

Florida Tech **TODAY**

A magazine for Alumni and Friends of Florida Institute of Technology

WINTER 2014

Cultivating **STEM**^{XX}

APPRECIATING THE FEMALE FACTOR IN SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS



ONE BIG QUESTION "HOW ARE LIBRARIES EVOLVING IN THE 21ST CENTURY?" p. 17



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GO GREEN, GET ONLINE!

Find expanded coverage, photos and videos at:

today.fit.edu



Invincibility abounded on the Crawford Green during the culmination of the Campus Activities Board's (CAB) Super Hero Week—an afternoon of racing Zorb balls. "What's more super hero-esque than invulnerability?" said Bradley Bunk, a junior software engineering major and webmaster for CAB.

Florida Tech TODAY

<http://today.fit.edu>

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COVER PHOTO: Wei Tan is a research assistant and Ph.D. student working to design, develop and test new onboard information systems on Airbus 320 and Boeing 737 cockpit simulators to enhance safety and reduce human error. Photo by Dominic Agostini.

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Dear Florida Tech Alumni and Friends,

Your university is starting 2014 with a bang!

On Jan. 25, we announced the largest fundraising drive in university history—and in the history of this area—as the *Create the Future* campaign seeks to raise \$100 million for endowments, programs and new projects. This campaign is critical to the future of Florida Tech, and we hope you'll join us. Check out more information in this issue of the *Florida Tech Today*, and visit the

campaign online at createthefuture.fit.edu.

The academic accolades are never in short supply, but we were particularly humbled to be named one of the top 200 universities in the world by the *Times Higher Education* of London. This is a first for Florida Tech, and a wonderful accomplishment in 55 short years of university life. The ranking is based heavily on the research expertise of our faculty, giving further credence to our role as a global leader in technological education.

And finally, we are particularly excited about Chopper Dropper 2014 on March 14. Alumni and friends around the world get in their requests early to purchase tickets, which support Panther athletics and give participants a chance at \$50,000. You don't have to be present to win, but we'd love to see you there!

Here's wishing you a happy and healthy 2014. Thanks for your support of Florida Tech.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A.J. Catanese".

A.J. Catanese, Ph.D., FAICP
President & Chief Executive Officer



President Catanese and Sara Catanese welcome guests to the Jan. 25 President's Ball launching the \$100 million *Create the Future* campaign.



President Catanese sits with Congressman Bill Posey Jan. 21 as the congressman receives a briefing from university professors concerning the health of the Indian River Lagoon.



TWITCHY performs somewhere over the rainbow at Homecoming 2013.



President Catanese congratulates Richard "Dick" Blake, recipient of the 2014 Julius Montgomery Award, Jan. 14.

Feedback From Our Readers

Tell us your Two Cents. We welcome your input on the magazine. You asked for bigger photos, expanded campus coverage and more Alumni News; and we listened. **Have a comment about something you've read? Want to share a memory about your FIT days? Email us at filechtoday@fit.edu.**

ROCK ON!

DAVID ARNSWALD '85, former drummer and manager of the band "Hit & Run" (briefly known as "Magnum Force") sent the following recap:

"Thanks for printing a photo of our band's very first performance. At the time of the photo, the band consisted of four students (**KEITH HOYLE**, lead guitar; **RICHARD WALTERS**, rhythm guitar; **JIM VINER**, bass; **DAVID ARNSWALD**, drums) and two local non-students (singers Steve Quinlivan and Wendy Hamner). Toward the end of the band's time together, students **BOB HEPLER** (vocals) and **CLAUDIA SHAW** (keyboards) also performed with the group. Also I can't forget student **BILL MENDELL** operating the sound and lights for us.

We were a "cover band," playing fairly decent versions of hits by groups such as the Stones, the Who, Pat Benatar, Joan Jett, Aerosmith, ZZ Top, Judas Priest, Ted Nugent, Lynyrd Skynyrd and Van Halen, among others. I signed up the group as a "student club" in order to use school facilities as rehearsal space on the weekends. Depending

on availability, we would rehearse in Gleason auditorium, in the all-purpose room of the Student Union building or, as a last resort, in one of the portable classroom buildings. Also, the access to school vehicles was very helpful in hauling equipment around!

I also joined the SGA and volunteered to manage the school's PA system, which entailed signing out the equipment to student groups as needed ... of course, our group needed it as much as any other did!

We performed a number of times in the Rathskeller on campus during the three years the group was together. It was great fun! Even though we may have had differing musical tastes, we worked hard and learned to compromise in order to put together a collection of songs to entertain people.

Nice memories!"



Poster from one of Hit & Run's "Rat" appearances



"Do you know who the two far right fellows are? "

NAMING THE UNIDENTIFIED HIGH KICKERS

More names were submitted for the far right High Kickers in question, including Eugene Ferraro '75 and Chuck Hildebrand '75. However, Bruce Schwab '83, pictured fourth from right, assures us the mystery men are Dave Hill '83 and Tom Terry.



The varsity crew "cheerleaders" pictured here were: Juan Hinestrosa '84, Al Shawcross '83, Steve Fluhr '83, Greg Hogan '84, Steve Somosky '85, Dave Forcucci '83, John Sodano '83, Bruce Schwab '83, Mike McDevitt '84, Dave Hill '83, and Tom Terry.

MORE CELEBRITY MEMORIES

Other big acts readers remember on campus include Ozark Mountain Daredevils, the Amazing Kreskin, General Jimmy Dolittle, Cyndi Lauper, the Bangles, Cheech and Chong and Jimmy Buffett.

Ken Monroe '89 MBA wrote:

"I remember seeing Jimmy Buffett and the Coral Reefer Band circa 1984 or 1985. I think it was a free concert too. A decade later, Buffett was a huge celebrity, commanding top billing, so I was fortunate to see him at FIT's softball field. Thanks FIT!"

Florida Tech Announces Record-Setting \$100 Million Campaign

'Create the Future' effort largest fundraising drive in university's 55-year history.

CREATE THE FUTURE
\$100,000,000
The Florida Tech Capital Campaign



Creating The Future Requires Commitment Today

That was the message as Florida Institute of Technology launched a \$100 million campaign during a black tie President's Ball on the Melbourne campus. On Jan. 25, more than 300 university supporters, alumni and community leaders filled the Clemente Center to celebrate the launch of the Create the Future campaign—Florida Tech's most ambitious fundraising effort, and the largest effort of its kind ever launched in Brevard County.

Florida Tech's last campaign, The Golden Anniversary Campaign, concluded in 2009 and raised \$60 million.

For more information on the campaign, visit: <http://createthefuture.fit.edu>.



John Hartley, Carol Cassidy, Sara Catanese, President Anthony J. Catanese, Jeanne Farmer, Phil Farmer



Intersil Makes Interstellar Gift

The Florida Tech Research and Development Center heralds the launch of the \$100-million Create the Future Campaign thanks to a \$13.1-million donation of a facility and land from Intersil Corp. in Palm Bay.

California-based Intersil Corp. has donated a Palm Bay facility and property valued at \$13.1 million to Florida Tech to create the Florida Tech Research and Development Center. The gift includes 100,494 square feet

of office space, manufacturing and cleanroom facilities in a two-story complex, plus five acres of property located on Palm Bay Road.

Richard Crowley, chief financial officer of Intersil, a leader in the innovation of power management and precision analog ICs, says the company is looking forward to seeing Florida Tech use the space in ways that will better our community.

Known as "Fab 54," the facility has been used to make integrated circuits for major government, defense and aerospace programs. It was also used to make analog and mixed-signal products for consumer electronics and telecommunications equipment.

"We're now looking closely at how we may best use this donation to advance the educational and research mission of Florida Tech," said President and Chief Executive Officer **ANTHONY J. CATANESE**. "As we launch the Create the Future Campaign, a component of which is to ensure Florida Tech has the facilities to support a diverse array of research and student design endeavors, Intersil's gift is a perfect example of how a donation can spur innovation and lead to greater opportunities for global research and exploration."

Launched this January, the Create the Future Campaign is a \$100-million initiative with the goal to secure the financial resources for Florida Institute of Technology to become one of the 10 most respected technological universities in the world. For more information on the Create the Future Campaign, contact **SUSAN ST. ONGE**, senior vice president and chief development officer, at (321) 674-6400.

—Sara Smith



TOP-FLIGHT AVIATION PROGRAM SOARS

FIT Aviation is a world premier university flight training provider, with FAA pilot certificate authority, European pilot certificate authority pending and partnerships that can provide Boeing and Airbus airline type ratings, and its worldwide reputation for aviation excellence is continuing to grow. FIT Aviation has an all glass cockpit fleet of airplanes, the latest flight simulation training devices and access to high altitude chamber training and upset (aerobatics) training.

Current, past and developing international relationships include Technical University of Panama, Copa Airlines (Panama), Turkish Airlines, Air Astana (Kazakhstan), KUST (China), CAFUC (China), ENAC and Skema (France), Vietnam, Nigeria and individual self-pay students from all over Europe, the Caribbean, South America and Asia.

"FIT's worldwide reputation is the prime reason that international airlines and universities wish to partner with us," said **KEN STACKPOOLE**, vice president for aviation programs and executive director of FIT Aviation.

—Christena Callahan

"We currently have 450 pilots in the training program with strategic plans to grow to 750 in five years and 1,200 in 10 years." —Ken Stackpoole



Security Life Savers

Campus Security Sgt. **STEPHEN SULKAZI** and Officer **RICHARD MARROQUIN** received commendations in December for assisting an off-campus woman last fall. The woman was in distress and the officers coordinated with Melbourne Police to ensure she received timely assistance and were credited with saving her life.

A TOP 200 WORLD UNIVERSITY

Florida Tech has risen to the top 200 in the *Times Higher Education* (THE) World University Rankings 2013–2014. The rankings, which include the top 400 universities, worldwide, are based on scores in five categories: teaching, research, citations, industry income and international outlook. Florida Tech scored 99 out of a possible 100 in the citations category, making it #10 in the world for citations.



FUN WITH WORDS AND IDEAS

The 6th Annual Creative Writing Institute, hosted by the School of Arts and Communication, will take place March 16–20 at the Foosner Art Museum. Classes span novel writing and creative non-fiction to poetry and short stories. For more information or to register, visit <http://411.fit.edu/cwi>.

