



Florida Institute of Technology
High Tech with a Human Touch™

CAMPUS OBSERVER

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE FLORIDA TECH COMMUNITY

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New Minors, Ph.D.

Two new minors and a new doctoral program are in the offing at Florida Tech.

This fall undergraduate students may minor in Sustainability. Students in any major can complete credits for a minor in this increasingly critical discipline. The program director is **Richard Aronson**, College of Science.

A minor in Nanoscience and Nanotechnology will be available in the summer 2011. Work is led by faculty members **Jim Brenner**, chemical engineering; and **Kurt Winkelmann** and **Joel Olson**, chemistry.

Also new is the Ph.D. in Systems Engineering degree, which will prepare students to pursue advanced research careers in the public or private sector.

A total of 48 credit hours are required for a Ph.D.-SE. **Muzaffar Shaikh** has more information.

Neuhard Named Associate Provost for University Marketing

Jennifer Neuhard '09 M.B.A. has been promoted to the newly created position of associate provost for university marketing, reporting to Provost **T. Dwayne McCay**. In this new role she leads the Marketing and Web Services functions.



Jennifer Neuhard

Since May 2008 she was university marketing director, housed in the Office of Advancement. Neuhard was hired by the university in 2006 as director of athletic partnerships.

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Turkish Flight Students Add to International Mix

The College of Aeronautics and F.I.T. Aviation recently signed a five-year flight training contract with Turkish Airlines. Through the agreement, managed by **Korhan Oyman**, F.I.T. Aviation will annually train 100 Turkish pilots up to the FAA commercial pilot level.



In addition, F.I.T. Aviation will provide European Licensing ground school courses and examinations for these pilots. During their stay at Florida Tech, each Turkish student will fly over 250 hours and go through more than 1,300 hours of intensive ground school.

The first group of students, who average 28 to 29 years old, arrived in June and is staying on campus. All students are graduates of top colleges in Turkey, passed their English language proficiency exams and have worked in their field a few years. They also participated in a very rigorous selection process of the Turkish Airlines' partner, the German airline Lufthansa.

Gaffney Heads F.I.T. Aviation

Michael Gaffney, just named the new director of F.I.T. Aviation LLC, brings to his post almost 30 years of experience in aviation management, education and executive consulting. A Master Flight Instructor and Master Ground Instructor, he has been interim director of F.I.T. Aviation since April 1 and, before that, since February 2009, he was director of aviation training.



Michael Gaffney

Now Gaffney oversees flight training and operations at the Emil Buehler Center for Aviation Training and Research. He is also an adjunct professor in the College of Aeronautics.

Previously, Gaffney was principal consultant and chief technology architect at Flightlogics. Prior to that he was president of Skyline Aeronautics in St. Louis.

Gaffney is currently a doctoral candidate in human centered design at Florida Tech. He received the 2007 Excellence in Pilot Training award from the National Air Transportation Association.

College of Aero Lands \$670,000 Gift

Florida Tech aviation students will be "flying high" inside new, state of the art flight simulation equipment. The Emil Buehler Perpetual Trust granted the university \$670,000 to fund Seminole Level 5 Flight Training Devices.

The gift to fund the flight training devices is the second major donation from the Buehler Perpetual Trust to Florida Tech—the first helped fund the Emil Buehler Center for Aviation Training and Research at Florida Tech, located at Melbourne International Airport.

Faculty and Staff News

Nathan M. Bisk College of Business

Michael Workman is special edition editor of an issue of the *International Journal of Management and Decision Making*, a top-tier reviewed research journal. The issue will come out in March 2011; its theme is "Cyber Harassment Impacts on Corporations and Corporate Valuation."

College of Engineering

Fred Ham received a Meritorious Service award for his two-year term as president of the International Neural Network Society (2007 and 2008) at the World Congress on Computational Intelligence held in Barcelona, Spain.

Four papers were accepted for publication and presentation at the 2010 World Congress in Computer Science, Computer Engineering and Applied Computing (WORLDCOMP '10), which was held in Las Vegas, Nev. Involved in the papers were faculty members L. Daniel Otero, Adrian Peter and William Arrasmith, and alumni Carlos E. Otero '07 Ph.D. and Abrar Quereshi '06 Ph.D.

College of Psychology and Liberal Arts

Over the summer Andrew Aberdein presented five different papers at conferences in Florida, France, Hungary, the Netherlands and the Republic of Ireland. For example, he presented "Francis Bacon, Prerogative Instances, Argumentation Schemes" at a university in Budapest, Hungary.

Rich Griffith moderated the panel discussion, "Is Applicant Faking Really a Red Herring? A Whopper of a Fish Story," at the 27th International Congress of Applied Psychology in Melbourne, Australia.

Radhika Krishnamurthy published a chapter, "Assessment of adolescents using the PAI-A," in the edited book, *Clinical Applications of the Personality Assessment Inventory*. It was published in 2010 by Routledge Press. The PAI-A

stands for Personality Assessment Inventory-Adolescent.

