years before he accepted founding President Keuper's invitation to serve as a trustee in 1982. He was chairman of the board from 1991 until 1997.

As a trustee, Potter has worked with all of the university's presidents. "It seems to me," he said, "that each of them has had very different strengths. Keuper was non-traditional, an entrepreneur, a courageous risk-taker. Miller paved the way for Weaver by addressing issues like Jensen Beach and Hawthorne College. Weaver, who was more traditional, was able to start without that burden. He brought in a lot of young faculty with more innovations, more emphasis on research and, with the help of **Jack Hartley**, persuaded the Olin Foundation to invest in fundamentally changing our institution. Tony's got a fine personality, can see the big picture and educational trends, and is able to encourage support. We've been very fortunate to find individuals who complement each other."

The difficult decisions to close Jensen Beach and Hawthorne College remain fresh in Potter's mind. As do the early problems with SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and

Schools) over off-campus courses. He helped present Florida Tech's case to SACS finding that he was dealing with folks who were not peers and had difficulty understanding practical matters, for example, finding Ph.D.s in the field of logistics. "The guy who stands out in my mind in all these issues is **Andy Revay**," he said. "What always impressed me was that he was selfless and called it like he saw it."

Raised in Michigan, Potter graduated from Brown University, turning to the University of Michigan for his law degree. After graduation in 1965, he visited relatives in Brevard, became engrossed with the prospects of the space program and turned his back on a job offer from a large Detroit firm to move to Melbourne for a partnership with the Williams, Geilich and Potter law firm. He and his wife Wendy purchased four acres in southwest Melbourne where they built their home and raised their children, two girls and a boy. He also enlisted in the Air Force Reserve. Although he could not have anticipated it, this decision was destined to offer him one of the most challenging and rewarding jobs of his life.

Potter was part of the NATO peacekeeping force when the war ended in Bosnia after the Dayton Peace Agreement was signed in 1995. The Air Force first sent him to direct the rebuilding of the civil aviation system in 1999. In 2002 British Lord Paddy Ashdown was given autocratic power to rebuild the country. He asked Potter to move to Bosnia to rebuild the judicial system. Potter says he was given "a blank piece of paper, a lawyer's dream." Existing courts, judges and prosecutors were abolished or fired. He put together a group of people from 15 different countries to debate the merits



*William C. Potter*

of common law and the continental system, ending up with "something in the middle," then put the judicial system in motion again. He and Wendy spent three years in Sarajevo, from 2002 until 2005 in order to accomplish this mission.

The couple returned home with an addition to their family, Amina Bilajac, a 19-year-old girl who had been Potter's interpreter. Amina, a Bosniak Muslim, was 13 years old when the daily bombing began. She survived by hiding in her basement for 3 ½ years. Potter pulled some strings to get her admitted to Brevard Community College where she shined academically, graduating with honors. Continuing her outstanding performance, she received a bachelor's degree from Florida Tech, also with honors. Today she is married, lives outside of Philadelphia and is working on an M.B.A. degree. She enjoys a far different life than she could have expected if she hadn't connected with the Potters.

*Joan Bixby*



## Simply put ... membership matters.

It is the lifeblood of what we as an alumni association do and how we do it.

More importantly, membership is the best way for you to stay connected to your alma mater and show support for the programs, services and spirit of Florida Tech.

Through membership, you will get valuable communication from the Florida Tech Alumni Association and become aware of various opportunities where you can get involved to enhance your connection to Florida Tech.

The association is a self-funded, membership-driven organization. The organization offers members a variety of ways to stay connected and explore opportunities for building a place in the world.

*Alumni Chapters*  
*Alumni Receptions with the President*  
*Social/Networking Opportunities | Student Recruitment*  
*Community Service | Scholarship Endowments*

## Join Today!



*“Association membership is the best way to strengthen*

*your proud alma mater. Join the informed alumni and friends who act as powerful advocates for Florida Tech every day. With your help, the university's continuing prestige and accomplishments add value and respect to the Florida Tech degree you worked so hard to earn.”*

*Alan L. Prestwood '73, '80  
Alumni Association President*



**Florida Institute of Technology** ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
*High Tech with a Human Touch™*

[www.fit.edu/alumni/membership](http://www.fit.edu/alumni/membership)

*The rewarding journey  
from corporate to  
nonprofit success.*

# *The Road Less Traveled*

*A technical communications major.*

*A marine scientist.*

*An electrical engineer.*

*They have built and led nonprofit groups,  
rallied colleagues and like-minded friends,  
and devoted their work to others. Their  
shared belief: small contributions can  
create big changes.*

## *Linda English*

**Linda English** '86 thinks—and acts—globally.

Her passport is a well-worn record of distant places where need knows no geographic borders.

“One of my rules in life is don’t be tied to an office,” said English, who travels the world helping nonprofits expand e-Learning for their volunteers and employees.

But her story of striving to help others starts much earlier than that, and far from her current home in Bend, Ore.

English earned her bachelor’s in technical communications. “I remember being teased a lot with the degree that I got,” she said. “Engineering students would call me a techra-tery ... but going to an engineering school taught me how to talk to technical people. My role is not to understand bytes and bits, but to facilitate communication. It was a great school for me.”



**Linda English**



*“One of  
my rules in  
life is don’t  
be tied to  
an office.”*

*Linda English*



Later, following graduate studies, English spent a decade at Microsoft. Her work with the software giant included a two-year assignment based at the European Headquarters in Paris, managing over 400 training partners.

Excellent preparation for life's next challenge. "I wanted to give back to the world," English said.

So she started with its youngest tenants.

English served as the e-Learning manager for Save the Children, the world's leading independent organization creating lasting change in the lives of children in need. There, she recognized the need for humanitarian organizations to strengthen the skills of their field-based staff so they could deliver more effective programs.

Starting with six organizations, she founded the nonprofit LINGOs to promote collaboration and innovation in learning in the nonprofit sector. Today LINGOs has over 45 organizational members and delivers 5,000 online courses each quarter to field-based staff on management, security, IT and a range of other topics.

"Due to Linda's efforts, humanitarian workers all over the world have access to world-class learning experiences that would not have been possible without LINGOs," said Charles Allen, the general manager for Microsoft Middle East, who nominated English for Microsoft's prestigious Alumni Foundation Award in 2009. "In the process, she has saved hundreds of thousands of dollars for the LINGOs members—freeing that money to be spent on programs to eliminate poverty and alleviate suffering."

English has recently stepped down from her position as LINGOs' director of membership, but she still travels promoting the organization's benefits to nonprofits.

So what's next professionally?