Restoring Research

NEW INSTITUTE WORKS TO IMPROVE AND SUSTAIN THE HEALTH OF THE INDIAN RIVER LAGOON



NEW PROGRAM WILL FUND DOCTORAL STUDENTS

A university priority is to enroll more qualified graduate students. To this end, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer **T. DWAYNE MCCAY** has approved a proposal to implement the Doctoral Graduate Research Assistant Tuition Scholarship (DGRATS).

To become effective sometime in 2014, DGRATS will provide each full-time doctoral graduate research assistant a fully paid tuition totaling about \$50,000. This will be matched by a stipend from university faculty external research funding sources, such as the National Science Foundation and NASA. Through DGRATS, research doctoral student enrollments are projected to increase 60 percent over five years.

"I strongly believe the combination of tuition scholarships and stipend support for qualified graduate students will enhance the quality of our doctoral programs," said McCay. "Not only will this make our faculty research proposals more competitive, it will also support the university's Ph.D. student recruitment, training and retention efforts, and offer graduate students better financial support."

—Maya Oluseyi

For more than 30 years, Florida Tech researchers have studied the Indian River Lagoon, but the estuary's declining health in recent years has elicited statewide alarm.

In response, the university has established the Indian River Lagoon Research Institute (IRLRI) as a collaboration of the university's scientists, engineers, coastal resource managers and educators working independently and with community organizations toward sustainable solutions.

Initial plans call for developing science-based lagoon-scaping projects to return the lagoon to a clean, prosperous and healthy ecosystem. Research activities will focus on developing solutions for existing environmental issues including the chemical and biological impacts of muck sediments and muck removal; internal and external nutrient-loading from muck sediment, tributaries, groundwater, septic tanks and fertilizer; the decline of essential habitats for fish and shellfish populations; and the restoration of those species. Scientists will also conduct numerical forecasting of circulation and water quality and validate the forecasts for use as a management tool.

"The IRL is an important natural resource and economic engine for the area. The lagoon can be brought back, but it will not happen without the community making this a priority," said **ROBERT WEAVER**, director of the new institute.

—Karen Rhine



"We are thrilled to have the Shahs as hosts of our annual fundraiser, An Evening of Hope VI: Night of Wishes. The Shah home will be the perfect location for making the night even more magical with its beautiful views." —Colleen Middlebrooks

Mike and Rashmi Shah will host The Scott Center's An Evening of Hope VI: Night of Wishes event at their home on April 5. Visit www.thescottcenter.org for more information.

Enriching Research

CANARY ISLANDS EYE ON SKY

Thanks to a successful proposal by **DAN BATCHELDOR**, physics and space sciences, faculty and students will increase their ability to make astronomical observations via a telescope in the Canary Islands. Starting in January 2015, students may access the remotely operated 1.0-m Jacobus Kapteyn Telescope (JKT) on the Spanish Canary Island of La Palma, off the coast of Morocco.

NUMERICAL SIMULATION FOR DEFENSE

JU ZHANG, mechanical and aerospace engineering, is a co-principal investigator on a project selected by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) for a \$450,000 award over three years. He and co-researchers will analyze multiscale coupling strategies of the computational tools used in the numerical simulation of chemical reactions and fluid dynamics. The focus will be on predicting the flow dynamics at a macro-scale.

IMPACTS ON AMAZONIAN BIODIVERSITY

MARK BUSH, biological sciences, earned over \$189,000 in funding from the National Science Foundation for an interdisciplinary collaboration with Duke University and other institutions. The teams will investigate the impact of geological processes—mountain building, erosion, and river and soil formation—on the origins of Amazonian biodiversity.

Historical Highlight: The Impact of Dr. Oswald A. Holzer

Over the years, many students have walked into the Holzer Student Health Center, but only a few may know of the man for whom the center is named: **DR. OSWALD A. HOLZER**. His legacy of leadership and public service spanned four continents before reaching Florida Tech.

Holzer graduated from the Charles University Medical School in Prague in 1937 and served as a medical officer in the Czech Republic army. After the Nazis invaded his country in 1939, he fled to China where he met his wife **RUTH LEQUEAR**. As warfare escalated, the couple

moved to the U.S. and later South America, where Holzer served as a physician on oil production fields in Peru and Ecuador.

The family ultimately settled in Florida. After retiring in 1974, Holzer volunteered as the first medical director and physician at Florida Tech, where he remained for 10 years and played a key role in establishing the Student Health Center in 1975. In 1984, the Holzers created the Holzer-Lequear Endowment to support university medical genetics research.

Holzer's daughter, author **JOANIE SCHIRM**, said of her father, "My dad made many

fast friendships among the Florida Tech administration and faculty and was a Florida Tech fan until his passing in 2000. I know he would be thrilled to see the fine progress that this world-class university continues to make!"

She added, "At 16, I worked in his office and witnessed his generosity as he left his legendary 'No Charge' mark on innumerable charge tickets."

Schirm's book, *My Dear Boy: The Discovery of a Lifetime*, to be published soon, features her father's WWII experience and the discovery of letters written to and from him during 1939–46.

—Maya Oluseyi

FOLLIARD, WAKEFIELD JOIN BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Alumni **TOM FOLLIARD** and **TIM WAKEFIELD** are the newest members of Florida Tech's leadership body.

Folliard, president/CEO of CarMax Inc., was inducted into the Florida Tech Sports Hall of Fame in 1996 and, in 2012, was honored with the Jerome P. Keuper Distinguished Alumni Award.

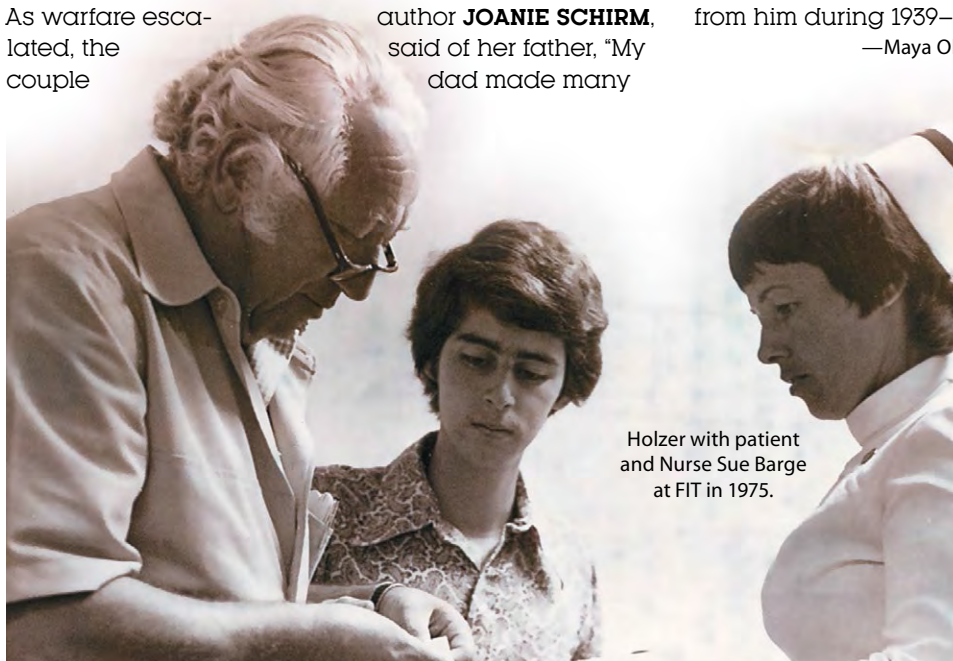


"Rising to lead one of America's most admired companies, Tom represents what's best about American entrepreneurship," said President/CEO **ANTHONY J. CATANESE**. "He's a great role model for professional success and an inspiration to the current generation of Florida Tech students."

Wakefield retired from a distinguished career with the Boston Red Sox in 2012. As a Panther baseball standout, he was team Most Valuable Player in 1987 and 1988. He was inducted into the Florida Tech Sports Hall of Fame in 1993 and was honored with the Alumni Association's Humanitarian Award and the President's Medal.



"Tim's had an outstanding career as a world-class athlete and also become a well-respected philanthropist," Catanesse said. "His leadership is welcomed by Florida Tech. It's an honor to have him join our board."



Holzer with patient and Nurse Sue Barge at FIT in 1975.

COMPOSITE CONNECTOR IN THE COSMOS

A NASA Florida Space Grant Consortium award is funding Professor **RON REICHARD'S** project to improve NASA exploration vehicles. He is designing a multipurpose, quick connect/disconnect composite connector to replace the connectors currently used on NASA exploration vehicles, which are metallic and heavier. The technology can also be used for a composite truss, which could support a 3D printer frame for construction on the moon or Mars.



NEW 'EYE' FOR IMAGING

A grant of \$239,000 to **MICHAEL FENN** and **LARRY HENCH**, biomedical engineering, funds a state-of-the-art Renishaw Reman microscope, which will be the centerpiece of the newly commissioned Center for Medical Materials and Biophotonics. The new system—one of only a few such instruments in the Southeast—will be used for research in cancer diagnostics and treatments, and improving understanding of the tumor micro-environment.

Income for one life:	
Age	Rate
50	3.7
55	4.0
60	4.4
65	4.7
70	5.1
75	5.8
80	6.8
85	7.8
90+	9.0

Income for two lives, joint and survivor:		
Younger age	Older age	Rate
50	55	3.3
55	60	3.7
60	65	4.0
65	70	4.4
70	75	4.8
75	80	5.3
80	85	6.1
85	90	7.3
90	95	8.8

In Your Best Interest: Annuity Ingenuity

Florida Institute of Technology's return on investment (ROI) for students has been rated one of the best in the country. You too can make an investment in Florida Tech with a charitable gift annuity and we will provide you—and a beneficiary if you choose—with a fixed-rate income guaranteed for life.

If you've always wanted to make a gift to Florida Tech but found that living life got in the way all these years, consider a charitable gift annuity. You'll get a tax break and you will be assured of income from your gifted asset for your lifetime. Your money is not gone—it is working for you, which is what every good investment should do. Use our online gift calculator to see exactly what your ROI will be based on your age.

