



Florida Institute of Technology
High Tech with a Human Touch™

CAMPUS OBSERVER

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE FLORIDA TECH COMMUNITY

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'Speaking with Thread' Hooks Visitors Jan. 30–April 24



Batik robe from southern China

The Ruth Funk Center for Textile Arts will exhibit *Speaking with Thread: The Narrative of Textiles* starting Jan. 30.

Speaking with Thread will feature textiles that present stories through their imagery and symbolism. Objects on display include Persian carpets, imperial Chinese robes and embroidered European samplers—items from the center's permanent collection and pieces from private collectors.

The exhibit will be on view through April 24. Hours are Tuesday–Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call extension 8313.

A Cool Million for Biology

The new year began on a high note for Alan Leonard and Julia Grimwade, biological sciences, when they learned their National Institutes of Health grant, which they have held for the last 11 years, had been renewed for four more years. The competitive renewal brings them \$1,024,944 to continue their research into the regulation of cell growth and division.



Alan Leonard and Julia Grimwade

The reproduction of cells from all types of organisms, from bacteria to humans, is tightly regulated to ensure cells grow and divide only when it is appropriate for them to do so. When the regulation fails, diseases such as cancer can arise.

"We study how cellular proteins and DNA join together to form a very small molecular machine that acts as an 'on' switch, telling cells it is time to begin a new replication cycle," said Leonard. "Because bacteria have far fewer protein and DNA components acting as cell growth regulators than mammalian cells do, we use the rapidly growing human gut bacterium, *Escherichia coli*, as

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United Way Success



President Anthony Catanese promised lunch with the president to any department with 100 percent participation. The two qualifying, Office of Institutional Research (IR) and Office of University Communications, were rewarded in January. From left are Ken Stackpoole, senior vice president for advancement; Karen Rhine, Verna Layman and Wes Sumner (all university communications); Leslie Savoie (IR), Tim Hollingsworth, co-chair of 2009 campaign; President Catanese; C.J. Colley and Carmen Carvalho (IR); Jack Armul, vice president for financial affairs; Carey Gleason, co-chair of 2009 campaign; and T. Dwayne McCay, provost.

The final results are in. Staff and faculty contributions total \$76,348.95. Add to this trustee donations of \$45,600 and the university's gift to United Way in the latest campaign is \$121,948.95. Now, that just has to make a difference.

Scholarship Endowed for Mechanical Engineering Students

A new Florida Tech scholarship endowment for mechanical engineering students has just been fully funded at \$25,000. "The Marvin Yarosh and John 'Jack' Wiles Endowed Scholarship," is named for two Brevard County engineering pioneers.

The scholarship has been endowed by the Spacecoast Chapter of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), the Canaveral Section of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (AMSE) as well as by a generous gift from the Yarosh family. It is expected that the first award will be made to a sophomore, junior or senior-level student in time for the fall 2010 semester.

For more information, contact Pei-feng Hsu at extension 8092.

Faculty and Staff News

College of Psychology and Liberal Arts

At the 29th Annual Conference of the National Academy of Neuropsychology in New Orleans, La., clinical psychology doctoral student **Katherine Gifford** and **Frank Webbe** presented the poster "Utilization of a visual rating system to assess atrophy in FTD and AD." Gifford won an outstanding award for her work ... Clinical psychology doctoral students **Tanya Mahaney**, **Tiffany Cummings** and **Megan Frankl** as well as **Kevin Mulligan** and **Webbe** presented the poster "Co-morbid neuropathology in Alzheimer's disease complicates differential diagnosis." Mahaney won an outstanding award for her work ... **Jim Oelschlag**, with clinical psychology doctoral students Mahaney and Gifford, wrote and presented "Validation of the MoCA in a college setting to identify academically at-risk students."

Bob Taylor presented "On the brink of emancipation: Florida in the Civil War" at the Franklin Degroodt Memorial Library in Palm Bay.

Frank Webbe was elected to a two-year term to the executive board of the National College Athletics Association (NCAA) Faculty Athletics Representatives Association.



Frank Webbe

David Wilder was elected to a one-year term as president of the Florida Association for Behavior Analysis.

College of Engineering

Richard Ford was appointed as the first Harris Chair of Computer Science for Assured Information. He is currently director of the Harris Institute for Assured Information and will continue in that role.

A paper by **Fred Ham** and **Glen Deal** '93 Ph.D. was published in *Journal of Neural, Parallel and Scientific*

Computation. The paper is titled "Speaker recognition using parallel neural network modules."

College of Aeronautics

Dean **Winston Scott** spoke at University Park Elementary School on goal-setting and the College of Aeronautics.