"I'm not sure—but it will have something to do with saving the world," said English, not really joking at all. "I like to work in areas where I can have a global focus. I'm interested in artificial intelligence, gaming, visual thinking ... I'm going to Spain for two months. I just got back from New Zealand. We'll see."

## Jonathan Gorham

Spanning leatherbacks to loggerheads, six of the seven sea turtle species that swim the world's oceans are threatened or endangered—largely at the hand of humans. **Jonathan Gorham** '87 Ph.D. has devoted his career to preserving and protecting these docile creatures.

"I became interested in sea turtles during the course of my dissertation research on the ecology of coral reef fishes in the Bahamas and Florida Keys," said Gorham. He worked as lead biologist for the sea turtle conservation program at Florida Power and Light's St. Lucie power plant for five years, studying adult female turtles on nesting beaches and researching the open water capture of sea turtles. He most recently served as the coastal resource manager for Indian River County, Fla., where he managed and minimized the impacts beach re-nourishment projects have on sea turtle habitat.

Today, Gorham is vice president of Inwater Research Group (IRG), a nonprofit organization he helped found. IRG has taken the lead in developing methods to assess population levels of sea turtles in their near-shore habitats.

"Our real mission is to conduct research projects to further the body of knowledge about sea turtles and their habitats," said Gorham. "We also want to apply the research we are doing to answer conservation and management questions.

"A keystone project has been our work in the Key West National Wildlife Refuge," Gorham said. "The refuge managers were telling us that they manage the refuge for sea turtles, but needed more information on the species of turtles that live there ... turtles have been well-studied on nesting beaches, but not so much in the ocean where they spend the other 99 percent of their lives."

For the last eight years, the IRG team has made four trips a year to Key West to scour the 500-square-kilometer refuge and discover the turtles that live there.

"We've made a couple of unique discoveries," Gorham said. "West of Key West, we started seeing tremendous numbers of large green turtles. This was significant because these large sub-adult and adult turtles were virtually unknown in Florida waters—and we found hundreds west of Key West."

Better understanding leads to stronger conservation—that's the message Gorham carries to others.

"People can start small, with an idea—it's about personal conservation ... I think about IRG, which



Jonathan Gorham



Julia Irvin

started as a bunch of guys and gals talking about interests and wanting to learn a few things—now we have a company, employees and are doing cutting-edge research. You never know where life will take you.”

## ★ Julia Irvin

Approximately half a million American children are in foster care. Studies have demonstrated that four years after leaving care, 25 percent of youth who were in care have been homeless, just 46 percent have graduated from high school, 42 percent have become parents themselves and fewer than 20 percent are self-supporting.

**Julia Irvin** '91, '96 M.S., is working to change those numbers. The Melbourne, Fla., native grew up in and around Florida Tech—her mother is longtime humanities and communication assistant professor **Sharon Irvin**.

“I started volunteering in the foster care system while working on my master’s degree because I was working and going to school and losing my ability to be a human being,” Irvin said.

Today, she owns her own engineering consulting firm and is a member and past-president of the Junior League of South Brevard. That involvement led her to Connected By 25 Brevard, a nonprofit group dedicated to helping young people ages 13–25 transition from the foster care system into successful adulthood.

Irvin became director of the organization in May 2009. Working with other Florida Tech alumni, including **Carey Gleason** '89 M.B.A. and **Jennifer Neuhard** '09 M.B.A., she helps youths leaving foster care find independent housing, transportation, jobs and continuing education.

“To me, success will be when kids that age out of foster care have the same life experiences as regular families ... but long term, we should be working as a society to have no kids in foster care ever,” Irvin said. “It has absolutely gotten better, but there is still so much to do. In the past five years, foster care rolls have been cut in half—that’s fantastic—a win for the families and a win for society.”

In 2009, Connected By 25 Brevard helped approximately 160 young people on the Space Coast.

“We have about 30 volunteers,” Irvin said. “My primary goal is to have a strong work readiness program in place. Of those who have aged out of foster care, about half of the young adults receiving

services are not in high school or college or any kind of training program.”

Helping foster care youth—one child at a time—energizes Irvin.

“I guess I don’t know what motivates me, but there have been young people that I’ve volunteered with over the years—their situations haunt me, and I can’t let it go,” Irvin said. “It could happen to anybody. These young people are put in difficult situations through no fault of their own and struggle for the rest of their lives.”

*Wes Sumner*

★ **For more information on the nonprofit groups profiled here, please visit:**

LINGOs | [www.lingos.org](http://www.lingos.org)

Inwater Research Group Inc. | [www.inwater.org](http://www.inwater.org)

Connected By 25 Brevard | [www.cby25brevard.org](http://www.cby25brevard.org)

### **Presidential Praise for Campus Caring**

**Florida Tech’s campus commitment to civic engagement continues to receive national recognition. The university has again been named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, lauding faculty, staff and students for exemplary community service efforts. This is the fourth straight year that Florida Tech has achieved this national recognition from the White House.**

“Civic engagement cannot simply be taught—it must be experienced,” said President Anthony J. Catanese. “Florida Tech is pleased to be honored nationally for our dedication to making the world a better place. Our students, faculty and staff take very seriously their commitment to helping others.”

**Florida Tech is known for its Civic Engagement Initiative that provides opportunities for students, faculty and staff to engage in issues of public concern. Currently, 145 campus organizations and departments participate, representing 1,444 individual volunteers. In Dec. 2009, the group donated over 57,000 service hours and raised \$146,000 for worthy causes. Meanwhile, more than 150 Presidential Volunteer Service Awards from the president of the United States to Florida Tech students, faculty, staff and organizations are handed out yearly at the Student Leader Awards.**



# A Bird's-eye View

*A day at the beach for Andy Bankert focuses more on the sky and the shoreline than the surf and the sea.*

*This civil engineering junior has his eye on the Laughing Gull in the breeze or the Sanderling racing the surf. Not for academic purposes, but simply for fun.*



Purple Sandpiper



**B**ankert is a birder, observing approximately 1,000 species of birds in his lifetime. He has traveled to South America and the Caribbean and competed in the World Series of Birding three consecutive years.

His interest in birding began as a kindergartener.

“One of my dad’s friends got me a bird book when I was 5 years old,” he says. “I started going to the local Audubon meetings. Pretty much from there, I got involved in bird counts. And I’ve been doing it ever since.”

His hobby has taken him from summer camps to birding competitions, from serving as a field guide to conducting bird surveys—all in a quest to log a diversity of species and enjoy the outdoors.