Go to givetofit.org/calculator and design the FIT charitable gift annuity that is a "perfect FIT" with your retirement and financial plans.

The information listed in these tables covers a broad range of ages. If you would like to discuss rates based on your exact age, please call **JEFF SPOERI** at (321) 674-6162 or email jspoeri@fit.edu.

—Sara Smith

"Ultimately, individuals and organizations that learn to leverage cultural understanding will lead, and those that ignore culture will struggle."

—Richard Griffith, executive director of Florida Tech's Institute for Cross Cultural Management

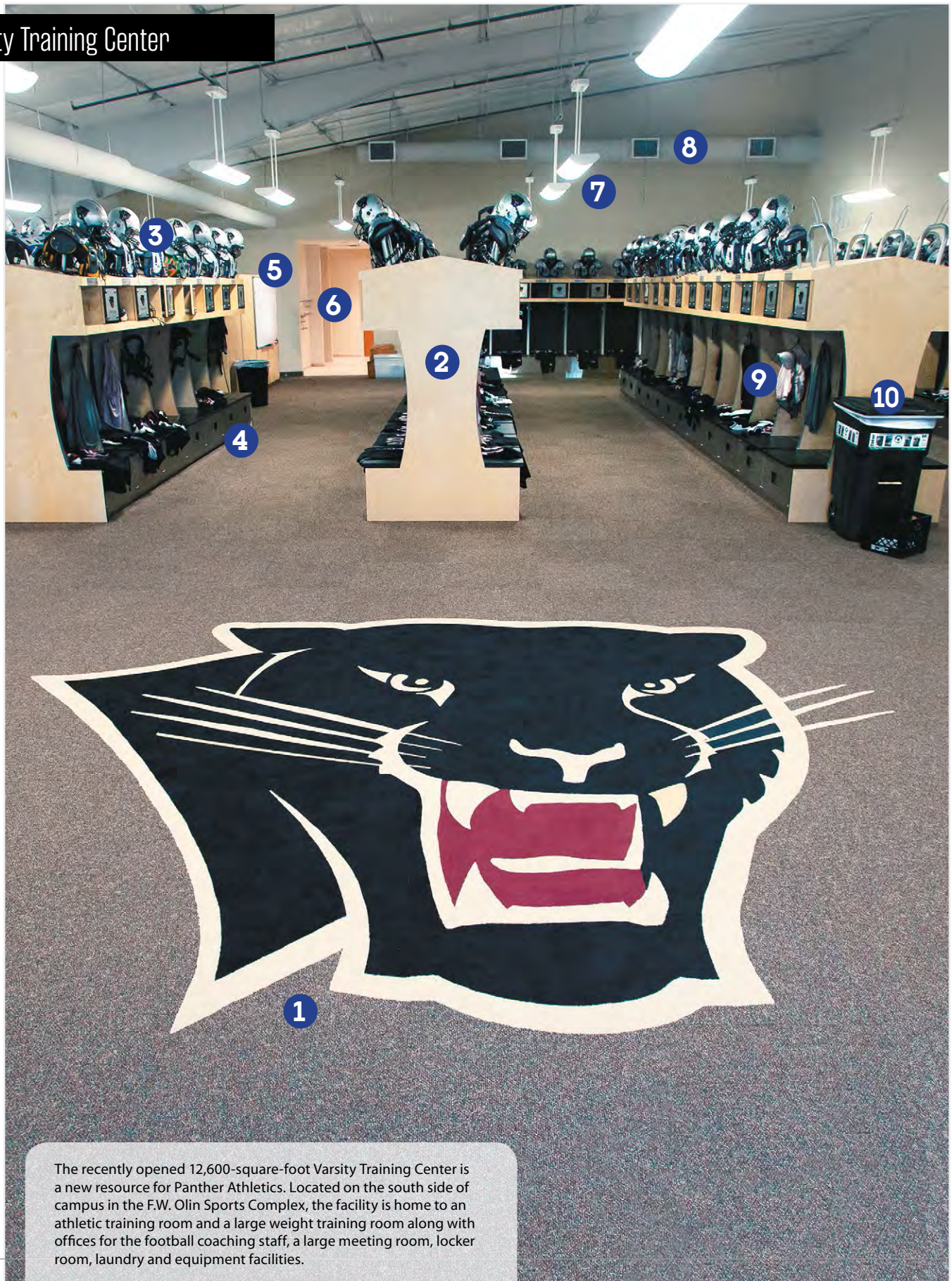
The institute is hosting a Cross Cultural Management Summit March 6–8, 2014, aimed at uniting business leaders and scholars in discussion on cross cultural management challenges and solutions. Learn more at <http://research.fit.edu/iccum/summit>.



Behind the Scenes

- 1 The Panther logo is positioned as the centerpiece in the football locker room. The Panthers walk by it each time they take the practice field at the Varsity Training Center. There is one rule. No one is allowed to step on it!
- 2 Depth is one of the characteristics valued in football. To accommodate the team's large roster are 118 lockers. Each player has his own personal storage cabinet, which is housed inside the door with the Panthers' logo on it. There are also 12 coaches' lockers for head coach Steve Englehart and his coaching staff.
- 3 A new development for football lockers are racks to hold a player's helmet and shoulder pads. These racks allow for ventilation of the equipment.
- 4 At the bottom of each locker is a ventilated shoes cabinet to store cleats.
- 5 The dry erase board outside of the coaches' area is used to post information, such as the practice schedule, travel itinerary and depth chart.
- 6 Showers are available adjacent to the locker room.
- 7 In an effort to reduce costs, motion sensor lights are powered on when the Panthers enter the locker room and are powered down when the sensor does not detect activity.
- 8 Air vents were installed above the lockers to help circulate the air flow.
- 9 A football team goes through a lot of laundry. After practices and games, each player slides his shirt, shorts and socks in what is known as a "loop." This loop of clothing is thrown into a bin for washing. The loops, marked with each player's jersey number, are then returned to each locker upon drying.
- 10 Student-athletes drink a lot of fluids to stay hydrated. The football players are encouraged to recycle their bottles in one of the recycling bins.

Varsity Training Center



The recently opened 12,600-square-foot Varsity Training Center is a new resource for Panther Athletics. Located on the south side of campus in the F.W. Olin Sports Complex, the facility is home to an athletic training room and a large weight training room along with offices for the football coaching staff, a large meeting room, locker room, laundry and equipment facilities.



At the team's homecoming game against UCF's club team, Adam Rieder delivers a pitch to catcher Victor Rada.

STUDENT ORG SPOTLIGHT:

Baseball Club

IN ADDITION TO THE VARSITY SPORT, FLORIDA TECH ALSO OFFERS A CLUB TEAM FOR FANS OF THE GREAT AMERICAN PASTIME.

The Florida Tech Baseball Club plays against local Brevard County adult baseball league teams in the fall and club teams from other Florida universities, including the University of Florida, Florida State and the University of Central Florida, in the spring.

At just over five years old, the team has enjoyed tremendous growth and success. "In the span of two school years, the team went from being lucky to field a full team of nine players on any given day in the local fall league, to consistently carrying a roster of 15–20 players and playing in the National Club Baseball Association," explains head coach **MATTHEW KATONA '10**, a founding member of the club.

While the team's practice schedule is highly variable, depending upon the members' availability and that of field space, the players are dedicated and united by a deep love for the game.

"Players join because they love to play baseball," says Katona. "Chances are that plenty of our players would no longer be playing baseball if it weren't for the Baseball Club. The memories and friends made will surely last a lifetime."

To learn more or see the game schedule, visit <http://activities.fit.edu/ftbc>.

—Christena Callahan

ART IN THE NEW YEAR

New year, new art. The Ruth Funk Center for Textile Arts starts 2014 with Tying the Knot: Global Wedding Costume and Ritual, Jan. 18–April 26. For information, visit <http://textiles.fit.edu>.

Tying the Knot

Global Wedding Costume and Ritual
January 18 – April 26, 2014

At the Foosaner Art Museum, the year's first new exhibit is Inciteful Clay, Jan. 25–March 16, a look at contemporary ceramics dedicated to social commentary. Visit: www.foosanerartmuseum.org.

Inciteful Clay

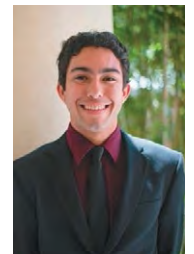
A Program of ExhibitsUSA, a national division of Mid-America Arts Alliance and The National Endowment for the Arts

YOUNG INNOVATOR

Just 20 years old and the youngest December 2013 bachelor's degree graduate, **RANDY**

STOCKMAN

was one of 22 chosen nationwide as a University Innovation Fellow. Funded by the National Science



Foundation, the one-year grant will allow him to continue on for a Florida Tech master's degree in computer information systems while he works full-time as a computer engineer for a NASA Kennedy Space Center contractor.

MILLION-DOLLAR RESEARCHERS

Ten faculty researchers are in what might be called "The Million Dollar Club." Each has active contracts totaling from \$1 million to \$2.5 million. They teach, conduct research and excel at earning funding. These major grant-getters are **MARCO CARVALHO, JOHN WINDSOR, GEOFFREY SWAIN, MARK BUSH, ALAN LEONARD, LAZSLO BAKSAY, MING ZHANG, JOSEPH DWYER, BRIAN LAIL** and **GUY BOY**.



CONNECTED TO THE WORLD

Last November, Florida Tech celebrated 25 years of connectivity, marking the day in 1988 when the university was issued a Class C IP address. This established Florida Tech as a node on what was then known as the NSFNET, connecting to the Internet through the University of Florida via a dial-up modem. Communication technology on campus has come a long way!

etc.

Worldwide Startup Buzz



Florida Tech's inaugural Startup Weekend Space Coast, sponsored in partnership with local business incubator TrepHub, nearly topped the Twitterverse on the topic. Part of a global grassroots movement focused on founding startups and launching successful ventures,

local participants had the opportunity to pitch their ideas, break into groups, build a prototype within 54 hours and present it to judges, investors and the community.