Winston Scott

College of Science

Sam Durrance was selected to join the Commercial Spaceflight Federation's Suborbital Applications Researchers Group (SARG). Among the aims of SARG is to increase awareness of commercial suborbital spacecraft in the science and R&D communities.

Virender Sharma published "Aggregation and toxicity of titanium dioxide nanoparticles in aquatic environment—a review" in *Journal of Environmental Science and Health*.

Graduate Programs

Rosemary Layne served on the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) commission on the colleges reaffirmation committee for Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. She was on a nine-member team meeting in Gulfport to investigate programs, services and faculty requirements for the college's three campuses and three centers. She was also a peer reviewer for a plan to improve student success and retention through reading skill improvement.



Rosemary Layne

Office of Strategic Initiatives

In January **Nikki Hoier** will present at the 2010 Florida Artificial Reef Summit at the Cocoa Beach Hilton. She will highlight 10 years of research, monitoring and community outreach regarding the eight artificial reefs that Florida Tech

has helped deploy 12 to 15 miles offshore of Sebastian Inlet. **Jon Gorham** '88 and **Jon Shenker**, biological sciences, have been partners in the research.

Evans Library

At the annual meeting of the Central Florida Library Cooperative, member libraries were congratulated for their resource-sharing efforts. Evans Library was recognized in the top level (3,000–5,000 items loaned). In 2009 the loan service was provided by librarians **Nate Hosburgh** and **Haydee Huertas**. The achievement is a notable indicator of the value of the library's holdings to researchers in other institutions.

Advancement

Jennifer Neuhard is a finalist in Lead Brevard's "4 Under 40" competition for 2010. She is one of a dozen finalists vying for the top spots—winners to be announced Feb. 19.



Jennifer Neuhard

Alumnus to Fly Flag

President **Anthony J. Catanese** presents Air Force Lt. Col. **Anders Bergmann** with a Florida Tech flag that Bergmann will fly in Afghanistan where he will be deployed. Bergmann, who earned three degrees from Florida Tech in the 1980s, is a Merritt Island resident. He serves as a pilot assigned to the J-STARS Joint Test Force, based in Melbourne.



Sponsored Scholar

Since fall 2008 Florida Tech has sponsored a Young Adult of the Month Award at each Melbourne Regional Chamber of East Central Florida monthly breakfast. In December, Rockledge High School's Rachel DeLoach was honored and is pictured here with her parents William and Janice DeLoach. Senior Vice President for Advancement Ken Stackpoole is at right. She will receive a Florida Tech scholarship each of her four years if she chooses to attend the university.



December MVP



The December Most Valuable Panther was **Becky Archer**, administrative computing.

To nominate a staff or faculty member for this award, send your letters to MVP Committee Chair Leslie Savoie at lsavoie@fit.edu.

A Cool Million for Biology

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a model system. However, the studies should shed light on cell growth regulation in all organisms.”

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

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

Campus Calendar

Jan. 22

Astronomy and Astrophysics Public Lecture Series
The Ribbon Around the Solar System: First Results from the Interstellar Boundary Explorer Mission

Ming Zhang, Department of Physics and Space Sciences

8–9:30 p.m., F.W. Olin Engineering Complex Auditorium, Room EC 118, free

Followed by roof-top public star viewing
For information, call extension 7207 or visit www.fit.edu/aapls

Jan. 24

Twilight Jazz
George Wilson Trio

3–6 p.m., Panthereum, free
For information, call extension 7401

Jan. 27

Office of Human Resources Reinvestment Act presents:

Who Moved My Cheese? Help in dealing with change

2–3:30 p.m.
Hartley Room
For information, send e-mail to serickson@fit.edu

Jan. 30–April 24

Ruth Funk Center for Textile Arts exhibit
Speaking with Thread: The Narrative of Textiles

Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., free
For information, call extension 8313 or visit <http://textiles.fit.edu>

Feb. 6

The Eddie Scott Gospel Explosion

Local R&B legend performs
6–8 p.m., Gleason Center for Performing Arts, free
For information, call extension 6201

Feb. 11

Humanities Lecture Series
Gold in Prose

Noted author on deep-sea search and salvage
Robert Marx, Jenifer Marx and internationally acclaimed novelist Davis Bunn
7 p.m., Denius Student Center, Hartley Room, free
For information, call extension 8082

Feb. 18–19

Uncommon Threads Symposium 2010
English Embroidery
Feb. 18, 7 p.m., Lecture, free
Gleason Performing Arts Center
Feb. 19, 10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., \$60 Luncheon Symposium
Denius Student Center, Hartley Room
For information, call extension 8313

Feb. 27

Fourth Annual International Festival
Music, dance, cultural exhibits and ethnic food
Noon–5 p.m., Panther Plaza and the Panthereum
For information, e-mail iss@fit.edu