Graduate student Maya Oluseyi, advised by Judith Strother, presented her paper, "Self-service and social media: Communication hierarchy and message diffusion in participatory media," in Amsterdam. Graduate student Jeff Gallop is a co-author.

Bob Taylor gave a lecture on Florida in the Civil War as part of the Orange County History Center's Culture Quest, a three-day event.

Angela Tenga was appointed to the executive board of the Florida College English Association.

College of Science

Mark Bush is collaborating with a University of New Hampshire ecologist on a \$364,000 NASA award. Their work is to estimate the population of pre-Columbian indigenous peoples in the Amazon Basin lowlands by means of satellite remote sensing technology.

Joe Dwyer, Hamid Rassoul and Ningyu Liu represent Florida Tech in a \$9.8 million grant shared with the University of Florida for lightning research. The four-year grant from the federal Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, will allow researchers to probe the origin of lightning using the International Center for Lightning Research Testing's unique rocket-triggered capabilities. The center is at Camp Blanding, near Starke, Fla.

Michelle Tishler Meadows, master's degree student in biological sciences, won a prestigious 2010 NOAA Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship for her research project, "Spawning of Snapper Species (Lutjanidae) along the East Coast of Central and North Florida." Her project co-advisers were Jon Shenker, biological sciences, and Ken Lindeman, marine and environmental systems.

Gordon Nelson chaired two sessions on cultural diversity and sustainability, made a presentation and delivered the closing remarks at the 7th Workshop of the Forum on Sustainable Technological Development in a Globalizing World—Sustainability 2010: The Cultural Dimension. It was held in Berlin, Germany, in June. Virender Sharma made a presentation on Ferrate, the supercharged iron molecule.

Terry Oswalt participated as a mentor in the NASA Motivating Undergraduates in Science and Technology (MUST) project at the NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio.

Virender Sharma invented a liquid cleaning product based on ferrate, a supercharged iron molecule. The resulting compound may be used as an oxidant, disinfectant and coagulant, and for industrial "green" purposes. The compound has attracted interest for "green chemistry" applications because the byproducts of its use, iron oxides, are environmentally safe.

Food Services

Jon Skoviera, chef de cuisine, SUB Café, brought back a bronze medal from the International Taste of the World Chef Culinary Conference.



Jon Skoviera

He was also featured at work in the kitchen on Florida Today TV and in that newspaper.

Extended Studies Sites

Marc Borengasser '97 M.S., who teaches computer information systems and computer forensics online, just earned his master's degree in applied mathematics from Florida Tech.



George Shaw

George Shaw Passes

George Shaw, Florida Tech founding trustee, passed away June 15 at his home in Melbourne. A technological visionary, Shaw was co-founder of Radiation Inc., which later became Harris Corp. and a steadfast supporter of Jerry Keuper's idea to start a college. Shaw led the board of trustees in its infancy and remained active throughout his lifetime.

"He went to every board meeting, came to almost every event on campus," said President **Anthony J. Catanese**. **George Maul**, Department of Marine and Environmental Systems, spoke at a celebration of Shaw's life at the Melbourne Yacht Club in July.

Oluseyi Takes Astronomy Lesson to Cook Islands

Astronomer **Hakeem Oluseyi** proposed an extreme astronomy lesson. He took two graduate students to the Cook Islands in the South Pacific Ocean to scientifically observe and photograph a rare total eclipse of the sun on July 11, 2010. The photo was accepted by NASA. It was also funded at more than \$40,000 by NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center.

Oluseyi, with students **Brice Orange** and **David Chesny**, flew almost 10,000 miles for the best view from the southernmost island of Mangaia.

Oluseyi said, "Our goals are to advance knowledge, educate and inspire the public, and to train and motivate a new generation of scientific researchers."



Hakeem Oluseyi

Florida Tech Licenses Chemistry Innovation

An example of recently licensed university technology is a chemical compound that facilitates the work of neuroscientists in the laboratory, developed by **Nasri Nesnas**, chemistry. The compound, CDNI-Glu, is a commonly used laboratory research tool, most often used to study the brain's neural networks.

Nesnas developed a streamlined process for its synthesis with the help of graduate student **Yannick Ouedraogo**.

"We cut the steps nearly in half and reduced the time to make it from 150 hours to 24 hours," said Nesnas.

To make Nesnas' original compound commercially available, Florida Tech is licensing it to the U.K. company, Tocris. Florida Tech Consulting is responsible for the effort.



Nasri Nesnas

June/July MVP



Jennifer Charron



Lois Zabor

The June Most Valuable Panther was **Jennifer Charron**, Information Technology's network security officer.

For July, it was **Lois Zabor**, Department of Chemistry's office coordinator. MVP Committee Chair **Leslie Savoie** will be accepting nominations again beginning in November.