Celebrity Connection

Alex & Sierra, the winning duo on season 3 of "The X Factor," inspired plenty of Panther pride and support. Sierra is the daughter of **JOHN DEATON**, professor in the College of Aeronautics. As the winning contestants in the singing competition, the duo won a \$1 million recording contract with Sony Records and will release an album this spring. Follow them on Facebook at Alex and Sierra Music or on Twitter @AlexandSierra3.

Panthers Protect Manatee

Eight months after a distressed manatee was found in the Indian River Lagoon by head volleyball coach **AMY O'BRIEN '09**, she joined three football coaches, SeaWorld Rescue and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in releasing it back into the lagoon after it was treated for watercraft injuries.



Pole to Pole Science

The team, from left, Cecilia J. Brothers (UAB), Katie Smith, Steph Vos and Dan Ellis, in their survival suits.



Follow the expedition of Professor **RICH ARONSON** and his graduate colleagues who studied the ecology of Antarctic king crabs this winter. The team used an underwater camera to collect images of the ocean floor at depths between 400 and 1500 meters and blogged daily about the activities aboard their research ship: poletopolescience.blogspot.com

Photos by Steph Vos/poletopolescience.blogspot.com



The path left behind the research vessel

A HISTORIC INDUCTION CLASS

This year's Florida Tech Sports Hall of Fame class stands out for one simple reason: Every inductee made history.

From winning championships to changing the entire scope of the Panthers' athletic program, the honorees helped bring national recognition to Florida Tech.

For those accomplishments, they will be inducted on Feb. 28. Here's a closer look at this year's class:

ANTHONY J. CATANESE

Since arriving on campus in July 2002, Catanese has increased the number of sports programs at Florida Tech from 10 to 22. He has also increased the number of student-athletes from 240 to 600.

The debut of the Panthers' football team this past season was the crowning achievement.

"I just love sports," Catanese said. "I think it's such an intrinsic part of the college experience."

Florida Tech's success both on the field and in the classroom has helped fulfill the president's vision that a technological college can have smart students, who can still be outstanding athletes.

To Catanese, being a Florida Tech Panther is all about pride—in your school, in where you work and in the community in which you live.

"I think it's really a terrific mascot," he said. "It really does convey an image of strength and elegance and grace. I love being a Panther."

DANIELA IACOBELLI '09

The 2007 NCAA Division II Individual National Golf Champion and Sunshine State Conference Champion will never forget her time at Florida Tech.

"I wouldn't trade it for the world," Iacobelli said. "It was so awesome to have professors and staff rooting for me while I was at tournaments. I don't think I would have had that at a different school."

Iacobelli, the first national golf champion in Florida Tech history, is now continuing to chase her dream of being a professional golfer.

Winning the national title wasn't where that goal began, but it certainly helped give her the confidence that anything is possible if you work hard enough.

"It's always been a lifelong dream," she said. "That week was validation that if I work hard enough, I will be good enough."



1981-82 Women's Varsity Four

2001-02 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

DELICIA (PHILLIPS) LEWIS '03 was both surprised and honored to find out she and her teammates were going to be Hall of Famers.

"It's a great, great feeling," the former Panthers center said. "It's overwhelming and humbling."

The Panthers went 26-6, winning the Sunshine State Conference Tournament in the Clemente Center, then going on to win the NCAA Division II South Region, becoming the first Florida Tech women's team to advance to the Elite Eight.

Among the many memories Lewis holds from that historic season was when the team gathered in head coach **JOHN REYNOLDS'** hotel room at the Elite Eight for their usual film session.

"He showed the first practice that we had (as freshmen)," Lewis said. "He recorded it. I remember sitting there in tears because we saw (how much we'd grown)."

1981-82 WOMEN'S VARSITY FOUR

LAURIE KUESTNER '83 didn't plan on rowing when she first came to Florida Tech.

"It was just something interesting to me (so) I thought I would try it out, and I fell in love with it," she said.

Not only that, Kuestner was the team captain for what became the first Florida Tech women's crew to win a national championship at the Dad Vail Regatta and win gold at the Head of the Charles.

The crew, coached by **MIKE DAVENPORT**, consisted of Kuestner, **CHRISTINE BREDEKAMP '85** and **SUE (BROWN) WASIK '84** with **SHARON GALLAGHER '84** and **SHARON TREPICCIONE '85** always challenging to be the fourth rower. **JOANN (ALDEN) MICHALSKY '84** was the coxswain.

Among the many things Kuestner said she took from her Florida Tech rowing experience was the realization that hard work and dedication can have a very successful outcome.

It certainly did for Kuestner. She's now a vascular surgeon.

—Carl Kotala

FLORIDATECHSPORTS.COM
 The official website of Florida Tech Athletics

FOOTBALL WINS FIRST-EVER BOWL GAME

Up against fellow first-year program Alderson Broaddus University in Philippi, W. Va., the football team won the first-ever Eastern College Athletic Conference Division II Futures Bowl 32-20.



PANTHER BASKETBALL ON ESPN SPORTSCENTER ... AGAIN

CORBIN JACKSON, a sophomore business administration major, wowed the crowd with a ferocious dunk against Lynn University. The highlight ranked as high as No. 3 on SportsCenter's Top 10 Plays. A men's basketball player has now been on ESPN in each of the last three years.



MISS EARTH TOP 16 FINALIST

EZGI AVCI, a junior business administration major and member of the volleyball team, from Istanbul, Turkey, placed in the top 16 at the Miss Earth Pageant in Manila, Philippines. The event's candidates and winners actively promote and get involved in the preservation of the environment and the protection of Mother Earth. The competition was her first-ever beauty pageant.



RECORD YEAR FOR SWIMMING

The men's and women's swimming teams continued their development this season. The men posted their first winning record at 6-4 overall and the women doubled last year's wins total with four victories. Both programs are only in their third year of competition.



WOMEN'S SOCCER COMPETES IN NCAA TOURNAMENT

The women's soccer team advanced to the NCAA Division II Tournament for the fifth time in its 12-year history last fall and won its first-round game over Valdosta State, 1-0.

SOCCER LIGHTS ILLUMINATE THE SKY

The men's and women's soccer teams played their first night games under the new lights at Rick Stottler Field against Rollins in September. Prior to the women's game, members of the 1988 NCAA Division II Men's Soccer National Championship team were recognized in a 25-year anniversary ceremony.



OUR OWN IRONMAN DANIELLE QUINN

'06, assistant women's basketball coach, finished an Ironman Triathlon in 16:33.67. She swam 2.4 miles, biked 112 miles and ran 26.2 miles.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE BEGINS TO LAY FOUNDATION

Head women's lacrosse coach **CORINNE DESROSIERS** announced the addition of a seven-member signing class in early December. The team will begin practicing this fall and play its first official season in spring 2015.





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One Big Question

with Sohair Wastawy

Q. HOW ARE LIBRARIES EVOLVING IN THE 21ST CENTURY?

Today, in the age of technology, libraries are assuming new roles that differ from their traditional past as knowledge repositories; they are becoming more inclusive, hybrid learning organizations.

When we speak of the future of the academic library, we cannot consider it apart from its parent organization, the university. In this digital world, universities are becoming more global entities. Today, we are engaged in conversations about online learning, eScience, digital humanities, geospatial thinking, interdisciplinary research and big data, just to mention a few. This is not only challenging the academy but also challenging and changing the library profoundly.

There is no doubt that libraries will continue to provide new resources to their users, but I believe that library services will change and evolve like the academy. Librarians will be offering deeper research assistance and becoming faculty research partners; they will interact with students at progressive levels of value-added functionality ranging from metadata harvesting to using visualization tools to deepen experience and understanding. They will provide assurance of authenticity and persistence of digital data and preserve the scholarship heritage of print and its digital surrogates.

The 21st century library space will undergo a radical change. Students no longer need just a table and chair to do their work. Collaborative workspaces, interactive technologies and artistic exhibits are all parts of the learning process and the evolution of libraries.

At Florida Tech, the library is deeply woven into the fabric of learning and discovery and has been moving toward becoming the digital scholarship lab and the scholar's partner in research. Working at the nexus of disciplines and across boundaries, the Evans Library will have the flexibility, expertise and organizational capacity needed to support our students and faculty and will play a central role in the university's quest for distinction and drive for excellence.

Sohair Wastawy joined Florida Tech as dean of libraries in October 2013. She leads Evans Library in its mission of supporting the needs of Florida Tech, including providing vision and direction as the library evolves to support research, learning and teaching in the 21st century. Her previous posts include professor and dean of university libraries at Illinois State University and chief librarian for the New Library of Alexandria, Egypt. She earned her doctoral degree in library and information management from Simmons College in Boston, Mass.



55 Things We Love About

In no particular order, in no particular rank and certainly not at the exclusion of many other lovely things, we present the 55 things you love:

our donors

We are grateful for the generosity of our donors—from the opportunities made possible by campus-changing improvements to the personal achievements funded through scholarships and annual gifts.

our celebrities

Astronauts and four-star generals, professional athletes and entrepreneurs, countless scientists, engineers, aviators and business leaders are among our alumni ranks increasing our Panther pride every day with their accomplishments big and small.

rain storms

From hurricane parties to “walking barefoot around campus in giant puddles trying to get to class just after a heavy summer thunderstorm” to world-renowned lightning research, there’s something to be said for a rainy day.

accolades

Florida Tech continues to grow in worldwide recognition and prestige. The university is a Tier One Best National University according to *U.S. News & World Report* and is recognized as one of the Top 200 universities in the world by *Times Higher Education*.

athletic national championships

Florida Tech is home to two NCAA Division II Men’s Soccer National Championships, two Dad Vail Men’s Varsity Eight National Titles and one NCAA Division II Women’s Golf Individual National Champion, Daniela Iacobelli.

academic champions

Florida Tech firsts aren’t limited to the field. Among other highlights, in 1997, Florida Tech took first place in the ASCE’s national concrete canoe competition, and in 2008, 2011 and 2012, the Student Rocket Society’s hybrid rocket teams took home the top prize in the Florida Space Grant Consortium/Northeast Florida Association of Rocketry’s competition flights.

fit historian

As university historian and professor in the School of Arts and Communication, Gordon Patterson preserves the history and heritage of the university.

Florida Tech is celebrating 55 years this academic year.

