

The Bottom Line

News from the Nathan M. Bisk College of Business

Spring 2026

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Future-Focused Learning: Enriching Business Education Through STEM

The [Bisk College of Business](#) has taken several steps toward enhancing business education for careers of the future through STEM. Most recently, we:

- Added master's programs in business analytics and health care management
- Established a space MBA specialization
- Developed a cooperative initiative with [Burrell College of Health Sciences](#) for an MBA-Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree



Also, the U.S. Department of Education has designated all Florida Tech MBAs as STEM degrees, which allows international students to receive three years of Optional Practical Training (OPT), a major benefit.

The [Doctor of Business Administration](#) is now offered in a synchronous online format, including a three-day spring residency for greater student success.

In the undergraduate program, the college now offers [BUS 4403: Applied AI and Machine Learning in Finance](#). The college will continue to update the curriculum as artificial intelligence forms new markets in business.

Student success is important to the college's strategic plan and is demonstrated through our success in varied student competitions:

- IACBE South Region Case Competition (fall 2025): eight students; second and fourth place
- Global Scaling Challenge (spring 2026): two teams (eight students); 61 global teams; fourth place and \$3,000 prize
- Stetson Ethics Competition (February 2026): two students; national field; Delta Air Lines sustainability case

Our students were also having fun with top finishes in campus dodgeball (first) and kickball (second) tournaments.

Just as important, our [Bisk College of Business Advisory Board](#) continues to help the college connect real-world businesses with students and faculty. Our focus is on highlighting the numerous career opportunities available to business students through events with real employers and customers of business education.

As we progress toward the fall 2026 semester, we continue to envision new pathways and opportunities within the Bisk College of Business.

Respectfully,
Theodore R. Richardson III, Ed.D.
Dean, Bisk College of Business



FLORIDA'S STEM UNIVERSITY™

Panthers on the Rise

SHAH SHAHROOZI '80, '04 M.S.



Shah Shahroozi '80, '04 M.S., was named top project director of the year for 2025 by the International Association of Top Professionals for his leadership and contributions to the industry.

With more than 40 years of experience, Shahroozi serves as executive project director at Fluor Corp. He has led complex programs across multiple industries and global markets, delivering projects with a focus on cost certainty, schedule predictability and performance reliability.

His work spans planning, engineering, procurement, construction and operations, with experience across the United States, the Caribbean, Latin America, Canada, Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Australia.

DONA GAYNOR '92 M.S.



Florida Tech [Career Services](#) director Dona Gaynor '92 M.S. was [recognized](#) with the Myrna P. Hoover Lifetime Impact Award, the highest honor from the Florida

Association of Colleges and Employers.

For nearly four decades, Gaynor has served the profession and contributed extensive time and leadership to the association. A past president, she has supported the organization in numerous roles and helped advance the career services field.

"I was very honored to receive the award and to be recognized by my peers in Florida for my achievements as a career services professional and as a leader in the Florida Association of Colleges and Employers," Gaynor said.

JOAN HIGGINBOTHAM '92 M.S., '96 M.S.



[Joan Higginbotham](#) '92 M.S., '96 M.S., received the [2025 Bisk College of Business Outstanding Alumni Award](#).

Higginbotham is an electrical engineer and

former NASA astronaut. Her career began at Kennedy Space Center, where

she held technical and leadership roles supporting 53 space shuttle launches.

Selected as an astronaut in 1996, she flew as a mission specialist aboard space shuttle *Discovery* STS-116 in December 2006, becoming the third Black woman to travel to space.

After leaving NASA, Higginbotham held senior leadership roles at several Fortune 500 companies, including Marathon Oil, Lowe's and Collins Aerospace.

In 2022, she founded Joan Higginbotham Ad Astra LLC, an aerospace consulting firm focused on solving complex technical challenges and supporting innovation.

She serves on the boards of the Association of Space Explorers, Astronaut Scholarship Foundation, National Aeronautic Association and Space Telescopic Institute Council.

THEON DANET '00 MBA



Theo Danet '00 MBA was appointed senior vice president of strategic intelligence at Koniag Government Services.

Danet has more than three decades of experience in

federal technology leadership, with a focus on digital transformation, data strategy and operational performance. In her new role, she will lead initiatives focused on advancing artificial intelligence, expanding Small Business Innovation Research programs and strengthening internal innovation efforts.

Prior to joining Koniag, Danet served as executive director of information technology at the Defense Commissary Agency, where she oversaw IT operations for a global enterprise supporting nearly 240 commissaries across 45 states and 13 countries.

STEVEN L. ALLEN '06 MBA



Steven L. Allen '06 MBA was appointed chief operating officer of Almonty Industries Inc., where he will oversee operations to improve tungsten production and support

the development of key projects in South Korea and the United States.

Allen has more than 30 years of leadership experience in U.S. Army logistics and

sustainment, including overseeing large-scale multinational operations. He most recently served as commanding general of the 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command and director of logistics for U.S. Forces Korea, Combined Forces Command and United Nations Command. He also served as commandant of the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps School.

SEAN BRANDT '09 MBA



Sean Brandt '09 MBA serves as a project management officer with the Joint Program Executive Office for Armaments and Ammunition, where he supports defense programs

across the U.S. Army, Air Force and Navy.

