

the silver panther

professors emeriti newsletter

Volume I, Issue 1

Fall Edition - 2007

Welcome to the First Edition of the “Silver Panther”

This edition marks the first issue of the new newsletter by and for the professors emeriti of Florida Institute of Technology.

First edition of the Silver Panther

Welcome to this first edition of the newsletter for Professors Emeriti. The newsletter is intended to help keep you up-to-date on activities, events, and news of fellow emeriti. Please send your comments, news items, interest articles, photos, or other items to the editor

Emeriti Web Page Planned

We are currently working with Sharon Ainsley, FIT's webmaster, to create a web page on the FIT site devoted to Professors Emeriti. Stay tuned for announcements.

Newly Minted Retirees Honored at Spring Convocation

Five University Faculty members were honored for “having served with distinction” in professorial rank on the faculty for at least the minimum requisite time specified by the faculty handbook by being awarded the title of “**Professor Emeritus**”.

Juanita Baker (23 years), **John F. Clark** (16 years), **Richard E. Enstice** (36 years), **Robert H. Fronk** (33 years), and **Gary N. Wells** (34 years), were presented with certificates on their retirement. We welcome them to the ranks, and look forward to their active participation in the Professors Emeritus organization.

Officers Elected for 2007

Andy Revay and Russ Graves were elected as President Elect, and Secretary of the FIT Professors Emeritus organization for the 2007-2008 term in the recent election. Tom Stephens continues as President, and Harry Weber as Past President.

Professors Emeriti Handbook

The Professors Emeriti Handbook has recently been developed and published. The handbook is a supplement to the Florida Institute of Technology Faculty Handbook and is intended for the use of Professors Emeriti. The handbook lists the privileges granted by the University and describes the Professor Emeriti organization established to provide a formal mechanism by which the retired professor can continue to contribute to the growth and development of the University. It may be accessed on the Florida Tech website at:

http://fit.edu/faculty/documents/emeriti_handbook.doc

FIT 's Golden Anniversary

Festivities will begin on Founder's Day, September 22nd, 2008 and will conclude a year later.

Among events scheduled are:

- College and Presidential lectures
- A dedication of the state of Florida historic marker commemorating 50 years of the university,
- Dedication of a full-size bronze statue the founder and first President, Dr. Jerome Keuper
- An alumni association Golden Anniversary Banquet,
- A display of items of historic significance
- A time capsule will be buried.

Much of what is planned is the legacy of our organization's dedicated members. Other special events will be scheduled so stay tuned.

FIT History Committee

Under the leadership of Professor Emeritus Harry Weber, the university has formed a History Committee whose purpose, in cooperation with the Professors Emeriti, is to identify and collect memorabilia, publications, photographs, documents and other items of historic value.

The committee's History Archive Project is dedicated to preserving Florida Tech's story by acquiring the space, the funds and the staff to protect the historical documents, collections, treasures and memories essential to preserve the history of Florida Institute of Technology.

The committee's responsibility has recently been expanded by the university to include the establishment of a "Welcome Center" to provide a venue for not only housing the archives and memorabilia, but to also serve as a focal point for visitors and potential students. The Center will extensively use electronic media to share our history with alumni and friends worldwide.

The Committee has representatives from many units within the university. Professors Emeriti Tom Bowman, Dick Entice, Andy Revay, and Tom Stephens have contributed

to this effort. Members are urged to participate by providing and collecting documents and memorabilia for this ambitious project. Use your imagination. Let us know how you would like to help.

Coming Events of interest to Professors Emeriti

Homecoming



Wednesday, October 17

Kick-off Event and Wacky Wars Contest

Thursday, October 18

Aero Symposium, All Alumni Reception

Friday, October 19

Alumni Association Board Meeting, Aero Luncheon, Autism Conference, Hangar Party, Ice Hockey Game

Saturday, Oct. 20

Aviation Day, Alumni Rowing Race, 11:00 a.m. Homecoming Parade begins From University Park Elementary School to Panther Plaza

Following Parade Free Community Barbeque, Alumni and Faculty/Staff

Battle of the Bands, Panther Plaza

2:00 p.m. Alumnae Soccer Game, Rick Stottler Field

4:00 p.m. Men's Alumni Soccer vs. Eckerd College, Rick Stottler Field

6:30-7:30 p.m. Alumni, Faculty, Staff and Guests Reception,

Denius Student Center Second Floor Lobby

7:30-9:30 p.m. Alumni Association

Banquet (tickets: Professors Emeriti free - guests \$35)

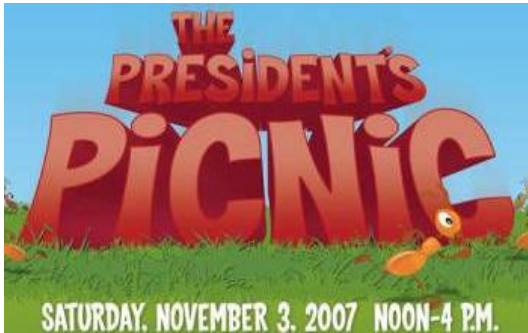
Hartley Room, Denius Student Center

9:00 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Homecoming Dance

Clemente Center, small gym

For more information about Homecoming 2007 "Let the Games Begin" events, see <http://www.fit.edu/newsroom/brief.html?id=1920> or call (321) 674-7190.