In 55 short years, still considered adolescence in the life of the academy, the university has grown and excelled in remarkable ways—steadily gaining in prestige and recognition, and we couldn’t be more proud. So to celebrate, we’ve named 55 things we love about the university, compiled from alumni-, student-, faculty- and staff-submitted feedback over the last six months.



finding true love

When Bob Pratt '95, '98 M.S., and Cindy Dwyer '97 visited campus in 2003, after a successful fundraising campaign for the Panther Statue in front of the Denius Student Center, Bob had a surprise for Cindy. “When I showed her the donor plaque, it said ‘Bob and Cindy Pratt’ and I proposed at the statue,” he said. “I love the fact he had the confidence I would say yes,” she said.

“I met my husband, Matthew Medvecky, on the first day of freshman orientation 2002. We started dating within days and we’ve been married for seven years. Now that’s an awesome beginning-of-school memory.” —Rebecca Medvecky '06

“I met my wife, Amy Nelson, during the first week of school in 2003. Even though the education was top-notch, she was the best thing FIT did for me.” —Zach Nelson '07



move-in day

“August 2000—made two lifelong friends when the folks didn’t pick us up at the airport and campus security didn’t let us in our dorms. We had to get bunk beds at the Hilton. Fun first day in the USA. Turned out ok in the end.” —Oytun Askin '03

the jungle

The Botanical Garden has been an integral part of campus since the university first acquired the land in 1960. In 1972, the board of trustees formally dedicated “the jungle” as a botanical garden. From student sanctuary to beleaguered backwoods to community treasure, today it is a prized location for weddings, sustainability action and scenic strolls.



size

“I always loved the small size of the student population. Florida Tech is an ‘everyone knows everyone’ college due to its size.” —Lora Vlahos Webb '02

“Now I love how much FIT has grown. I hope it still feels small though!” —Wally Tubell '84

shuttle launches

“The teacher’s alarm suddenly went off in the middle of class and he suggested we all go outside to watch the launch. So here we were on a beautiful Florida afternoon sitting on the grass in the Quad watching a space shuttle go up. I mean how many other universities could ever claim of providing a similar opportunity?” —Nikhil Nilakantan '00



making music

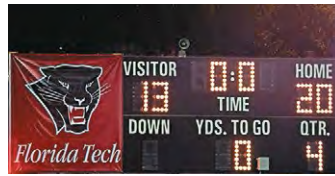
“My proudest moments are watching students practice their ensemble music together outside of class and noting that one of them might be a meteorology major, while the others could be studying engineering or psychology. Everyone is welcome in music here.” —Jamie Younkin, music program director and professor



Florida Tech!



learning to fly



20-13

In a bit of record book serendipity, Panther football ushered in a new era of Florida Tech athletics with its inaugural win against the Stetson University Hatters 20-13 in 2013.



the bork

In the late 1960s, the legendary BORK roamed the FIT campus—causing mayhem in The Jungle and captivating the student body's collective funny bone. The BORK was an unofficial brother of the DDT fraternity, and its footprint even adorned merchandise in the campus bookstore for a time. The last reported BORK encounter occurred in 1970.



study abroad

"Studying abroad is, to this day, the single most important decision I've ever made." —Jenny McCoy '06

friday night movies at gleason

"It was usually a relatively current movie with two showings, one early, one late. Everybody was there. It was a great night out. I remember seeing my first Dirty Harry movie there."
—George Poidimani '73

celebrities on campus

We love spotting celebrities on campus, and over the years, we've hosted many big names including Bill Nye (pictured), Cyndi Lauper, Jimmy Buffett, President Barack Obama, Vice President Al Gore and more.



casual chic

Current students may take Florida Tech's casual style and year-round acceptance of flips flops for granted, but in the early days, rigorous study meant rigorous attire too. By the early 70s, students rejected the rigid dress code ... in their birthday suits! In March 1974, more than 500 students streaked across campus in a tradition that was sweeping college campuses at the time.



ice hockey

"I love that we have an Ice Hockey Team at Florida Tech. You would never expect that we have one, or that anybody cares—but the fans are great and the homecoming games are the best events at school!"
—Mark Stroik '06



pete



- alumni receptions
- night life
- college players
- gleason
- greek life
- rotc
- homecoming
- panther statue
- chao tsu-yu clock
- jpk statue
- wfit
- our founder
- classes outside
- buffalo chicken wrap
- graduation
- trolley
- bill jurgens
- student design
- skateboarding
- beach
- panther pride
- orlando attractions
- international festival
- florida tech "all hail"
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- high tech with a human touch
- the people
- jensen beach
- community service
- midnight madness
- hedgcock gym
- all faiths center
- crew
- the crimson

EXPERT ADVICE:

Plant Wise

Spring is approaching, which means more time for outdoor fun and gardening. In preparation, *Florida Tech Today* asked our resident horticulturist Holly Chichester, who manages the Florida Tech botanical garden among other campus grounds projects, about things to consider when choosing landscaping for your home.

“Properly placed and maintained landscape plants can increase the value of your home or business,” Chichester says. “Poor plant choices, however, can become a maintenance issue and create an unsightly landscape and are what my dad calls a ‘make work project.’ A little homework before planting will pay off down the line.”

What are the space considerations? How big does the plant get and how fast does it grow?

That perky three-gallon variegated ginger is super cute right next to your front door today, but next year, you could be struggling to enter and exit your own home. And remember,

“dwarf” doesn’t always mean “small.” It generally just means “slower growing.” Be sure to always check the maximum height and width of the mature plant.

Does the plant have showy flowers and fruit?

We all love flowers and fruit (even if those berries are meant for wildlife), but consider things like how both attract bees and insects as well as the litter of spent blooms and dropped fruit when placing the plant in your landscape.

What type of landscape maintenance am I willing to provide?

Quite simply, there are some seriously “high

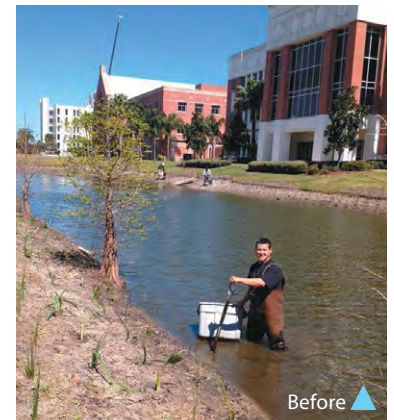
maintenance” plants out there. Unless you are or employ a horticulturist, choose wisely when it comes to what kind of effort and expense you’re willing to put into the plant beyond installation.

Are there any regulations or local ordinances preventing me from planting?

This is a big one, especially with homeowner’s associations or municipalities. Both of these entities have landscape ordinances and lists of acceptable trees and shrubs, as well as plants they do not allow. And they rarely subscribe to the theory of asking forgiveness instead of permission.

Does the plant have interesting bark or branches?

Plants have so many wonderful characteristics beyond pretty flowers and fall foliage. Once the leaves fall, having interesting architectural branch structure or exfoliating bark still gives your landscape some winter appeal ... even in Florida!



Olin Pond Emergent Plants Project

After ▶



“Marginal and emergent plant species offer food and habitat to a variety of wildlife species. They play an integral role in bank stabilization and nutrient filtration. Olin Pond had seen some erosion along the edges over the years and, quite frankly, it was a pretty uninspiring space, serving only water retention and minor aesthetic functions. Now, we’ve added ‘wildlife habitat’ to the pond’s sense of purpose. Plus, it looks much softer and inviting. At least, the dragonflies think so.”

Holly Chichester is the university horticulturist and manager of grounds operations for Florida Tech. She was the project manager of the Olin Pond emergent plants project, which was sponsored by the Quality of Life committee and installed by Beeman Nursery. A native of Virginia, she moved to Florida in 2005 to enjoy warmer weather and tropical plants. She is a graduate of George Mason University and Virginia Tech. Prior to joining Florida Tech, she was the city horticulturist for Staunton, Va., and a landscape account and project manager for several firms in south Florida.

In 2014, the Arbor Day Foundation recognized Florida Tech as a **Tree Campus USA** for the university's dedication to campus forestry management and environmental stewardship. "It's more than just planting trees and palms. Being a Tree Campus USA keeps us accountable for the university's urban forest and allows us to illustrate how we will be using and caring for the trees on campus in the future," said Chichester.



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Marginal and Emergent Plants

In nature, marginal plants are found along the edges of a pond or in shallow bays where the roots are attached to the muddy bottom. These plants are often called **emergents** because portions of their stems grow above water. Common examples include canna, iris and arrowhead. Marginal plants usually grow in water 1-2 inches deep, but can survive fluctuations in tide or seasonal pond depth. Aside from being attractive, wetland plants serve a purpose. Not only do they provide habitat for wildlife above and below the water, wetland plants produce oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide. They improve water quality by removing fertilizers such as nitrogen and phosphorus, and by doing so, help control algal blooms that can cause fish kills. Wetland plants also filter stormwater runoff, help control erosion and, of course, contribute to the aesthetic beauty of ponds and reservoirs.



Sparganium angustifolium
Common Name: Sparganium
This plant is a large, bushy, emergent plant that grows in shallow water and is often found in wetlands. It has long, narrow leaves and small, white flowers.



Level 1



Level 2



Level 3



Level 4



Najas spirogyra
Common Name: Naispina
This is a green, filamentous alga that grows in shallow water. It is often found in wetlands and is known for its ability to form dense mats.



Potamogeton nodosus
Common Name: Noddy
This is a green, emergent plant that grows in shallow water. It has long, narrow leaves and small, white flowers.



Juncus effusus
Common Name: Soft Rush
One of the most common species of Juncus, the soft rush can be found in a variety of wetland habitats. It has long, narrow leaves and small, white flowers.

