



Florida Institute of Technology  
High Tech with a Human Touch™

# CAMPUS OBSERVER

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE FLORIDA TECH COMMUNITY

June/July | V11.6

## Degree and Helicopter Training, Too

Florida Tech and Bristow Academy Inc. in Titusville, Fla., have announced a strategic partnership to offer a combined program of university aviation education and helicopter flight training beginning fall 2010.

This innovative program offers a university education to students seeking careers as professional pilots in the expanding helicopter industry. It is anticipated this program will be especially attractive to eligible military veterans under the new Post-9/11 GI Bill, which provides benefits to fully fund this combined program.

For information on the program, contact **Steve Cusick** at extension 7470 or at [scusick@fit.edu](mailto:scusick@fit.edu).

## Scientific Imaging Camera Gift Is Valued at \$100,000

Florida Tech has received 10 high-resolution, scientific-grade cameras from the Salvador Foundation; each is valued at about \$10,000. The cameras have been distributed among nine faculty members and are being used for a variety of research projects in such areas as biological sciences, physics, engineering and computer sciences.

The SI-16M8-FF camera provides very high resolution over a wide dynamic range under controlled lighting conditions. Applications for this camera include astronomy, microscopy, semiconductor inspection, machine vision, medical imaging and laser beam profiling.

**Edward L. Principe**, university research professor in physics and space sciences, helped secure the gift.

## They're Excellent

Three faculty members recently earned the university's 2010 Faculty Excellence Awards for outstanding performance. They were **Jamie Younkin**, assistant professor of humanities and communication, the Andrew W. Revay Jr. Award for Excellence in Service; **Brian Lail**, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, the Award for Excellence in Research; and **Kevin Johnson**, associate professor of oceanography, the Kerry Bruce Clark Award for Excellence in Teaching.



From left: Brian Lail, Kevin Johnson and Jamie Younkin

Younkin, a musicologist by degree, is among the first music directors at Florida Tech. Lail earned the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers in 2008. The award provides research support of \$200,000 per year, over five years, for a total single investigator award of \$1 million. Johnson has received numerous awards for his teaching, including the Walter M. Nunn Jr. Award for Excellence in Teaching in the College of Engineering in 2008.

## WFIT Wins \$1.57 Million for New Studios

WFIT-FM, the university's publicly affiliated radio station, has secured \$1.57 million from the state to construct new studios. The monies were approved in the recently concluded legislative session.

The funding will allow the station to add new studio space and ultimately offer more programming options to serve the east coast of Central Florida. Construction is currently in the design phase.

## Thomas Named First Director of Football Operations

**John Thomas**, Florida Tech director of athletic partnerships and former Holy Trinity head football coach, is returning to football. He has been appointed Florida Tech director of football operations.

Thomas will oversee all aspects of the university's new football program including fundraising, hiring and supervision of the coaching staff, facilities and day-to-day operations. He will report directly to Provost and Executive Vice President **T. Dwayne McCay**.



John Thomas

Fundraising is the first priority. Plans are now being made to launch a Founders Club for the first major contributors, organize a fundraising luncheon later this year and determine practice and play facilities.

# Faculty and Staff News

## Office of the President

President **Anthony Catanese** received the Dad Vail Regatta President's Award. The plaque reads, in part, "In recognition of your steadfast support of rowing and strong commitment to the principles of the Dad Vail Regatta."

## Extended Studies Sites

A paper by **Dennis Kulonda**, director of the Orlando site, was selected as a Highly Commended Award winner at the Literati Network Awards for Excellence 2010. The paper, "State of green construction in India: Drivers and challenges," was published in the *Journal of Engineering, Design and Technology*.

## Nathan M. Bisk College of Business

**Donn Miller-Kermani** was invited to be a panelist for the Small Business Administration/WIPP (Women Impacting Public Policy) Give Me 5: Federal Contracting Training for Women Business Centers in Washington, D.C. She has also been invited to be a panelist at the same program at the Disney Entrepreneurial Center, Orlando, Fla.

## College of Engineering

**Guy Boy** has been appointed as chief scientist for Human-Centered Design at NASA-KSC. He continues as a Florida Tech university professor.



Guy Boy

## College of Psychology and Liberal Arts

At the 25th Annual Conference of the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology in Atlanta, Ga., **Patrick Converse** presented "Proactive personality, self-control, and career success." Co-authors are graduate students **Tomer Gotlib**, **Jaya Pathak** and **Matthew Merbedone** ... **Bill Gabrenya** presented his team's poster, "Validating the cultural intelligence scale: What does it really measure?" Co-authors are graduate students

**Elizabeth (Trame) Patrick**, **Stephanie Turner**, **Jaya Pathak** and **Stacey (Fehir) Peterson**, and alumnus **Marinus van Driel '08** ... **Richard Griffith** presented a master tutorial, "Applicant faking behavior: Prevalence, consequences, and remedies." ... **Art Gutman** presented "Thugs and drugs in the workplace: Debating employment pre-screening procedures." ... **Erin Richard** was co-author of a poster titled "Cross cultural differences in business request emails." Doctoral student **Michael McFadden** also presented.

