



Florida Institute of Technology  
High Tech with a Human Touch™

# CAMPUS OBSERVER

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE FLORIDA TECH COMMUNITY

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## We Welcome Four to Physics and Space Sciences

Jingkun Zhao and Pingbing Jhou, research scientists; Konstantin Gamayunov, senior research associate; and Daniel Batchelder, assistant professor, joined the department of physics and space sciences in January.

Zhao has a three-year appointment in the astronomy research group headed by Terry Oswalt. Most recently he was a staff astronomer at the National Astronomical Observatories in Beijing, China, working at the LAMOST spectroscopic survey facility. The LAMOST is one of China's largest optical telescope projects.

Jhou is working with Ming Zhang as a research associate. His current research is focused on the solar modulation of galactic cosmic rays. This is a significant issue in heliosphere physics and of application in space weather. Jhou will perform data analysis by using Ulysses, Voyager, ACE and other spacecraft observations and a theoretical investigation using Zhang's particle transportation model.

Gamayunov is working with Zhang and Hamid Rassoul on a NASA-funded study of the heliosphere. Before coming to Florida Tech, Gamayunov was a visiting research professional at the Universities Space Research Association of National Space Science and Technology Center in Huntsville, Ala.

Batchelder, who will conduct research and teach, will also serve as director of the campus observatory, which houses the 0.8m Ortega telescope. His research focuses on theory and observations of supermassive black holes.

## Guy Boy Earns \$1 Million Award for Nuclear Power Plant Control and Management Studies

Guy Boy, College of Engineering, has received an award of more than \$1 million over four years from AREVA, an international energy company that offers solutions for highly reliable nuclear power generation. Under the grant, Boy will research and supervise two doctoral students on the ergonomics and human factors in the design and development of nuclear power plant control and management. He will apply his expertise in safety-critical systems, cognitive engineering and human-centered design to the project.



Guy Boy

Already chosen for this effort is doctoral student Lucas Stephane. The other doctoral student will be selected later in the semester. The students will conduct research for their individual Ph.D. theses.

Boy came to the university last summer to develop a doctoral program focused on human-centered design in life-critical systems. He is author of four major books, more than 200 scientific and technical papers and is a permanent member of the Air and Space Academy. He is currently chair of the International Ergonomics Association Technical Committee for Aerospace Human Factors and Ergonomics Worldwide. He is a founder of the International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction in Aeronautics and was executive vice-chair of the Association for Computing Machinery special interest group on computer-human interaction from 1995 to 1999.

## Scott Center Receives \$100,000 From Eckerd Family Foundation

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



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

For more information about how families may benefit from the Eckerd Family Foundation donation, call extension 8106.

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

## Faculty and Staff News

### Office of the President

County Commissioner Trudi Infantini, at the Economic Development Commission's January meeting, presented President **Anthony J. Catanese** with a proclamation acknowledging his work and Florida Tech for excellence in economic development in Brevard County. He was honored for reaching out to the community and building partnerships.

### College of Aeronautics

**John E. Deaton** presented a paper titled "Mitigation and measurement of latency in Next Generation Helmet Mounted Display Systems (NGHMDS)" at a recent Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference (I/ITSEC).

### College of Engineering

**Ashok Pandit** presented a paper titled "Nutrient loading in the Indian River Lagoon from groundwater" at the Third International Perspective on Current and Future State of Water Resources and the Environment in Chennai, India. Co-authors were **Howell Heck** and doctoral student **Nawazish Ali**.



Ashok Pandit

**Ron Reichard**, the department of marine and environmental systems 2009–2010 Doherty Visiting Professor, earned a NASA achievement award for "outstanding commitment to the success of the Human Robotic Systems Field Test" and his participation in the field test team.

**Michael Splitt**, **Jaclyn Shafer '06** and **Steven Lazarus** recently published the article "Evaluation of the National Hurricane Center's tropical cyclone wind speed probability forecast" in *Weather and Forecasting*.



Steven Lazarus

### College of Psychology and Liberal Arts

An article by **Robert Taylor** titled "Cat on a cold steel dive plane" was published in the February issue of *Naval History* magazine.

**Jamie Younkin** and the Florida Tech Chant and Renaissance Choir (Schola Cantorum) were invited to perform at the 2nd Annual Gregorian Chant Conference March 19–20 at Ave Maria University in Ave Maria, Fla. They will join another choir in leading the chanting of Lauds.



Robert Taylor



Jamie Younkin

### College of Science

**Terry Oswalt** has been invited to give the opening talk at a plenary session of the 216th meeting of the American Astronomical Society to be held in Miami, Fla., next May.