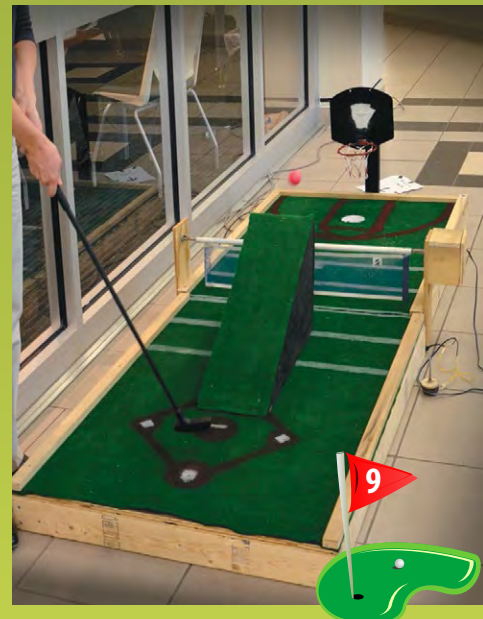


Canna flaccida
Common Name: Canna
This is the native Canna of the southeast. The Florida Canna has been heavily hybridized and may also be found in well-irrigated residential gardens. It has long, narrow leaves and large, colorful flowers.



Sagittaria lancifolia
Common Name: Arrowhead
This is a green, emergent plant that grows in shallow water. It has large, arrow-shaped leaves and small, white flowers.

This sustainable wetlands project sponsored by the Florida Tech Quality of Life Committee.



MINIGOLF AT PANTHER LINKS



MiniGolf at Panther Links was a semester-long design project that challenged first-year engineering students to design and build a mini golf hole. Working in teams, the students tackled problem solving, construction skills and engineering principles, while accounting for aesthetics, build quality and difficulty (each team determined their hole's par).



The experience helped students demonstrate:

- Interdisciplinary teamwork
- Verbal and written communication skills
- Design-related problem solving skills
- Knowledge of their chosen major and other engineering majors
- Construction skills

Nearly 200 golfers enjoyed the nine-hole course—they combined chance, putting skill and geometric analysis, while seeing fundamental engineering principles at work.

“Ultimately, I wanted the general engineering students to build something fun and interesting that would incorporate multiple engineering disciplines (so they can better select their major) and be able to showcase the projects to campus so everyone could see what a freshman engineering student is capable of.”

—Matthew Jensen, assistant professor

THE CHALLENGE

Each team's mini golf hole was judged on the following criteria:

- (20%) Construction quality (determined by judges)
- (30%) Aesthetics and fun-ness (as voted on by the participants)
- (20%) Accurate CAD drawing of the design and or major feature(s)
- (30%) Final presentation and write-up

Penalties:

- (10%) If you run over budget (based on receipts submitted for reimbursement)
- (2%) Every half stroke above/below your designated par based on the average score of participants

LESSONS LEARNED:

- Don't procrastinate
- Responsibility and organization are very important
- Testing is your friend, especially electronics
- Importance of working together as a group
- Everyone has their strengths and weaknesses
- Mistakes have valuable lessons

Thanks to our Sponsors: Communications International and SGD Golf





Cultivating **STEM**^{XX}

APPRECIATING THE FEMALE FACTOR IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS

As a child, Amy Simon '93 would often look toward the night sky, wide-eyed, and contemplate the infinite worlds that lay beyond her own. She'd never heard of STEM—the modern day acronym for science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

She just knew she wanted
to be a space scientist.

"I was always begging my parents to let me stay up and see lunar eclipses, and I remember seeing the nightly news coverage of the Voyager 1 and 2 planetary flybys in the outer solar system and being amazed by the beautiful images of these unknown worlds. Then, when the space shuttle program began and Sally Ride became the first female American astronaut, I was hooked," Simon said.



Amy Simon '93

The number of women obtaining advanced degrees in STEM fields is steadily increasing at Florida Tech. From 1982 to the present, female enrollment in STEM graduate programs has nearly doubled.

Simon, the associate director for strategic science in the Solar System Exploration Division at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland, had few other female role models illuminating her way into the sciences and was often one of a handful of women in her advanced math and science courses.

Today, women's enrollment in STEM-related studies is increasing; however, their outlook on advancement and retention in such fields is more complex. A recent *New York Times* article analyzing barriers to entry for women in STEM disciplines cited factors such as fewer peers, lack of mentorship and limited examples of pathways to success in the field as problematic, but noted "the most powerful determinant of whether a woman goes on in science might be whether anyone encourages her to go on."

Urgency to prepare the next generation of STEM professionals is at a fever pitch in higher education. As the building blocks of innovation, the fields are critical to technological advancement. Yet, the United States is precariously low on producing the number of such graduates needed to maintain the country's "historic preeminence" in the fields, according to a report by the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.

The number of women obtaining advanced degrees in STEM fields is steadily increasing at Florida Tech. From 1982 to the present, female enrollment in STEM graduate programs has nearly doubled. And, growth in full-time female faculty has also increased—by 67 percent. In fall 2013, the department of computer science—with a master's program that has graduated an average of 17% female students over the last 13 years—hired its first full-time female faculty member.

Cultivating greater interest in STEM-related studies lies not only in encouraging greater participation, such as attracting more women and minorities to the fields, but also in improving, overall, how students are introduced to the topics.

Hands-on science and engineering tasks are fairly commonplace and have ignited the STEM spark for many women, like **LAURA SLOVEY** '04, flight test engineer for NAVAIR, who fondly remembers the traveling Star Lab planetarium that visited her elementary school and building model rockets in middle school.

Mathematics, on the other hand, has long been plagued by unimaginative teaching in the foundational years.

"Not many people know a mathematician or what they do," said **EILEEN CORELLI** '89 M.S. "Everybody knows what a chemist or an engineer does, but not a lot of people know how math is applied in these fields."

As a doctoral student in operations research, Corelli says she still asks herself such questions despite more than 20 years as an applied mathematician. The future of math, she believes, is in its application—teaching students how to harness the power of math to solve problems in a variety of disciplines, not just toiling over formulas in isolation.





“Mentoring is essential in encouraging and engaging students in STEM education. As a mentor, I hope that my experience and encouragement will make a difference in young mathematicians’ lives.”

Semen Koksal,
vice president for academic affairs
and founder of the
biomathematics program

Programs like Florida Tech’s biomathematics degree, introduced in fall 2010, promote this interdisciplinary focus. “The biomathematics program is a natural extension of research collaborations between biology and mathematics at Florida Tech,” said **SEMEN KOKSAL**, vice president for academic affairs and founder of the program. “While still in its infancy, the program has exposed a significant number of biology students to upper-level math courses and mathematical research and exposed math students to the biological sciences. Just a couple of decades ago, these types of interactions were extremely rare.”

Also, new offerings like the STEM education major seek to prepare expert educators who can continue to inspire young minds. As a university rooted in the study of science and engineering, such progress is intrinsic.

For Florida Tech women in STEM—current students, faculty members and alumnae interviewed for this story—their experiences were remarkably similar.

While each experienced varying challenges in her pursuit of a STEM-focused discipline, none were particularly concerned. Overwhelmingly, the group’s greatest desires were to prove naysayers wrong, make their way on their own merits and make a difference in a discipline they loved.

Many have chosen to mentor younger STEM-inclined students of either gender, both formally and informally.

“Mentoring is essential in encouraging and engaging students in STEM education,” said Koksal, who mentors students through the Association of Women in Mathematics. “In fact, a Lemelson-MIT survey found that a lack of mentorship and networking may be a huge factor in discouraging teenagers from pursuing STEM careers, so it is important that students understand what people in these fields do. As a mentor, I hope that my experience and encouragement will make a difference in young mathematicians’ lives.”

—Christena Callahan

ALUMNI NEWS

FROM THE FTAA PRESIDENT

DUANE E. DE FREESE '82 M.S., '88 PH.D.



Dear Florida Tech Alumni,
Students, Parents and Friends:

It is with great pride and a deep sense of humility that I share this first letter as president of the Florida Tech Alumni Association (FTAA) for 2014. The FTAA is your connection to an impressive network of people who represent a collective voice of more than 60,000 alumni from over 120 countries and a growing list of national and international alumni chapters.

Over the next several months and years, the FTAA will strengthen the bond between Florida Tech and you, our alumni. You are all "Panther Family," and we want to hear from you. We want to invite you and your families back to campus for community events and milestones. We want you to witness a campus in a transformation toward global leadership, innovation and academic excellence. We want to serve as a valuable resource for you when needed.

Recent national surveys have documented the high value that a Florida Tech education contributes to our careers, families and lives. Our alumni are shaping the future of the world with their knowledge, experience and passion.

As alumni, you represent our best ambassadors, loyal supporters, and most valued network connections for recent graduates looking for career opportunities, and exceptional role models for current and future students.

On behalf of the Alumni Association board and the university, we thank you for your strong and continuing support. We want to hear from you! Connect with us at <http://alumni.fit.edu>.

Duane E. De Freese '82 M.S., '88 Ph.D.

YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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New Jersey



Brian Potter '09, Lorna Polhemus, Richard Polhemus '94, Robert Feury Jr. '96, Patrick Whelan '09, Kyra Labisi



Garry Miller '70, Carrie Kanner, President Catanese



Jonathan Zung '86, Nicholas Wagner '03

Chicago



Alexander Weinstein, Benjamin Stewart '10, Milton Anderson '82



Megan Bateman '02 wins a Florida Tech pendant from President Catanese



CHICAGO CITY SPOTLIGHT

FIT's GEICO representative, **Chris LeMaster**, recommends:



Best Chicago Deep-Dish Pizza

Lou Malnati's Pizzeria—The buttery crust, lots of cheese and fresh ingredients give Lou Malnati's my vote over Giordano's and Ginos East. www.loumalnatis.com

Must See in Chicago

Millennium Park—There are year-round reasons to visit Millennium Park, but the Cloud Gate sculpture (aka "The Bean") is the park's centerpiece and a great place for photos.

Best Sports Venue

Wrigley Field—You would be hard-pressed to find a ballpark in America with more personality than The Friendly Confines of Wrigley. There is nothing like a sunny summer afternoon game on the North Side, even if the Cubs aren't winning.

Read more of LeMaster's Chicago picks at <http://today.fit.edu>.



Chetan Malavia '93, Arun Shah '73, Mahendra Shah '74, Bino Campanini '90, '92 MBA

Raleigh

Chapter gathered at Brewmasters Bar & Grill



John Valente '76, Dexter Mallory '13



There's no place like **HOMECOMING**

The biggest single event in FIT history!



"Bigger and better than last year! Congratulations!"
—Dr. Catanese



5K RUN



524
Attendees

55th
Anniversary

GALA

62 Bottles of
Champagne

6
Awards

"It was a first class event.
The Clemente Center looked
spectacular!"