Birding can span from the intense to the recreational, says Bankert. For example, the goal in the World Series of Birding is to log as many species as possible in a 24-hour period.

“We go and try to find as many species as we can. Sometimes, we barely even look at the birds.”

In other cases, it’s just for fun.

“There are a lot of cool birds around here, and it’s just a good relaxing activity,” says Bankert. “Some days when you’ve had a lot of classes, you just want to go out and see what’s around. It can be pretty rewarding if there are a lot of good-looking birds in the area.”

And it’s not all about sight. The auditory component is central to birding, hence the preference for the term birding over birdwatching.

“I actually worked a job last summer doing bird surveys and about 80% of our detections were by sound only,” says Bankert.

Other birding gear includes binoculars and tape recorders, for playing birdcalls and attracting target species.

Bankert has conducted bird surveys across the country from the Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge locally to the Black Hills out west, and he’s hoping to secure a job in Alaska this summer.

“The job I’m trying to get works with shore birds up on the arctic tundra looking at nesting biology,”







*Scarlet Tanager*



*Andy Bankert at Alligator Point in the Florida Panhandle looking over the Gulf of Mexico for ducks.*

says Bankert. “It will be really interesting if I can do that.”

So what draws an avid environmentalist to a technical field rather than a biological one?

“I think we need more engineers that understand the environment,” explains Bankert. “I’m hoping I can really mix the two fields.”

Plus, he admits he is stronger in engineering course work.

He plans to work in the area of water management and hydrology, with an eye toward wetland development and preservation.

Overall, he describes his hobby as “a state of being.”

“Any time I’m outside. Anywhere, any time there’s a little patch of woods or even on the beach, you can go birding. A lot of times I go out for a couple minutes just to be in nature and see what’s going on. I’m to the point now, if something flies by, usually I can identify it just by the shape.”

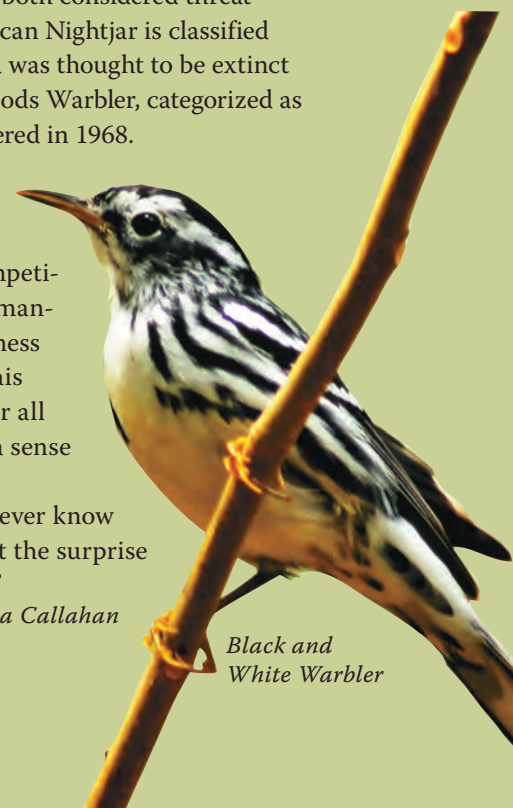
The thrill of the hunt and the discovery of the unexpected also entice him.

Two of Bankert’s rarest sights were in Puerto Rico, where he ticked the Puerto Rican Nightjar and Elfin-woods Warbler off his list—both considered threatened species. The Puerto Rican Nightjar is classified as critically endangered and was thought to be extinct until 1961, and the Elfin-woods Warbler, categorized as vulnerable, was first discovered in 1968.

Ultimately, birding has grown from a hobby to a lifestyle for Bankert—combining elements of competition, exploration, outdoorsmanship, environmental awareness and stewardship to frame his view of the world. And after all these years, he still enjoys a sense of wonder.

“It’s always neat. You never know what you’re gonna find. Just the surprise is one of my favorite parts.”

*Christena Callahan*



*Black and White Warbler*



## Wanfa Zhang: View Finder

*To say that humanities professor Wanfa Zhang views the world through a different lens might be an understatement.*

A political scientist who uses statistical methods in the study of international conflict, Zhang is also an avid collector of cameras and other photographic gadgetry and memorabilia. So when it comes to lenses—both literal and figurative—he’s a veritable expert.

Zhang’s ardor for both international politics and optical equipment began in 1970s China, when the country was still very much “closed.” Zhang remembers his only window to the outside world being “open-air movie shows,” during which feature films were preceded by 15 minutes of newsreel footage.

“I loved attending these public showings. I was very fascinated with the images projected onto the screen and the stories told by the images. And I was also amazed, as a little boy, by the cameras and projectors used to record and reproduce the events,” said Zhang.

His enthusiasm for cameras and world events was anything

but fleeting. It stayed with him through childhood, undergraduate study in English at China’s Guizhou University, graduate school years at Xi’an International Studies University and relocation to the United States. It made him a vigorous collector—he filled box after box with Nikon, Canon, Kodak—as well as a tireless and passionate scholar.

As such, Zhang contributed to the NSF-funded “Correlates of War” project through the University of Mississippi, earned certification in quantitative methods of social research at the University of Michigan and completed a doctoral degree in political science at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa.

You might say that as Zhang’s camera collection developed, his research interests came further and further into focus.

Today, the only thing more impressive than Zhang’s vast assortment of over 300 antique, vintage and modern moment-

capturing relics is his forward-looking commitment to enriching Florida Tech and its students.

“Teaching political science at a technological university like Florida Tech provides a great opportunity to offer courses that connect social science and humanities with natural science, engineering and mathematics,” said Zhang. “I hope to offer two courses in the future that do just that.”

But what of his hobby? While teaching, research and new course development fill Zhang’s days, he still finds the time to track down the occasional addition to his collection. “Eventually I will donate it to an educational institution so that more people, especially students, will be able to experience these mini technological and artistic wonders and the history behind them,” he said.

It’s clear Wanfa Zhang has taken the university’s “High Tech with a Human Touch” promise to heart.