**Vanessa Edkins** presented "Defense attorney recommendations and client race: Does zealous representation apply equally to African American and Caucasian clients?" at the annual meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society in Vancouver.

**Julie Gross** presented four efficacy studies to the Brevard Commission for Mental Health and Community Solutions. The studies were conducted in partnership with Circles of Care, Public Defender's Office, State Attorney's Office, Brevard County Jail and our undergraduate interns.

**Thom Harrell** was voted the 2010 Outstanding Clinical Psychology Faculty Member by graduate students in the clinical psychology program.

**Radhika Krishnamurthy** co-authored an entry in *Corsini's Encyclopedia of Psychology*, 4th edition, on the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory-Adolescent assessment. Her invited comments were included in an article, "Postgrad growth area: Assessment psychology," published in *gradPsych Magazine*.

**Kristi Van Sickle** and **Mary Beth Kenkel** presented "Developing integrated health care competencies" at the annual conference of the National Council of Schools and Programs in Professional Psychology, held in Orlando.

**Frank Webbe** was elected to a two-year term as treasurer of the Technology Professional Interest

Area of the Alzheimer's Association's International Society to Advance Alzheimer Research and Treatment.

**David Wilder** was invited to present at the 2010 Alabama Association for Behavior Analysis Conference in November 2010.

## College of Science

A study conducted by biologist **Rich Aronson**, with colleagues at Boston University, was published in *PLoS ONE* about coral reef damage from damselfish. The fish are killing head corals and adding stress to already-fragile Caribbean coral reefs.



Rich Aronson

Astronomers **Dan Batcheldor** and **Eric Perlman** led an investigation using the Hubble Space Telescope, which confirms that supermassive black holes may frequently roam galaxy centers. Their research was presented at the American Astronomical Society Conference in Miami, Fla., and will be published in *The Astrophysical Journal Letters*. Their studies were conducted with colleagues from Rochester Institute of Technology and the University of Sussex in the UK.

## Office of Strategic Initiatives

**Cliff Bragdon** presented "Better Models for Disaster Preparedness" at the national Gulf Oil Spill Disaster Response Summit held in Mobile, Ala.

**Nikki Hoier** was a guest speaker for the Brevard Workforce-Palm Bay Job Club.

## Campus and Housing Services

**Anthony Skevakis** has earned a doctoral degree in education leadership from the University of Arizona.

## Advancement

**Gretchen Sauerma**n was named Development Officer of the Year for raising more than \$900,000 from May 2009 through April 2010 in cash/gift-in-kinds for Florida Tech. She did more than her part in exceeding her department's goal of \$1 million.

## Florida Tech Online Hosts Successful Conference

Recently, Florida Tech Online Learning hosted the annual Association for Continuing Higher Education South Region Conference in Cocoa Beach. Representatives from several southern schools attended to discuss ways to improve higher education.

Speakers included Dean **Winston Scott**, ACHE President Roxanne Gonzales, BCC President James Drake and others. The theme of the three-day conference was "Exploring New Frontiers in Continuing Education."

**Brian Ehrlich**, Online Learning, and **Shawn Daugherty**, University Alliance, presented "Using Technology to Reach At-Risk Students;" Dean **Robert Niebuhr** and **Christopher Durie**, Nathan M. Bisk College of Business, discussed "Online Course Delivery Approach: An Academic Oversight Model."

**Mary Bonhomme**, **Stevie Purcell** and **Julie Shankle**, as well as **Nikki Hoier**, Office of Strategic Initiatives, planned the conference.

## Having a Conference? We've a One-stop Shop

The Florida Tech Conference Services Bureau has been certified as a One-Stop Shop by the Association of Collegiate Conference and Event Directors—International. This certification is the highest available in the collegiate conference and events field.

The benefits of one-stop shopping include working with one university contact to coordinate a program, receiving one contract for all services provided by the university and one all-inclusive final invoice. This streamlining is intended to be more like convention facilities and finer hotels. Florida Tech joins 45 schools such as Georgia Tech, Baylor University and Loyola Marymount University in this certification.

## Faculty Earn Development Grants

Seven faculty members were awarded Faculty Professional Development Grants by the Academic Information Technology Committee (ACITC) grants program. Grants of up to \$2,500 will provide for hardware and software purchases, student support, participation in technology-related projects and travel. The 2010 recipients are: **Mark Bush**, biological sciences; **Taeyoung Lee**, mechanical and aerospace engineering; **Ada Harvey**, psychology; **Vanessa Edkins**, psychology; **J. Clayton Baum**, chemistry; **Korhan Oyman**, aeronautics; and **Jim Gering**, physics and space sciences. For a list of their projects, visit: [http://web2.fit.edu/newsroom/news/3857/faculty\\_and\\_staff\\_earn\\_development\\_grants](http://web2.fit.edu/newsroom/news/3857/faculty_and_staff_earn_development_grants)

## Catanese is New ICUF Chair

President **Anthony J. Catanese** was elected chairman of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida (ICUF) for a two-year term.