—Teresa Ho '98

Homecoming Award Winners

College of Aeronautics—Skurla Award
Nathan M. Bisk College of Business
College of Engineering
College of Psychology and Liberal Arts
College of Science
Jerome P. Keuper Distinguished
Alumni Award 2013

Nelson Cambata '78
Teresa Ho '98
Tino Alavie, Ph.D. '92
Gregory Price, Ph.D. '80
Jonathan Zung, Ph.D. '86

Robert L. Phebus Jr. '74 (pictured)



3.1 Miles

202 Runners

1 Irish Pub





Downtown
Melbourne

15,000+
People



FOOTBALL



Score! 37-3





"A major rock concert, tailgating and a Homecoming football game ... it was awesome!"
—Andy Kirbach '90



3 Bands



share your news!
Submit your AlumNotes to alumni@fit.edu

1970s

MIKE USSAK '72 is retired. He and wife AnnMarie have two daughters, Marianne and Amanda, and one grandchild, Peter.

ARUN SHAH '73 M.S. is an engineering manager with Cinch Connectors. He has been married for 36 years and has two children.

ROSANN KRYCZKOWSKI '74 took early retirement to start her own consulting firm and enjoy time with her daughter Lily, 13, and other family members. She is a Certified Safety Professional (CSP) and a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH).



JOSEPH MATTHEWS '74 and wife Jane, of Indialantic, Fla., wrote the action adventure, *Janjaweed—*

Devils on Horseback and followed up in 2013 with the sequel, *Kweli—The Truth Unmasked*. They also celebrated their 44th wedding anniversary in August 2013 and are proud parents of four sons and two grandchildren. Joseph is currently employed as a systems analyst in information technology. His hobby is kayaking.

JEANNETTE "JET" QUAID '74 recently moved to Washington state.

MAHENDRA SHAH '74 M.S. is a senior staff engineer with Exelon Corp. He has been married to Nila Shah for 37 years, and they have two children, Chirag and Manisha.

JOHN VALENTE '76, '81 M.S., is a senior project manager with GE Nuclear in Wilmington, N.C. He has been happily married to Pam for 22 years. He is looking forward to seeing FIT alumni in the area at the next Raleigh alumni chapter meeting in spring 2014.



PETE THE PANTHER causes some trouble in a 5-liter wash reactor with his buddy **DAREL**

GUSTAFSON '77 at his company Henkel Loctite in Rocky Hill, Conn.

1980s

JOHN LATHEROW '81 M.S. and **DEBORAH MINOR** '93 both earned 2013 Hall of Fame awards at the Brevard Exemplary Science Teacher ceremony in August 2013. Latherow is a biology and environmental teacher at Satellite High School in Satellite Beach, Fla., and has provided mentoring for award-winning science fair projects. Minor teaches chemistry and is science department chair at Eau Gallie High School in Melbourne. She is married with one daughter and three grandchildren.

GAIL H. GORDON '85 received a Federal Women's Program Outstanding Achievement Award from NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. She is the branch chief of the Materials Test Branch of the Marshall Center's Materials and Processes Laboratory, a key facility within the center's Engineering Directorate. Since 1990, Gordon has served in a number of successive leadership roles in the laboratory.

AMEEN SARKEES '89 is an engineer with Lockheed Martin. He married Rosalind (Roz) Mandler in 2007.

1990s



DYLAN LEWIS '92 poses with Pete the Panther in Wales, his home country. Dylan lives in

Annapolis, Md., where he teaches at a private school. He's a member of the Florida Tech Sports Hall of Fame as a soccer player and is the only FIT athlete to win two NCAA national championships as a player. FIT retired his #3 jersey—the only one retired in soccer.

30+ YEARS LATER: REMEMBERING A FRIEND

On Friday night April 9, 1983, I was on my work-study shift in the old Florida Tech Gym. Around 9 p.m. or so my friend and fellow student **BRUCE DELETTRE** entered the gym. Bruce was a third baseman on the Florida Tech baseball team at the time. The team had just played a game earlier that day. He was stopping by the gym before heading to Cocoa for the weekend.

Bruce and I talked, joked and mulled over an upcoming class we had together the following week. I told him that I'd see him later and watched as he headed toward his customized VW Beetle parked in front of the gym.

Little did I know that this would be the last time I'd see Bruce.

Sometime after leaving campus that evening he

died in an accident while driving his prized car. I found out about it the next morning when I opened up the gym. I went into an immediate state of shock and disbelief. How could someone with whom I was chilling out with the very night before be gone so abruptly? Bruce's sudden passing was surreal and unbelievable. I still harbor these feelings today as I write this piece.

For those of us who knew him, Bruce was without a doubt one of the most likeable people on campus, and he was like that without trying to be that way. I could go on and on about his laugh, upbeat attitude and easy-going personality, (not to mention the cool way he stroked his fu-man-chu moustache). In the three-plus years that I knew him, I never perceived him to be in a foul mood.

There are times when I've attempted to make sense of this and other tragedies I've encountered to no avail. What I take from this and other lessons in life is quite simple; Never take positive elements in life for granted! Every enjoyable moment, great relationship and good fortune in life needs to be cherished. Too many of us get caught up in the day-to-day hectic pace of life and don't realize how lucky we are to have life itself and all good things that come with it.

When I think about Bruce and that fateful Friday night, I think of what a really decent person he was and how lucky I and many others were to have known him.

May he deservedly rest in peace.

Chris Faulkner '83

ALUMNOTES

SALLI SETTA '92 MBA was named president of Red Lobster in July 2013. She leads all aspects of the iconic brand with more than 700 restaurants, 60,000 employees and \$2.6 billion in annual sales.



MARK CARTWRIGHT '93 shows off Isla Rose Cartwright.



aviation division, was named among Airport Business' "Top

FIN BONSET '96, '99 M.S., senior project manager for the Louis Berger Group's global

40 Under 40" in 2013. The list recognizes the industry's leading up-and-coming individuals who have demonstrated successful careers and are actively involved in their communities. Bonset, based in the firm's Miami office, has more than 16 years of experience in airport planning and previously ran his own consulting business before starting with Louis Berger last April.

HOSUNG PARK '97, '99 M.S., was recently promoted to director of software engineering with Motorola Mobility.

TOM HOAG '98 is the manager of dry dock support for Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Co. He is an avid recreational pilot and has two children, Ava and Ollie.

STACY ZOLADZ (LAMB) '99 is the regional shipping manager for BASF in Raleigh, N.C. She has two children, ages 8 and 4, and writes a monthly blog on parenting for her local news site. She

is involved in her local rock climbing community and the single parents group.

2000s



LAURA (GATZ) DE GEUS '00 presents her son Maxwell (Max) Leonard, born April 30, 2013.

She is taking a break from work as a government policy analyst to be with Max and Levi, age 2. Her husband John is a U.S. Navy doctor. The family lives in China Lake, Calif.

BRANDON BATEMAN '01 and **MEGAN (BODNAR)** '02 were married in 2002 and adopted their first son Evan from South Korea in 2011. Brandon is a captain on the EMB145 for American Eagle; Megan is a stay-at-home mom.



daughter Nia at six months.

WEYNI (CLACKEN) NAZON '01, a vice president at Goldman Sachs & Co. in Jersey City, N.J., sends this photo of



KATHY DEAL '02, '04 M.S. and **RANDY WELLS** '95 welcomed Adelaide in July 2013. Her grandpa is professor emeritus

and former head of the department of biological sciences, **GARY WELLS**.

Continued on page 36

Submit your AlumNotes to alumni@fit.edu

Gleason

NAME A SEAT

Campaign

"I invite all alumni to name a seat and leave our legacy in Gleason for future generations of Panthers, to support our alumni association and keep Florida Tech traditions alive. Join me and be part of the 500."

Tom Folliard Jr., Class of 1989
Chief Executive Officer, CarMax Inc.

alumni.fit.edu/gleasonseats

ALUMNOTES

Continued from page 35



DEBORAH ANN BAKER '03 M.S., '04 M.S., PMA-234 Chief of Staff, Naval Air Systems Command received

Women of Color Magazine's Managerial Leadership-Government award at the 18th Annual Women of Color Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Conference, Oct. 17-19 in Dallas, Texas. Baker is currently the first Chief of Staff in the Airborne Electronic Attack Systems, EA-6B office, working with the program manager and deputy program manager to oversee multiple projects and programs. She supports strategic planning, tactical execution, resource management and process control and improvement of the entire portfolio of systems under Program Office purview in excess of \$300 million.

MEGAN (SCHERRER) PARSONS '06 M.S. welcomed son Austin on June 17, 2012. The family lives in Brighton, Mich.

BRANDON SCHMITT '08 and **KARA SCHMITT** '06, '09 M.S. and a current doctoral student, are working with Micro Aerospace Solutions and Alidyne Corporation of Melbourne on a technology demonstration mission for NASA. Brandon is the director of software systems engineering at Alidyne. Kara is vice president of research and development for Micro Aerospace Solutions. In late 2014, Sunjammer will deploy the largest solar sail ever to be flown in space. The mission's purpose is to prove that you can navigate interplanetary space using only the light from the sun—no other propellant. **DON PLATT** '97 M.S., '01 M.S., is owner of Micro Aerospace Solutions and in the same doctoral program as Kara.

Kara and Brandon's mother is **CYNTHIA SCHMITT** '07 M.S., senior director of Florida Tech Continuing Education.

MIKAELA (LUNDAY) ROJAS '09 is currently a senior airport operations specialist at San Jose International Airport and lives in San Jose. Send her an email message at christslchick@yahoo.com

2010s



QUIANA DEANNA BRADSHAW '10 M.S. shares a photo of daughter, Nadia, who is now about 10 months old. A doctor

of computer science candidate, Bradshaw is a Florida Tech adjunct professor and lives in Goldsboro, N.C.

NICOLE HEISER '10 was featured in the "Universum TOP 100—The Most Attractive Employers in the U.S.," a supplement to the *Wall Street Journal*. As director of systems engineering, she was in a Q&A about the emerging technology at Verizon.