*Andy McIlwraith*



## A Closer Look

By looking at cameras instead of through them, we can learn a lot about international history. The quantity and quality of cameras a country produces often coincides with its political and economic status in the world at the time. For example:

- When they were the dominant world powers, Great Britain, France and Germany produced some of the most innovative and technologically sophisticated photographic equipment in the world.
- After Germany and Japan were defeated in WWII, their cameras, for a time, carried the mark of their fiasco: “Made in Occupied Japan” or “USSR Occupied Germany.”
- The former Soviet Union once produced some of the world’s best optics simply because it acquired some of Germany’s optics factories and technology as part of WWII war reparations.
- Also after WWII, as Japan’s economy began to recover and grow, so did the country see a boom in camera production and market share that has persisted today.
- The massive and rapid economic growth of the four Asian Tigers (Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan) in the 1960s and 70s is reflected by the quantity of cameras they produced during that time.
- The U.S. produced a huge camera industry at the end of the 19th and early 20th centuries, which was also the period during which the country laid a solid foundation toward becoming the world’s #1 superpower.
- One can distinguish cameras produced in the capitalist world from those produced in Communist societies by the presence of a tell-tale “Patent Pending” marking. This marking exposed the negative connotation of capitalism in guaranteeing profit seeking and, at the same time, the positive message of encouraging innovation and creativity.
- Today, China is the largest producer of various cameras and the country’s economy ranks second in the world.

*Wanfa Zhang and Andy McIlwraith*

## Faculty Spotlight

### **Julia Grimwade**

Professor, Biological Sciences

*Years at Florida Tech:*

16 on faculty, 20 total (I started as a research scientist/associate faculty)

*Teaches:*

Cell Biology, Immunology, Pharmacology and Drug Design, Introduction to the Health Professions

*Research:*

Regulation of bacterial cell growth

*Hobbies:*

Gardening, baking artisan bread

*Notable achievement:*

Continuous NIH funding for 15 years; being a mother to two teenage girls; developing my own wild yeast starter for sourdough bread



### **Alan Leonard**

Professor, Biological Sciences

*Years at Florida Tech:* 20

*Teaches:*

Microbiology, Cancer Biology, Growth and Division of Cells

*Research:*

Understanding the molecular mechanisms that regulate bacterial growth

*Hobbies:*

Reading, photography, freshwater tropical fish, jazz music

*Notable achievement:*

In addition to our long-term research funding from NIH, I am most proud of assisting in the professional development of many talented undergraduate and graduate students at Florida Tech.



### **Robert Shearer**

Associate Professor, Humanities and Communication

*Years at Florida Tech:* 29

*Teaches:*

Western Civilization, Philosophy and Logic

*Research:*

Philosophical foundations of mathematics

*Hobbies:*

Sailing, irony

*Notable achievement:*

Publication of *The Beethoven Years*, a novel, 2008



*Children who love the circus and want to run away and join one almost never do. Staci Stafford '09, in her responsible way, is doing it.*

The 22-year-old from Orlando, Fla., grew up in the shadow of the world's most famous mouse. When she visited Disney World as a youngster, a trip to Epcot's The Living Seas sparked her "passion for sea animals." This led her to study animal behavior at Florida Tech's School of Psychology where she just last December earned her bachelor's degree.

Today she's back at The Living Seas—renamed The Seas with Nemo and Friends—doing a prestigious, full-time, paid, six-month internship.

The Seas is a pavilion in Epcot's Futureworld, dedicated to enhancing knowledge of humans' relationship to the sea. Its centerpiece, a 5.7-million-gallon saltwater aquarium, the largest in the world

when it was built in 1986, is home to Atlantic bottlenose dolphins, manatees, sea turtles, sharks and tropical fish.

In the early stage of her internship, Stafford does no hands-on dolphin training, but she and three other interns get "down and dirty" with almost everything else.

"Every morning I do food preparation. I rinse lettuce, prepare fish (mostly herring and squid) and clean the kitchen and public area." Stafford also gives public presentations and assists the trainers and scientific team, often with cognitive research, helping with testing dolphin ability and intelligence.

"I learn what the trainers do and why they do it, and gather great information by watching," she said. "The thing I love best, though, is interacting with the public. I love to explain about conservation."

**"The thing I love best, though, is interacting with the public. I love to explain about conservation."**

STACI STAFFORD '09

## *Graduate Gets Her Feet Wet*





“One of the biggest challenges is answering guests’ questions,” she said. “You also have to be careful not to slip and fall because the area around the tanks is often wet.” And Stafford needs to be on the alert for jewelry, hair ties or other things that may have fallen in the water, which could be harmful to the animals.

Two of the manatees she enjoys observing are Lou, who at 1,000-plus pounds is “more laid-back,” and 800-plus-pound Kringle, “the more playful” of the two. In rehabilitation now, at some point, the two will be released as are many of The Seas’ marine mammals.

Her current internship isn’t Stafford’s first work experience with marine mammals. In fact she spent time as an educator at The Seas in summer 2006, and in summer 2009, Stafford had an internship with the U.S. Marine Mammal Program in San Diego. There her work was similar to her current job, and the animals she learned about and cared for were California sea lions and Atlantic bottlenose dolphins.

Preparing her for these experiences were several fondly remembered psychology teachers. In particular she recalls **Mark Harvey**, who introduced her to applied behavior analysis, and **Frank Webbe**.

“He immediately made me feel comfortable with the field I wanted to be in. He made the classes interesting and fun,” said Stafford.

Gearing up physically as well as mentally for her next career step, Stafford swims, runs and works to stay fit. She’s a certified master scuba diver and is stress and rescue certified. Her focus is on a career with marine mammals, and she would “love to be hired by the navy.”

According to Webbe, she has the necessary attributes to be snapped up by any employer of choice.

“In addition to being bright and a hard worker,” he said, “Staci is most memorable for her incredible enthusiasm, for her discipline and ever-present cheerfulness. In my class, I always knew that I would find her in the front row, with a great smile and ready to learn.”

*Karen Rhine*

# 20 Questions

*John Fisher '09 took his first job out of college as a marine fisheries observer in Dutch Harbor, AK. He spent the summer of 2009 cruising the merciless Bering Sea on huge fishing boats, "Deadliest Catch"-style, in search of fish and adventure. He is returning to Dutch Harbor this summer for his second contract with Alaskan Observers Inc.*

## **What made you decide to go to Alaska?**

I saw a flier in my second year of college about observing on the Bering Sea; it sounded adventurous and promised good pay. Then, my buddy from school went off for the job and had positive things to say about the experience, so I applied.