Terry Oswalt

### Property Administration

**John Czekanski** recently received his certification as a Certified Professional Property Administrator, a professional development milestone. He received his certification from the National Property Management Association for property management professionals headquartered in Clearwater, Fla.

### Rotary Club Scholarship Fund Gets Match

President **Anthony J. Catanese**, an active member of the Rotary Club of Indialantic, has announced that Florida Tech will match dollar-for-dollar funds raised for scholarships at the club's Eighth Annual Moon River Music & Magic. The event is scheduled for Saturday, March 27, 6–9 p.m. on campus.

### Experience the Renaissance through Embroidery Lecture

The Ruth Funk Center for Textile Arts will present a complimentary lecture on Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. as part of the university's annual textiles celebration, "Uncommon Threads." This year's theme is "English Embroidery."

The special guest is **Melinda Watt**, associate curator, Department of European Sculpture and Decorative Arts and supervising curator of the Ratti Textile Center at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The lecture, "The Biblical 'It' Girls: Female Heroines in English Embroidery," will be held in the Gleason Performing Arts Center. Following the lecture Watt will sign copies of her award-winning exhibit catalogue *English Embroidery from the Metropolitan Museum of Art 1580–1700: Twixt Art and Nature*. Reservations are not required.



Friday, March 19, 2010

Suntree Country Club

Reserve your tickets now!  
[www.chopperdropper.com](http://www.chopperdropper.com)

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

## 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 January, Alexandra Lamens, a senior at West Shore Junior-Senior High School, was honored. Lamens will receive a Florida Tech scholarship each of her four years if she chooses to attend the university.

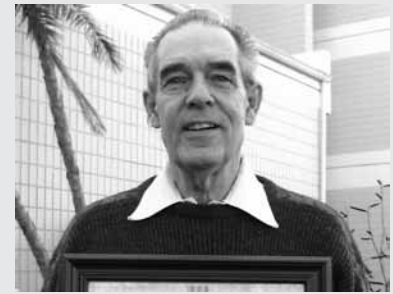


Alexandra Lamens



Members of the Brevard Indo-American Medical and Dental Association (BIMDA) visited campus recently. Pictured here at Panther Plaza, from left: Glad Kurian '90 M.B.A., Rashmi Shah, Mahesh "Mike" Shah, President Anthony J. Catanese, Dr. Visa Srinivasan, Dean Mary Beth Kenkel, Provost Dwayne McCay and Senior Vice President for Advancement Ken Stackpoole.

## January MVP



The January Most Valuable Panther was **John Barranti**, division director for the Extended Studies Administration, Nathan M. Bisk College of Business.

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

## Celebrating MLK Day

Florida Tech celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day at the Emil Buehler Center for Aviation Training and Research on Jan. 13 and named the recipient of the annual Julius Montgomery Pioneer Award, Dr. Harvey L. Riley. The award celebrates an area African American leader and is in honor of Florida Tech's African American pioneer **Julius Montgomery**.

Additionally about 15 Tuskegee Airmen attended the event, which also honored them with a street at Melbourne International Airport named for the aviators.



From left, Dean of the Florida Tech College of Aeronautics Winston Scott congratulates Dr. Harvey L. Riley, pastor of the Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church, Palm Bay. Riley earned the 2010 Julius Montgomery Pioneer Award.

## Transitions

**Promotions:** Monica Baloga, Chemistry; Frank Kinney and Tristan Fiedler, Provost; Theresa Travis, Psychology; Elizabeth Middleton and Julie Shankle, Online Learning

**New Hires:** Stevie Pursell, Online Learning; Nicholas Preston, Facilities; Jennifer Almasi, Psychology; Nikki Blodgett, Registrar; Jingkun Zhao, Physics and Space Sciences

## Campus Calendar

### Feb. 18

Relay for Life Fundraiser kick-off  
*Pie-a-Professor*  
1–5 p.m., Panther Plaza  
For information, e-mail [xfave2008@my.fit.edu](mailto:xfave2008@my.fit.edu)

### Feb. 18–19

Uncommon Threads Symposium 2010  
*English Embroidery*  
Feb. 18 lecture, 7 p.m., Gleason Performing Arts Center, free  
Feb. 19 Luncheon Symposium, 10:30 a.m.–2 p.m., \$60  
Denius Student Center, Hartley Room  
For information, call extension 8313 or visit <http://textiles.fit.edu>

### Feb. 22

*Cyberspace Safety Forum*  
Richard Ford is among the presenters  
Hosted by Congressman Bill Posey  
6:30 p.m., F.W. Olin Engineering Complex  
For information, call (321) 632-1776