GAEL LE BRIS '10 M.S. married Vera Lucia Araujo Guimarães last summer in Celebration, Fla. A music teacher, musician and composer, Vera met Gael while he was at Florida Tech. He currently works for Aéroports de Paris as Airside development manager at Paris-Charles de Gaulle Airport. Gael was published in the August 2013 issue of *AeroSafety World*: "Working Safely on an Operative Runway," http://flightsafety.org/files/ASW_aug13.pdf.

STEPHEN WHITAKER '10 is an associate engineer with Test Coach Corp in Lake Zurich, Ill. In July 2011, he married his high school sweetheart. The couple is expecting their first child in June.



MARK D. D'ANTONIO '12 M.S., adjunct instructor at the National Capital Region Extended Studies site, won

honorable mention in the W. Gregor Macfarlan Award—Excellence in Contract Management Research and Writing Program. His article "How to mitigate risk in a portfolio of contracts" was published in the September 2013 edition of the *Journal of Contract Management*.



WADE DAUBERMAN '12 was awarded Individual Fundraiser of the Year by the Scleroderma Foundation. He was recognized for his 2012 attempt to ride his bike across the U.S. to bring awareness to scleroderma, a rare disease that took his father's life several years ago. Dauberman is a current Florida Tech graduate student.



LISA SALVADOR '12 M.S., '12 MBA, was elected as the Huntsville Chapter National Contract Management Association

(NCMA) Professional of the Year as well as the Huntsville Association of Technical Societies (HATS) Professional of the Year for NCMA. She currently serves as the vice president of education for the Huntsville NCMA chapter and also serves with the American Society of Women Accountants.



DOMINIC JAMES CATANESE, son of **MARK ANTHONY CATANESE** '13 M.S. and Lori Catanese, is the grandson of Florida Tech President

ANTHONY JAMES CATANESE.

DEXTER MALLORY '13 M.S. is a configuration manager at McKesson in Cary, N.C. He is married with two kids, loves working in software engineering and enjoys vacationing in Florida.

STAFF NEWS



RYAN MCALEAVEY, Men's Lacrosse Coach, wife Angela and big sister Lily welcomed daughter Kira to the Panther family.



KEIDRA NAVAROLI, assistant director of the Ruth Funk Center for Textile Arts, and her husband Darren welcomed

their daughter Anera Elizabeth in February 2013.



RUPERT PATTISON, information technology lead technician, and his wife Renee welcomed their son Ethan, 9 lbs.

7 oz., on July 21, 2013. Ethan's big sister Rachel is 12 and "big" brother Giles is 3.

In Memoriam

BRIDYS ABBAZIA passed away Dec. 6, 2013. As banquet captain for the SUB Café, Abbazia was the "face" of Florida Tech catering. She touched many lives in the campus community and will be remembered for her contagious smile and positive spirit.

NANCY RUTH BROWN '74, '81 M.S., passed away Aug. 7, 2013. She worked for Computer Sciences Raytheon (CSR) for 17 years. She is survived by her brother David (and wife Chris) Brown, nephew Cory Brown, niece Dottie Brown and several other family members.

CHARLES DEAN CORMAN passed away Oct. 6, 2013. Corman came to Florida Tech in 1977 and was responsible for creating an undergraduate and graduate program in psychology. He served as the School of Psychology's founding dean from 1980 until 1985. He continued as professor

of psychology until his retirement. He is survived by his sons Charles and Steven Corman and by his stepchildren Christina Wolf Dobbs, Douglas Wolf and Eve Wolf Knight, their spouses and seven grandchildren.

KINGSLEY FORRY '66 M.S. passed away Sept. 12, 2013. Kingsley was a resident of The Villages, Fla.

PHIL GAARDER passed away Sept. 15, 2013. His volunteer service at Florida Tech included membership on the Florida Tech Advisory Council, founder and chairman of the Florida Tech Spring Festival, and founding member and president of the Panther Athletic Association, all of which resulted in being inducted into the Hall of Fame.

JOSEPH EDGAR HOLT '84 passed away Aug. 27, 2013. He had been living in Overland Park, Kan.

LEONARD JACOBS '68 passed away Dec. 2, 2013. He worked as an engineering manager and a Range Safety manager. He is survived by his spouse Doris and many other family members.

RICHARD KEITH '71 passed away Sept. 6, 2013. He worked at Harris Corp. for many years and then became a financial advisor at several major Wall Street brokerage firms. He is survived by his wife Jackie; daughters Debbie, Heather and Renee; seven grandchildren; and two great grandchildren.

ALFRED GERALD ROY '69 M.S. passed away Sept. 26, 2013. He worked at RCA on the Missile Test Range, Harris Corp., Ameritech and ETS. He is survived by his wife of 52 years Theresa, six children, 15 grandchildren, one great grandson and many other family members.

PAUL SOMMERVILLE, a faculty member in the 60s, passed away in fall 2013.



This photo shows him (on right) at a Florida Tech reunion.

RONALD VICTOR TRENSE II '86 passed away on Oct. 2, 2013, in Stuart, Fla. Born in Elizabeth, N.J., Victor had previously lived in Meutchen, N.J., before moving to Martin County to go to the Jensen Beach campus of Florida Institute of Technology in 1975. He was an engineer technician and worked for Pratt & Whitney for 22 years and was recently hired at EPA Green LED.



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High Tech with a Human Touch™

Evening of Hope VI ROLEX Raffle

You could win a
Rolex Oyster Perpetual GMT-MASTER II

Suggested retail price: \$8,450

40mm, 904L stainless steel, rotatable black ceramic bezel, black dial with 24-hour hand and independently adjustable 12-hour hand, Oysterlock bracelet.

\$25 per raffle ticket* Purchased online at:
www.thescottcenter.org/raffle

Drawing to be held **SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2014, 1 P.M.**
at **KEMPF'S JEWELERS**, 336 Fifth Ave., Indialantic



Donated by

Kempfs
Designers of Original Jewelry
www.kempfs.com



Proceeds to benefit

Florida Institute of Technology
The Scott Center
for Autism Treatment

Florida Institute of Technology
150 W. University Blvd., Melbourne, FL 32901-6975

*Suggested Donation/no purchase or contribution is necessary. Need not be present to win. If not present, then a representative from Florida Tech will notify the winner.

PY-976-1213

News from the desk of

Bino Campanini '90, '92 MBA

Vice President for Alumni Relations
and Executive Director, Alumni Association

ON 2013 ...

The past year was a busy one for the Office of Alumni Affairs and the Florida Tech Alumni Association. Once again we travelled the country meeting with alumni on both coasts including a first-time visit to a very chilly Chicago. We also made a return visit to the United Arab Emirates where we once again had a great show of support from



our alumni. In fact, attendance at all our alumni receptions has increased and we continue to see a high level of interest. These visits allow President Catanese and me to share news about Florida Tech and the FTAA and this past year we have had a lot of good news to share!



The highlight of the year for the FTAA was homecoming. This year we saw a continuation of the growth from last year with increased numbers and participation. The addition of FIT Homecoming Fest and football has transformed Homecoming at FIT and made it the highlight of the campus year.

Football provided a lot of opportunities for alumni to reconnect with their alma mater and the first game against Stetson will live long in the memory of all the alumni who attended.

The Gleason Seat Campaign continued throughout the year and although there has been tremendous support from alumni there are still seats that need to be sold in order to move forward with the needed upgrades. If you are interested in leaving a legacy at FIT, then naming a seat is a great way to do it.

Florida Tech paid alumni endorsement grants to 856 students. This FTAA initiative has been a great recruiting tool and a cool way that graduates can help promote Florida Tech to potential students.

FTAA recognized **Rob Phebus '74** with the Jerome P. Keuper Distinguished Alumni Award and **Alan Prestwood '80** with the Julius Montgomery Pioneer Award.



ON 2014 ...

2014 is going to be an exciting year as Florida Tech kicks off its capital campaign and we ask our alumni to be part of the next stage in Florida Tech's growth and development as one of the finest technological universities in the country. It will also be a year of change for the FTAA as **DUANE DE FREESE** assumes the leadership role as president. I know Duane has a lot of plans for the FTAA for the upcoming year, so watch this space for updates. I would like to thank outgoing president **ALEXIS LOO** for her hard work and dedication to the FTAA as well as all our outgoing board members. The FTAA continues to make a positive impact on university life and it is achieved through the support and work of alumni who want to give back. If you want to be part of a great alumni association, let us know at alumni@fit.edu.

ON ALUMNOTES

We want to hear from you! Surveys show ALUMNOTES is one of your favorite sections of the magazine, so I encourage you to help us expand it.

Send your news to **ALUMNI@FIT.EDU**. We will share it with the 60,000+ alumni worldwide!



Florida Institute of Technology
High Tech with a Human Touch™

11th Annual

CHOPPER DROPPER

Friday, March 14, 2014
Suntree Country Club



For a donation of \$100, you can have a BALL and a chance to win \$50,000!

We'll be flying high when we drop 2,000 numbered balls from a helicopter. The closest ball to the pin wins \$50,000! 2nd closest to pin wins \$10,000, and 15 lucky people win \$1,000 each!



Grand Prize
\$50,000

Reserve your tickets now, before they're sold out!

www.chopperdropper.com

Each ticket allows ONE PERSON to enjoy food and beverages at the Sporting Affair Cocktail Reception!

Friday, March 14, 2014 • 5:30 p.m. (ball drop 6:30 p.m.) • Suntree Country Club (1 Country Club Dr., Melbourne, FL 32940) Winners will be announced immediately following the Chopper Dropper reception. Need not be present to win. A representative of Florida Tech will conduct the drawing and will contact the winner if not present. All proceeds benefit Panther Athletic Scholarships.

Suggested donation: no purchase or donation necessary • Fair market value \$20



Florida Institute of Technology

Office of Marketing and Communications
150 W. University Blvd.
Melbourne, Florida 32901-6975

*55th
Anniversary*

Girl Power!

Shown here is an unidentified class meeting in 1960 at the Radiation building. The majority of the students were male and the average age of the student body remained in the mid-30s. With two women students, this class was exceptional.



Are you in this photo or do you recognize this early class?
What were the demographics of the student body when you were a student?

Send your comments to fltechtoday@fit.edu.