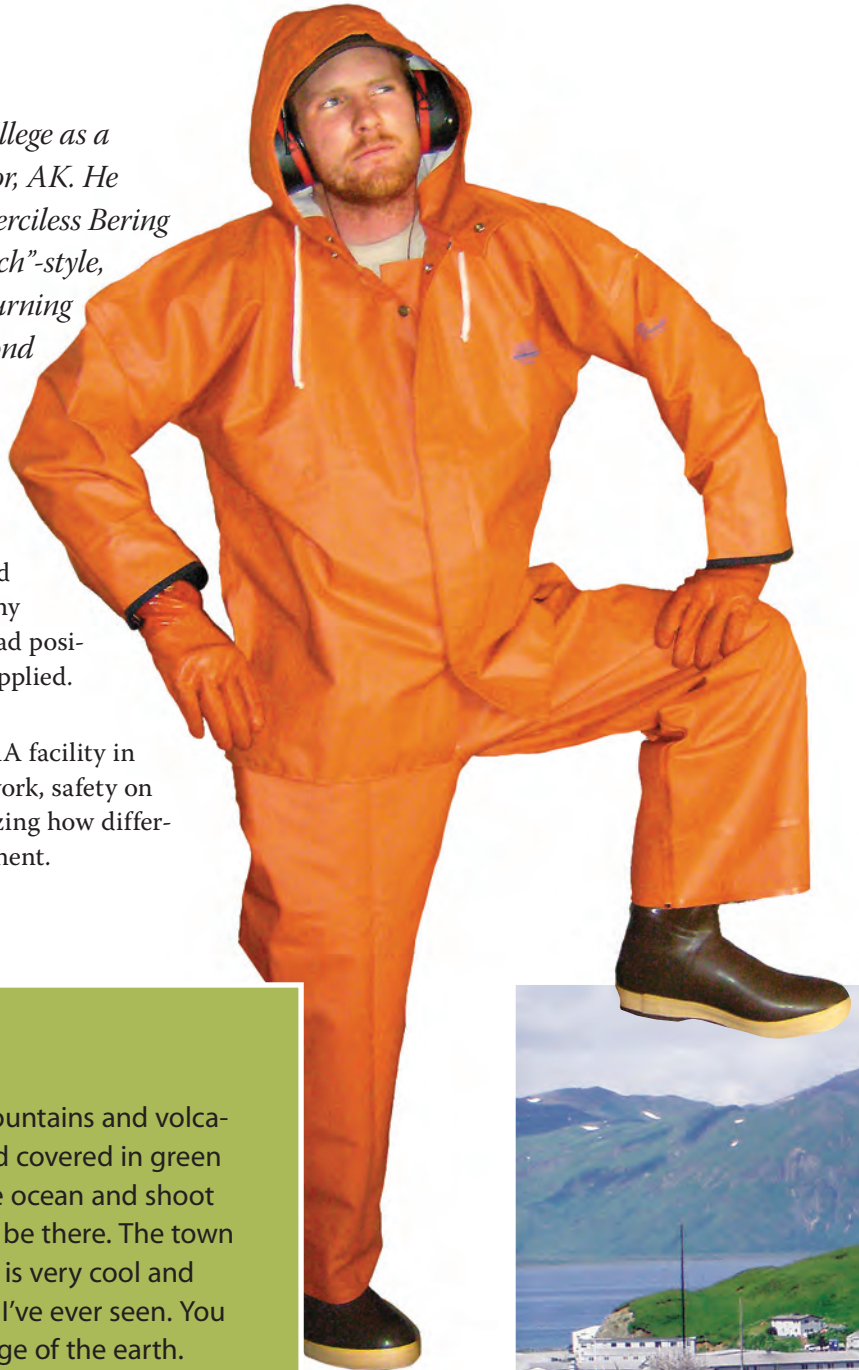
## **What kind of training did you go through?**

There was a three-week course at a NOAA facility in Seattle, which paid special interest to paperwork, safety on fishing boats and fish identification. It's amazing how different the fish are on the other side of the continent.

## **What is Dutch Harbor like?**

The island is a bunch of huge mountains and volcanoes that are completely treeless and covered in green shrubs and ferns. They rise out of the ocean and shoot up into the fog that always seems to be there. The town (if you can call it a town) of Unalaska is very cool and completely different from anywhere I've ever seen. You feel like you're pretty close to the edge of the earth.

*Read his complete interview at <http://today.fit.edu>.*



# with John Fisher

Interview by Matt Badolato Excerpts reprinted with permission from *The Beachside Resident*



## What do you do to pass the time on board the ship?

I read more than I have in my entire life. Besides reading myself insane, I tried a little handlining in 150 feet of water and actually caught a few sculpin and flounder, and I spend a lot of time joking around with the guys on board, listening to their crazy stories.



## What are some of your duties?

I keep up with the fishing progress for NOAA—kind of the eyes of “the man.” We observers sample the catch for species composition, the abundance of certain prohibited species and any interactions with marine mammals (we haven’t caught “Free Willy” yet). We also make sure all the safety equipment is in good working order. My last boat gave me a special and very important extra task as the head dishwasher.

## Meet any celebrity crab fishermen at Dutch?

There are some mixed feelings about that whole situation up in Dutch. Many of the guys up here care very little for the “Deadliest Catch” show ... maybe they’re jealous. I did see some of the TV fellows, and a few of the famous boats. They look like all the other fellows and boats out there. I found out that there are observers on the “Deadliest Catch” boats; they’re just not allowed to be on TV.

## What’s the average weather up there like?

I can only speak for June through September, and honestly those are the only months I care to experience on the Bering Sea. The weather is very consistent. It’s 45 to 50 degrees every day, and even though it’s daylight for most of the hours of the day, I’ve seen clear blue skies only three times in my entire stay. Fog, mist and clouds are relentless and give an ominous and dreary feel. We went through four storms in my time up here and that was a scary thing to see. The ocean can truly become angry in a hurry, and it makes a 180-foot boat seem like a very small thing.

## What kind of fish do you catch?

All of the boats I’ve been on have targeted pollock. That’s the generic white fish fast food restaurants use for cheap fish sandwiches and fried fish sticks and what they grind up to make imitation crab meat. Besides pollock, we get a whole bunch of other interesting critters as well. Sleeper sharks, HUGE halibut, more kinds of flounder-looking things than I thought could exist, ancient lampreys, and huge squid are some of my favorite by-catch species.

## What did you miss most about Florida?

Trees, surfing, Bull Creek, shorts, the Mobile, Grosse Pointe across from LongDoggers and Wal-Mart.

# Entrepreneur Extraordinaire

*Florida Tech TODAY* has tried, but it's been difficult keeping up with the career of one of its most wildly successful entrepreneurial alumni. **Vic Verma '87** has been on the move, through a string of achievements, since leaving the university with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering.

How does he do it?

"It's just grind, grind, grind," he said.

First, Verma furthered his education—he earned an M.S.E. degree from the University of Michigan and the graduate engineers' degree in electrical engineering from Stanford University. He also completed all the steps toward his Ph.D. candidacy in electrical engineering from Stanford prior to joining start-up Savi Technology in Silicon Valley in 1990.