### Feb. 27

*Fourth Annual International Festival*  
Noon–5 p.m., Panther Plaza and Panthereum  
For information, call extension 8053 or e-mail [iss@fit.edu](mailto:iss@fit.edu)

### Feb. 26

Astronomy and Astrophysics Public Lecture Series  
*Pictures from Data: Unveiling Hubble's Colorful Universe*  
Zoltan Levay, Office of Public Outreach at Space Telescope Science Institute  
8–9:30 p.m., F.W. Olin Engineering Complex Auditorium, EC 118, free  
For information, call extension 7207 or visit [www.fit.edu/aapls](http://www.fit.edu/aapls)

### Feb. 28

*Twilight Jazz at the Panthereum*  
3–6 p.m., free  
For information, call extension 7401 or e-mail [edestler@fit.edu](mailto:edestler@fit.edu)

### March 6

*Botanical Fest Plant and Garden Sale*  
Exotics, palms, accessories, door prizes and garden tours  
8 a.m.–4 p.m., field next to Crawford Building  
For information, call extension 8962

### March 15

*Darwin Returns*  
Biological Sciences Lecture  
7 p.m., F.W. Olin Life Science Auditorium  
For information, call extension 8034

### March 18

Friends of Textiles Lecture  
*Cosmology and East Asian Textile Design*  
7 p.m., Denius Student Center, Hartley Room, \$10  
For information, call extension 8313

### March 20

*Annual Campus Cleanup*  
9–11 a.m., meet at Panther Plaza  
Free barbecue for participants  
For information, call extension 8080

### Deadline Feb. 19

Joni Oglesby, director of human resources, writes: "Thank you for attending the Open Enrollment meetings. Please remember to return your enrollment forms to the Human Resources Office before Friday, Feb. 19 so that you will be eligible to participate in the Feb. 22 raffle." Raffle prizes are gift cards to local restaurants. The ultimate deadline is Feb. 26

### Public Printer Drops By

The Public Printer of the United States Bob Tapella, the official head of the U.S. Government Printing Office, visited Evans Library on Jan. 7. Dean of Libraries Celine Lang led a building tour for him. Evans Library has the largest repository of government documents of any library in its legislative district.



From left: Wendy Helmstetter, director of resources and services, Evans Library; Anthony James Catanese, Florida Tech president; Robert Tapella, Public Printer of the United States; Celine Lang, dean of libraries, Evans Library; Debra Cook, government information librarian, Evans Library.

### Mongolian Pilots Study on Campus

Four groups of Mongolian commercial airplane pilots will be here this year to prepare for the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) exam. This is a spoken exam emphasizing English language skills. Pilots who pass the test are allowed to fly into large international airports.



The first group of eight Mongolian pilots enjoy an area field trip.

The first group of eight pilots was on campus for the two-week program in January. The next group comes in February. The program is coordinated through the Office of Strategic Initiatives, Professional Enrichment Programs.

## From the President's Desk



Anthony James Catanese

I'm looking forward to one of my favorite fundraising events, Sporting Affair XVIII and Golf Tourney. This year it's on Friday, March 19, at Suntree Country Club. I'm in a foursome with Jack Hartley, Phil Farmer and Joe Flammio, and we're going to have a lot of fun.

Last year Sporting Affair grossed \$300,000 for athletics scholarships. This academic year 75 students are athletics scholars, and we want to do as well or better for our Panthers next year.

A major way we meet that goal is by selling \$50 golf ball sponsorships; exactly 2,000 balls will be dropped by helicopter flyover near the clubhouse that day. As most of you know, the ball closest to the pin wins \$25,000 and the winner last year was Lisa Holmes. She has faithfully sponsored one ball at each annual event and in 2009 her one ball was THE one. Other cash prizes are \$10,000, \$5,000 and 10 prizes of \$1,000 each.

We also earn money for scholarships through the golf tourney, women's tennis tournament and live auction and raffle at the cocktail reception, where this year, one individual per \$50 ball may enjoy food, soft drinks, wine and beer. The Golf Tourney, I'm told, was already a sell-out by January, but there is still space in the Women's Doubles Round Robin Tournament. It begins at 11 a.m. A \$50 registration fee includes tennis, a Florida Tech visor and complimentary mimosas and margaritas.

At the live auction you may bid on unique sports-related and sports celebrity-signed items, exotic trips and golf packages.

Please join me in this premier fundraiser and enjoy a collegial afternoon in the fresh air for a very good cause. Remember, the cocktail reception is at 5:30 p.m. and the ball drop is at sunset. For more information, visit [www.chopperdropper.com](http://www.chopperdropper.com) or call John Thomas at ext. 6220.



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