ICUF is an association of 28 private, educational institutions. These colleges and universities award 26 percent of Florida's bachelor's degrees and one-third of all degrees. As chairman, Catanese will be ICUF's principal advocate in Tallahassee and Washington.

## President Tours New Arena

*President Anthony J. Catanese took a hard-hat tour of what will be Orlando's new Amway Center.*



*Home to the Orlando Magic, the metal and glass 20,000-seat facility opens this fall. Pictured with the president are, from left: Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer, Magic COO Alex Martins and Orange County Mayor Richard Crotty.*

## May MVP



The May Most Valuable Panther was **David Cruz** of Facilities-Grounds.

MVP Committee Chair **Leslie Savoie** will be accepting nominations again beginning in November.

## Sponsored Scholar

The Young Adult of the Month award, sponsored by the Melbourne Regional Chamber of East Central Florida, went to **Caleb Casteel** of Bayside High School in May. He will receive a Florida Tech scholarship each of his four years if he chooses to attend the university.

## Transitions

*Promotions:* **John Beliveau**, Evans Library; **Dianna Jenkins**, **Cynthia Johnsrud** and **Andrea Morley**, Online Learning; **Hazel Roskamp**, Alumni Affairs; **Pamela Jacob** and **Margie Porter**, Undergraduate Admission

*New Hires:* **Austen West**, University Alliance; **Jennifer Nessmith**, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering; **Patricia Macy**, Nathan M. Bisk College of Business; **Judy Tryzbiak**, College of Engineering; **Heather Talley**, Physics and Space Sciences; **Jennifer DeRoy**, Office of Strategic Initiatives; **Cassandra Petersen**, Undergraduate Admission; **Travis Burmood**, Facilities; **Alana Misseldine**, Financial Aid; **Animesh Manek**, Information Technology; **Melissa Honaker**, School of Psychology; **Jennifer Green** and **Maria Suarez**, Controller's Office; **Yohan Correa**, Biological Sciences

### Message from Human Resources

Dear Campus Community,

We are excited to bring you an educational 403(b) retirement series! Please join us in the Hartley Room on the dates listed below at 9 a.m., 11 a.m. or 1 p.m. to learn some terrific strategies to map out your journey on the Road to Retirement.

- June 22 Free Money
- July 14 Tax Advantages
- Aug. 17 Basics of Investing
- Sept. 15 Cost of Waiting
- Oct. 19 Retirement Festival

For additional information, visit [www.fit.edu/hr/403b/seminars](http://www.fit.edu/hr/403b/seminars)

Be well and prosper,  
Dr. Joni Oglesby, Director of Human Resources

### 75 Turn Out for Emeriti Reception



Three retiring faculty were honored as Faculty Emeriti at a May luncheon. They were Russ Weigel, biological sciences; Paul Davis, aeronautics; and V. Lakshimikanthan "Dr. Lak," mathematical sciences. Above: Provost T. Dwayne McCay and Paul Davis.

### A Visit from Former Governor Jeb Bush



Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush spoke at the annual Nathan M. Bisk College of Business 10th Annual Ethics and Leadership Conference. Here he shares an anecdote with President Catanese. The event was held at Harris Corp. headquarters.

### Air Traffic Control Initiative

Florida Tech is among five new colleges and the only school added from Florida to join in the Federal Aviation Administration's Air Traffic Collegiate Training Initiative (FAA AT-CTI) program.

The AT-CTI curriculum provides education, experience and training to meet the basic requirements for air traffic occupations. Between 2005 and 2009, more than 3,000 or 41 percent of the air traffic controllers hired graduated from AT-CTI schools.



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## From the President's Desk



Anthony James Catanese

First, let me warn you. If you haven't eaten recently and maybe even if you have, you will probably be hungry when you finish this column. You're going to read some delicious details about the new dining services building that's taking shape on south campus. When it opens in January 2011, I think you'll find a comfortable, pleasant place to dine that offers a variety of new, tasty and healthy choices.

As you come in the door to the dining center, you'll see a variety of display cooking stations. The international station will have a rotating menu of items that chefs will cook in front of you. You'll know the pizza buffet by the big, stone pizza oven; the pasta station will offer pre-made and made-to-order dishes; at the grill you'll find hamburgers, hot dogs, fries and more; salad fans will enjoy the entrée salad station; and the comfort food station will have classic entrées, vegetables and starches. In the room's center will be a big buffet bar with made-to-order panini, hot and cold sandwiches, and a salad, dessert and homemade soup area. A buffet beverage bar and a breakfast bar will be on the side.

The grocery store/quick serve facility will provide prepackaged freshly cooked foods for take-out and a deli where cold cuts will be portioned and sliced just as you want them. There'll be a grab-n-go grill and breakfast sandwiches.

Dining Services has listened to requests like smaller portions, more foods for vegetarians and more made fresh-to-order selections.

Seating choices include deck seating that will look out over the new swimming pool—when it's complete. Inside there will be tables, small and large, and booths.

The SUB and Rathskeller services will remain the same. Center Court will likely become a satellite of the new dining center. Evans Dining will cease operations for dining and we're still considering the best use of that space.

Bon Appétit!