It took him just seven years to go from design engineer to vice president of engineering, to president and chief executive officer. Verma oversaw exploding growth for the firm that developed and marketed radio

frequency identification cargo tracking technologies (RFIDs). Savi became the primary provider of RFIDs for the U.S. Department of Defense and the main provider of wireless cargo-monitoring networks used by NATO and Dow Chemical.

The direction-finding tag product, developed by Verma, was recognized as the "Most Innovative Technology Developed by a Small Business" in 1994 by the White House Office of Science and Technology.

That was just one of the entrepreneur's abundant accolades. Another of which he is most proud is the 2003 Technology Pioneer award from the World Economic Forum held in Davos, Switzerland. He was among a select group of 40 chief executives worldwide named for developing and applying the most innovative and transformational technologies.

In 1995 Verma helped negotiate the acquisition of Savi by Texas Instruments; in 1999 he led the buyout of Savi from Raytheon. In 2006, he negotiated the acquisition of Savi by Lockheed Martin, becoming president of Savi Group, a division of Lockheed Martin, in Mountain View, Calif.

After 18 years and eight patents, Verma let go of Savi. He spent the first two years with Lockheed Martin integrating Savi into the giant corporation. Then, in October 2008, he was named Lockheed Martin president of Strategic Venture Development.





This latest responsibility is to look at existing technology throughout the corporation and find optimum ways to commercialize it.

“Lockheed has a wealth of technology,” said Verma. “The trick is to find the right commercial market, the right partner and the right level of investment and to spin out the product.”

Still in the early stages, he’s exploring potential venture capital and has so far identified some prime opportunities.

Married in 2002, Verma, his wife Sandy and two Shih-Tzus today live in Los Altos Hills and Santa Barbara, Calif. Though Verma said he is still “working like crazy,” the two have found some time to indulge their joy in travel, taking a 2008 African safari to Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

He has also made time to give back to the university. In May 2002 he was Florida Tech commencement speaker and last year he hosted an alumni reception in Los Gatos. His advice for success is straightforward:

“There are no get-rich schemes. It’s a grind. Make sure you pick something you love and give it all you have. Become the absolute best at it. You grind, grind, grind and one day, you wake up, and see that you’ve done something good.”

*Karen Rhine*



*Vic and Sandy Verma get up-close and personal with the wildlife on an African safari.*

## Alumni Spotlight

**Karin Torsiello** '98, B.S. psychology; '00, M.S. ABA  
President, Behavior Basics; Director of Operations,  
Advantage Behavioral Group

*Describe your work:*

Parent training (development and application), child welfare services (foster care and community mental health) in-home services delivery and residential services

*Notable professional achievement:*

Own and operate two successful companies



**Amy Simon-Miller** '93, B.S. space sciences  
Astrophysicist, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

*Describe your work:*

I study the atmospheres of the giant planets from robotic spacecraft, such as Galileo, Hubble and Cassini. My other job is as a manager for other scientists, as the chief of the Planetary Systems Laboratory at GSFC.

*Favorite Florida Tech memory:*

Florida Tech Astronomy Society (then FITAS) trip to KSC— Our tour bus caught on fire, and we had to wait in a ditch for security to arrive. They made it up to us with a special behind-the-scenes tour that included being close enough to touch the Shuttle Discovery.

*Little known fact:*

While at my first professional planetary science conference, I wasn't looking where I was going and I walked smack into Carl Sagan. An embarrassing introduction to the field, to say the least!

*Notable professional achievement:*

Serving on the NRC Space Studies Board Planetary Science Decadal Survey



**Tracy Gibson** '99, Ph.D. chemistry  
Sr. Principal Investigator,  
ASRC Aerospace Corp.

*Describe your work:*

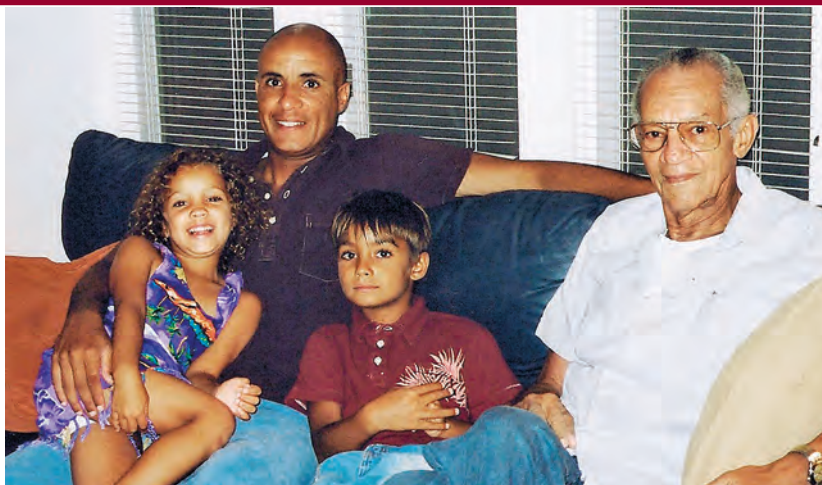
I support a wide range of projects related to the NASA mission, with primary focus on in-situ resource utilization (ISRU), hazardous gas detection, membrane technology and smart materials development.

*Notable professional achievement:*

2009 KSC Engineer/Scientist of the Year (Contractor Category)



**Read more about Amy, Karin and Tracy  
at <http://today.fit.edu>**



*Fidgi and two of his children, Karin and Aiden, relax with Gerald during Thanksgiving 2008.*

*The 7.0-magnitude earthquake that struck Haiti on Jan. 12 disrupted many lives. It sent shockwaves around the world, and it even affected one of our own here at Florida Tech.*

## *The Quake That Affected One of Our Own*

**Fidgi Haig**, head coach of the Panther women's soccer team, will never forget that day.

"Once I found out Hotel Montana, one of the most famous hotels in Haiti, had completely collapsed, I knew we were in trouble because my parents' house was two blocks away."

Fidgi's father Gerald, who successfully beat lung cancer a few months earlier, perished in the quake, and his mother Ginette suffered serious injuries. Under the



*Fidgi continues to remain active—along with coaching the Florida Tech women's soccer team and two travel teams, he plays in three adult leagues.*

rubble for five hours, she emerged with a broken back, neck, ribs and sternum as well as a head injury. She is now stable at a home in Miami. Fidgi also lost several close friends, and his childhood home and high school were leveled.

"It's sad to see pictures of Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti, and other disaster areas," he said. "It's difficult to realize those areas have been destroyed."