President's Picnic – November 3



We will have an "old timers" table where you can meet, eat, and chat with fellow Professors Emeriti



Roaming Emeriti Share Adventures

Fellow emeriti Carol (Philpot) Jensen and Juanita Baker have chronicled some interesting journeys and observations in articles for the newsletter and the Prof. Emeriti Web Page. Abstracted versions of these trips are presented in this newsletter, with the full article, plus photos, to be published on the new (and soon to be released) Professors Emeriti Web Page.

European Adventures

by Carol Philpot



When I retired in 2001, everybody who knew me was concerned that I would become bored with life because I am an energetic person who needs constant stimulation to be happy. But what they didn't know was that my husband, Tom, and I had a long-range plan that filled our lives with activity for at least the next twenty years. We didn't waste a minute launching that plan. Two days after my retirement party we left on our 36 foot Heritage East, Green Acres, for the first of six cruises up and down the inland waterway. Our plan was to go cruising for five years, then sell the boat and start traveling around the world. It took us a little longer than hoped, but after selling our boat this past January, we planned our first overseas jaunt since we lived in Greece on sabbatical in 1994-95

We booked passage on the Disney repositioning cruise from Port Canaveral to Barcelona, Spain, arranged the use of a 300 year old farmhouse in the French alps north of St. Raphael for two months, leased a brand new Peugeot 607 for three months in Europe and a Passat with a steering wheel on the right for a month in Great Britain, bought a five country/two month Eurail Supersaver pass, and booked hotel rooms for sixty nights in Spain, France, Italy, Switzerland, Austria

Editor's note: A series of articles describing Carol's adventures will be included on the soon to be established professors emeriti web page

Guest Editorial Inside Cuba

by Juanita Baker



Do we know what is really going on inside Cuba? Is our current policy of isolation and embargo helping to remove the dictator? In March, 2007 we jumped at the opportunity to go to Cuba flying from Miami legally as representatives under the humanitarian license of the Key West Tropical Gardens whose tropical rain forest, the only one in the US, has similar ecological issues to the tropical gardens in Cuba and has birds blown from Cuba visiting. Birding and visiting a variety of habitats in the Eastern half of Cuba was our goal...and to see the real Cuba.

A PBS special, "Victory is Your Duty," on Cuba and its boxing academy, remarked, "Forty-eight years after its Socialist revolution, Cuba appears to have progressed little." It is important for us here in the US to discuss, what is "progress?" Only material wealth?

Living under an U.S. embargo for many years, they have, out of necessity, the world's best sustainable agriculture system, using very little pesticides and chemical fertilizers, wisely using their water resources, rationed over much of Cuba. The Cubans have diversified their crops to

provide their own food for their citizens. Children appear nutritionally well fed and cared for. Most of the people are very poor but healthy, with universal free health care. Life expectancy average is now longer than ours. They even export their doctors to places of need in Africa, Venezuela, and Asia. We were provided with great accommodations, food, entertainment, birding, scenery, and transportation.

We saw few bicycles, trucks, cars on vacant rural, paved roads. All citizens have homes that are electrified, have running water (at least 3 days/week), schools in all areas, are free, even University and medical school. Most Cuban front porches are shiny clean on streets with no litter. Art as well as music is valued. We were amazed that there are no taxes. For the government to have money, it must earn it. We were surprised that even the army competes with another department of the government running a hotel and trying to attract tourists to their hotel instead of going to the other department's!

Since 1994 when their dependence upon Russia was severed, tourism has been allowed and there are 121 much regulated private businesses that are now permitted such as having a restaurant or lodging in your home, arts and crafts, music. Religion is allowed.

Yet Cuba is isolated, quite ignorant of basic information. If the US opened trade freely, information would flow more freely. It would appear that, similar to China, Cuba would also begin to relax restrictions on private enterprise further. When that begins, it is hard to hold back or block information about democracy and freedom. The Cubans are highly educated and would be able to more rationally and likely to think things through. Opening relations with Cuba seems to be a much more likely way to bring about real change with safety and high ideals than our old(?) policy of assassination and current one of military force...and maybe we can learn something from Cubans, if we are open.

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