Transitions

New Hires: **Gregory Connell**, Residence Life; **Andrea Hernandez**, Undergraduate Admission; **Theresa Smith** and **Matthew Parks**, Security; **Angela Taylor** and **Anthony Mowad**, Evans Library; **Anna Drazich** and **Byron King**, Information Technology; **Kelly Marmorato**, Human Resources; **Shelley Johnson**, Florida Tech Consulting; **Carol Chiaverini**, Financial Aid; **Colleen Lindler**, Risk Management; **Megan-Jean Eusebe**, University Alliance; **Nancy Scott**, Research; **Karen Paniczko** and **Roberto Lopez Jr.**, Facilities; **Alexandrea Wiegand**, Psychology; **Steven Mangiaracina**, Property Administration; and **Debra Syders**, Patuxent Site.

Promotions: **Cathryn Bergum**, Telecommunications; **Jennifer Charron**, Networks; **Bonni Castillo**, Undergraduate Admission; **Nicholas Preston**, Facilities Management; **Ebonnie West**, Athletics; **Deborah Bonilla**, Computer Science; and **Penny Vassar**, Virtual Site.

Campus Calendar

Sept. 6

Labor Day Holiday

Sept. 11-Dec. 18

Fabric of Life: Textiles of Latin America

Textiles from Mexico to Brazil at the Funk Center for Textile Arts

Tuesdays-Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.;

Saturdays, noon-4 p.m.

For information, visit: <http://textiles.fit.edu> or contact Carla Funk at (321) 674-8313, or cfunk@fit.edu.

Sept. 12

Aces for Autism Tennis Exhibition

1-4 p.m.; 3 p.m. is doubles match with Bill Macom, tennis coach, and Ed Scott, Scott Center benefactor

Kiwi Tennis Club, Satellite Beach

Mini-court tennis clinic for Scott Center children and siblings

Free except for \$150 entry fee for Pro-Am event—fundraiser for Macom Scholarship to support Scott Center families

For information, send e-mail to cmiddlebrooks@fit.edu

Message from Human Resources

Dear Campus Community,

The Office of Human Resources (HR) has eagerly anticipated everyone's return this fall so we may share some recently developed tools and programs. We hope that they will enhance your personal and professional lives.

• FIT Challenge—This partnership between HR and the Clemente Center is a friendly campus-wide competition to help you achieve your health goals.

• The Reinvestment Act—This home-grown program is designed to encourage campus community members to volunteer to share their experiences and knowledge.

• The Road to Retirement—This monthly educational series about retirement planning continues through Oct. 19. That day a retirement fair will wrap up the series and a grand prize for a cruise will be among the prizes awarded for participation.

• Benefits Handbook—This handbook is located under "resources" on the HR website. It organizes benefits information to give an overview of what each plan offers.

Please visit our office or website to learn more or come by to just say "Hi!"

Beverly Hung, manager, HR
Joni Oglesby, associate vice president, HR



Army Family

Laura Metz, Evans Library, poses with her husband Jason Metz '10 Psy.D. on July 2 in the Ruth Funk Center. That day Jason received his commission as a captain in the U.S. Army before leaving for 10 weeks of officer's training. The couple will be stationed in Oahu, Hawaii, for two years while he completes an internship year and another year of doctoral work in clinical psychology.

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In 2007 she was responsible for raising more than a half-million dollars for the Department of Athletics.

Prior to coming to Florida Tech, Neuhard was manager of community relations for the Buffalo Sabres and manager of the Buffalo Sabres Foundation, the team's fund-raising arm, in Buffalo, N.Y. She was also promotions manager and media buyer for Ron Jon Surf Shop in Cocoa, Fla., from 2000–2005.

Neuhard earned a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in business at Cedar Crest College in Allentown, Pa.



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From the President's Desk



Anthony James Catanese

Welcome to a new academic year! Exciting things are always happening with our faculty, staff and students. This year will be no different.

As we begin this new term, I'd like for us all to reflect upon what a special place Florida Tech is—truly an international university with strengthening linkages around the world.

My summer trip to Taiwan and China was an excellent example of this. Provost T. Dwayne McCay and Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida (ICUF) President Ed Moore joined me. I had the honor and privilege of leading the state delegation to the Second Taiwan-Florida Higher Education Conference, following up on a successful event held last year in Orlando.

As chairman of ICUF and Florida Delegation chairman, I met with Ma Ying-jeou, president of the Republic of China (ROC), otherwise known as Taiwan. In the conference, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the cooperation and partnership of all Florida private universities with all private universities in Taiwan.

As Florida Tech president, I signed a MOU for student and research partnerships with the Civil Aviation University of China in Tianjin; developed a partnership with Beihang University, (Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics) one of the top institutes of technology in China; and developed a program for recruiting top Chinese engineering and science students with five private companies.

These agreements will lead to new educational opportunities for students, and add greater diversity to our international university.

You might not know that Florida Tech has a longstanding history with Taiwan. During the 1970s and 1980s, we were a leader in granting graduate fellowships to Taiwanese students. Founding President Jerome Keuper was a published author on the Chinese language and had been decorated by the Chinese government for his service in the U.S. military during World War II. Taiwanese officials presented the Chao Tsu-Yu Clock to Florida Tech in 1981, which we all enjoy in front of the Keuper Administration Building today.

2010-2011 promises to bring many other interesting and innovative opportunities for our campus. I hope you have a great year!