### **Like Father, Like Son**

Fidgi's father Gerald was a talented soccer player who was well liked in Haiti. He began his professional career in his homeland and went on to be one of the first Haitian players to sign a professional contract with a club in France. Toward the end of his eight-year professional career, he played in Algeria before returning to Haiti to play for the country's national team.

"I never saw my dad play professionally, but from what I've been told, people went to watch him because he would score some spectacular goals," Fidgi said. "People would describe him as a panther because he moved so quickly on the field."

Even after Gerald retired as a player, he continued to immerse himself in the game by serving as a coach for Violette Athletic Club, a prestigious professional team in Haiti.

Fidgi shares his father's talent and passion for soccer. A forward just like his father, Fidgi played professionally in the United States and was a member of the Haitian National and Olympic teams. During his collegiate career, he starred alongside current men's soccer head coach **Robin Chan**. The duo helped Florida Tech bring home its first men's soccer national championship in 1988.

Fidgi decided to branch into coaching, like his father did, at the conclusion of his playing career. Before he took the helm of the women's soccer program at Florida Tech, Fidgi helped turn Satellite High School into a soccer powerhouse. He also led two travel teams, Indialantic Force and Space Coast United, to a total of six state titles in seven years.

Fidgi credits Gerald with shaping his life outside the game too.

"The biggest impact my dad had on me wasn't in soccer," said

Fidgi. "It was actually my personality. Watching him growing up and seeing how he carried himself as a father and as a friend had the biggest influence on me. I always watched how people reacted to him and saw how much he was respected."

**The Process of Rebuilding**

Insurance is nonexistent in Haiti, and many of the Haig family possessions are gone. Determined to help pay off his parents' medical bills, the Tech graduate also wants to provide support for his family as they look to rebuild their homes and lives in Haiti.

"My mom is determined to move back to Haiti," Fidgi said. "The best way I can explain it is after 9/11, Americans weren't thinking about leaving their country out of fear or devastation. No matter how bad it gets, your country is your country."

*Ryan Jones*

**If you are interested in helping the Haig family, please send a check payable to Fitzgerald Haig to:**

**Fitzgerald Haig  
P.O. Box 33806  
Indialantic, FL 32903**

**38**  
38 Panthers were named to the SSC Fall Honor Roll

**17**  
17 posted a flawless 4.0 GPA to lead the SSC

**Panthers Well Represented on SSC Honor Roll**

Florida Tech student-athletes continue to excel off the playing field. In January, the Sunshine State Conference (SSC) announced its fall honor roll and 38 Panthers were named to the list. Seventeen posted a flawless 4.0 GPA to lead the SSC.

Of all the student-athletes that participated in one of Florida Tech's five fall sports, 40 percent earned recognition. The women's soccer team earned two impressive distinctions. The squad ranked first among the institution's fall sports with 16 honorees, and nine student-athletes recorded a 4.0 GPA, the most of any team in the conference.

"Excellence in academics and athletics is an important goal we

strive to attain at Florida Tech," said **Bill Jurgens**, athletics director. "To have 40 percent of our fall student-athletes achieve a 3.20 GPA or higher during their season is gratifying. I commend the student-athletes for their hard work in the classroom and on the playing field."

A total of 378 student-athletes from the conference's nine schools were named to the honor roll. Fifty-four student-athletes carried a perfect 4.0.

To be eligible, a student-athlete must post a minimum grade point average of 3.20 on a scale of 4.0. Participants in men's and women's cross country, men's and women's soccer, and volleyball were eligible for the fall honor roll.

**"Excellence in academics and athletics is an important goal we strive to attain at Florida Tech."**

*Bill Jurgens*



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Anthony and Robert Catanese (Anthony is the wide awake one) are the first grandchildren of Florida Tech President **Anthony and Sara Catanese**. Parents are Mark and Lori Catanese of Seabright, N.J.

## 1980s

**Wade Blake** '81 M.S. has assumed command of NOAA Ship Ronald H. Brown, a state-of-the-art oceanographic and atmospheric research platform and the largest vessel in the NOAA fleet, as a NOAA Corps Captain. The ship's home port is Charleston, S.C.



**Felecia Wilson** '83 M.S. is the director of technology solutions at L-3 Communications Global Security and Engineering Solutions Division. She maintains existing Department of Defense markets, expands management integration, services, solutions and teaming into new government and commercial markets. Felecia resides in Darnestown, Md.

**David Mackovjak** '85, a 21-year veteran of the U.S. Navy, cycled with his twin 16-year-old sons from their home in Silverdale, Wash., to Virginia Beach, Va., to raise funds for the Boys and Girls Clubs of South Puget Sound and the Wounded Warrior Project. Their Riding4Hope cycling team rode from June 28 to Aug. 9, averaging 100 miles per day during the 3,900-plus-mile journey. The team raised over \$12,000 for the two organizations. Find additional information at [www.riding4hope.org](http://www.riding4hope.org).

**Linda English** '87 was one of six finalists for the Microsoft Alumni Foundation Integral Fellowship as an alumna "who has done incredible things to make the world better" according to Bill Gates. She is the founder of LINGOs (Learning for International NGOs). Linda resides in Bend, Ore. Read more about her work on page 20.

**Stephen Ulbricht** '87 M.S. is currently administrative director of the Children's Heart Program at Wolfson Children's Hospital in Jacksonville, Fla. He recently became a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. He and wife Debra have three adult children and one grandson.

## 1990s

**Kevin Halleran** '93 recently completed the U.S. Army's Captain's Career Course at Ft. Huachuca, Ariz.

**Reggie Campos** '93, wife Diana and 3-year-old brother Benjamin welcomed Issac in October 2009. Reggie is an electrical engineer at Harris Corp., and Diana works for Northrop Grumman as a software engineer. The family resides in Malabar, Fla.



**Melicent (Nhan) Chen** '94 and husband Bill are parents to Leana, 3. Melicent works for the U.S. Government, and the family resides in Virginia.

**Julie (Pawloski) Robbins** '95 and husband John are parents to Harrison Jacob, born November 2009. Julie is the IT manager for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Southern Florida, and John is a designer/programmer for Post Newsweek in Miami. The family is at home in Plantation, Fla.



**John Doolittle** '95 and wife Shandra are parents to Camden, and the family lives in Chicago, Ill.

**Kurt Kwader** '96 M.B.A. and wife Doreen became parents in January 2010 when Sophia Morgan was born. Kurt is an energy reduction consultant. The family lives in Satellite Beach, Fla.



**Harry Friebel** '97, '00 Ph.D., and wife welcomed Nathaniel Ross in April 2009. The family is at home in Berlin, N.J.

**Brian Fischer** '97 and wife Marie became parents in September 2009 when they welcomed Sophie Leia to the family. Brian is an electrical engineer at ITT Defense, and Marie is a high school math teacher. The Fischers live in Merrick, N.Y.



**Keyur Shah** '99 M.S. and wife Apoorvi are parents to Neel, age 2 1/2. The family lives in Chicago, Ill.

## 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](mailto:hrosskam@fit.edu) to receive your shirt.

2000s



**Kevin Thomforde** '00 and wife Sharee welcomed Emily Rose in September 2009. The family lives in Davie, Fla.

**Sharon (Williams) Parham** '00 M.S. and husband Stanley are parents of Brianna, born January 2010. The family lives in Sutherland, Va.



**Tiffini (Sheldon) Morris** '01 Psy.D., husband Chris and 2-year-old Aidyn announce the addition of Jordin Ryley in October 2009. The family resides in Lubbock, Texas, where dad is a medical student and Tiffini works part-time providing geropsychology services.



**Patricia (Ferraro) Stevens** '03 and husband Patrick '02 are parents to Patrick VI, born November 2008. They reside in Georgetown, Texas. Patrick is an engineer captain in the

U.S. Army, recently returned from his third tour in Iraq.

**Emily Torlak** '03, a biology teacher at Eau Gallie High School, was recently named winner of the Entomological Society of America's President's Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Secondary Education.

**Chris Tanner** '06 is a staff researcher at MIT Lincoln Laboratory in Boston, Mass.

**Marc Krauss** '08 M.S. was recently sworn in to his first term as a Township Committeeman in Springfield, N.J. He retired after 21 years of active duty service from the U.S. Air Force in 2008. He is currently a program manager at Picatinny Arsenal.

**Jacob Roth** '09 M.S. married **Lynnette Holem** '08 in 2009. The couple lives in Melbourne, Fla., and Jacob is an aerospace engineer for NASA.



Jack and Kate Marin are the grandchildren of **Gerald and Kay Marin**. Dr. Marin is a professor in the department of computer sciences.

*In Memoriam*

**Christopher Lindo** '04, '07 M.B.A., was the victim of an auto accident in January in Melbourne, Fla. He had been employed as a graduate student assistant during his years at Florida Tech.

**Richard McCoy Jr.** '80 passed away in November 2009, the victim of a diving accident near Key West, Fla. He is survived by his wife Blythe and two sons.

**David Allan Johnson** '86 passed away in November 2009. He is survived by his children, Joseph, Jason and Jaelyn.

**From the Office of Alumni Relations,  
we'd like to formally invite the  
*Classes of 1980 and 2000*  
to come home for your class anniversaries!**

Separate mailings will follow, and as we speak, the Board's Alumni Relations Committee is hard at work putting together fun activities for your arrival! We will also be extending invitations to the **Classes of 1979, 1981, 1999 and 2001** to help celebrate!

If you would like to join the organizing committees or have ideas, feel free to pass them along to **Weyni Clacken** '01, chair of the Alumni Relations Committee, at [Weyni\\_@hotmail.com](mailto:Weyni_@hotmail.com).

*share your news!*

Fill out our online form at: [www.fit.edu/alumni/ftaaform.html](http://www.fit.edu/alumni/ftaaform.html)

or send this to: Florida Tech, Alumni Affairs, 150 W. University Blvd., Melbourne, FL 32901-6975

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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) \_\_\_\_\_

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(Attach additional sheet, if necessary)

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{0809}

**ALUMNI RECEPTIONS**

Contact the Alumni Office for more information on alumni receptions.  
May 7-8

Dad Vail Regatta, Philadelphia

June 26 Washington, D.C., area picnic

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

Contact the Alumni Office for more information on alumni and nearby events.

**June**

June 4 4th Annual Capstone Golf Classic

Presented by College of Engineering

Grand Harbor, Vero Beach

<http://coe.fit.edu/event/capstone.html>

June 6-13

Second Annual Creative Writing Institute

Department of Humanities and Communication

Lectures, workshops, classes

Keynote speaker: John Dufresne

<http://411.fit.edu/cwi>

ONGOING EVENTS | HELD ON CAMPUS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

Women's Business Center Training Courses and Networking Opportunities

Visit <http://wbc.fit.edu> for schedule.

Professional Development Programs and Seminars

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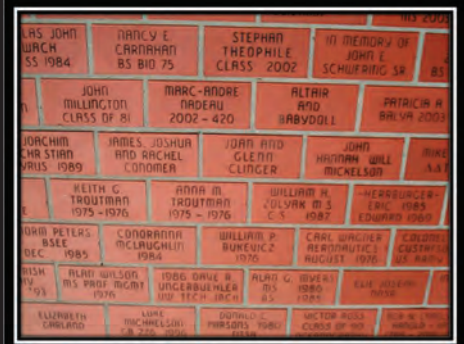
These awards are given in addition to any merit scholarship earned by the student. For more information and the appropriate forms, go to: [www.fit.edu/alumni/services/index](http://www.fit.edu/alumni/services/index) or [www.fit.edu/ugrad/financial\\_aid/scholarships](http://www.fit.edu/ugrad/financial_aid/scholarships)

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 Office of University Communications  
 150 W. University Blvd.  
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# SAVE THE DATE! Homecoming 2010 Nov. 3–7, 2010



SPECIAL **REUNION ACTIVITIES** AND AFFINITY GROUP GATHERINGS ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER.

**STAY TUNED** FOR THE COMPLETE SCHEDULE AND UP TO DATE INFORMATION. EXCITING ATHLETIC EVENTS, COLLEGE BY COLLEGE SPECIAL EVENTS AND OUTSTANDING ENTERTAINMENT WILL MAKE THIS AN OUT OF THIS WORLD HOMECOMING!

**Preliminary Schedule:**

*Wednesday, Nov. 3*

- Talent Show

*Thursday, Nov. 4*

- Pep Rally
- Florida Tech Ice Hockey
- Homecoming Dance

*Friday, Nov. 5*

- Alumni Association Board Meeting
- Wacky Wars
- Reunion Reception
- Hangar Party

*Saturday, Nov. 6*

- 5K Race
- Homecoming Parade
- Homecoming/Reunion BBQ
- Athletic Competition
- Alumni Banquet
- Homecoming Concert

*Sunday, Nov. 7*

- Reunion Weekend Golf Classic

**Go Green, Get Online!**

To see more photos and videos, visit  
 Florida Tech TODAY online at:

**today.fit.edu**



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