With more than 18 years of experience in the armaments and ammunition workforce, Brandt manages complex multiservice initiatives, including general purpose and penetrator bomb portfolios. His work supports national defense efforts by coordinating production across government-operated facilities.

Among his key contributions, Brandt helped deliver 40,000 Mark 84 Tritonal bombs to the U.S. Air Force, meeting a surge in demand while reducing production time and cost. His experience spans systems ranging from artillery and mortar components to advanced munitions used across multiple military branches.

MARTIN "MARTY" GANG '09 MS



Martin "Marty" Gang '09 M.S. was named vice president for information technology and chief information officer at Polk State College in Lakeland.

Gang has more than 25 years of leadership experience in higher education technology. At Polk State, Gang will focus on improving the student and employee experience by making systems more user-friendly and efficient. His priorities also include strengthening cybersecurity and data protection and developing collegewide analytics frameworks to support more consistent, secure and data-informed decision-making.

Through these efforts, Gang aims to enhance operational effectiveness and support student success across the institution.

MARK GREENE '11 M.S.



Mark Greene '11 M.S., a former IT executive, co-authored *The Silence of Sapphire*, a 40-chapter thriller developed through an international collaboration with writers

from Madagascar, Italy and Jamaica.

Set in Italy and Madagascar, the novel follows a detective investigating a complex case involving a criminal known as "The Collector," where shifting alliances and hidden motives drive the story forward.

The Silence of Sapphire is available on [Amazon](#) in paperback, hardcover and Kindle versions.

JACKIE GRIFFIN '12, '13 MBA



Jackie Griffin '12, '13 MBA, broker-owner of Florida Lifestyle Realty in Cocoa Beach, was installed as the 2026 president of the Space Coast Association of Realtors, the largest professional

membership organization in Brevard County.

Griffin has more than 23 years of experience in real estate and has helped more than 1,600 families buy and sell property across the Space Coast. Her work has earned statewide recognition, including being one of just 44 Realtors to receive the Florida Realtors Board Certified Professional endorsement, placing her among the top 0.1% of real estate professionals in Florida.

DANIELLE C. ANDERSEN '15 MBA



Danielle C. Andersen '15 MBA serves as a supervisory program analysis officer with the U.S. Army Capability Program Executive for Ammunition and Energetics,

supporting the Office of the Project Manager Combat Ammunition Systems.

With 15 years of experience in the armaments and ammunition workforce, Andersen leads financial management across the full program life cycle, including planning, budgeting, fund distribution and execution for research,

development and acquisition programs. She also oversees funding for indirect fire development and production supporting long-range precision fires initiatives.

Since becoming a supervisor in 2022, Andersen has focused on team development while maintaining strong program performance. Her team has met requirements across multiple budget cycles and achieved key benchmarks tied to Office of the Secretary of Defense financial goals.

GOBIVENKATA BALAJI '20 MBA



Gobivenkata Balaji '20 MBA was appointed to the Board of Medicine by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis.

Balaji is founder, president and CEO of Brevard Health Center, where

he also serves as a physician. Active in the community, he is a member of the University of Central Florida College of Medicine admissions committee and the Holmes Regional Medical Center credentials committee. He previously served as president of the Brevard County Medical Society.

In his new role, Balaji will help guide statewide standards for medical practice and patient care.

DANIELLE SIREKIS '25 MBA



Florida Tech [Esports](#) director [Danielle Sirekis](#) '25 MBA was awarded the*gamehubs Esports Excellence Award, which recognizes individuals across esports,

including collegiate and professional players, coaches, analysts and team staff, for excellence in competitive gaming.

An established leader in collegiate esports, she has created a supportive, competitive community that fosters growth and excellence. Her dynamic leadership and commitment to student development have elevated Panther esports teams to new heights.

"There are so many amazing individuals in esports driving the industry forward, and I am beyond thankful to be considered one of those individuals," Sirekis said.

A+ Accolades

No. 1 Online College in Florida, 10th in U.S.

Newsweek magazine

Newsweek magazine featured 21 Florida schools among the 250 institutions on its [Best Online Colleges 2026](#) list, with University of South Florida the second highest at No. 35.

"I believe higher education can be a game-changing endeavor, but we have to make sure our timely courses and important programs are also offered in ways and through methods that make them easier to fit into our busy lives," said Florida Tech President [John Nicklow](#).

Top 100 Online Undergraduate Programs in Business

No. 38 Online Master's Degree in Information Technology

U.S. News and World Report

In [U.S. News and World Report's \(USNWR\) 2026 online rankings](#), Florida Tech's online business programs rose six spots from 2025 and is now tied for No. 98 in the country. USNWR also [ranked](#) some graduate online programs, including Florida Tech's [online master's degree in information technology](#), which landed at No. 38.

No. 1 Online MBA Program in Florida

MBA schools.org

[MBA schools.org](#) ranked Florida Tech's [Master of Business Administration \(MBA\) in finance](#) No. 1 out of 31 online MBA programs in the state.

"The IACBE-accredited curriculum prepares graduates for high-impact roles like financial analyst and chief financial officer," the site noted about Florida Tech's program.

Top 10 MBA Program in Florida

Research.com

Research.com recognized Florida Tech's [MBA program](#) as one of the best MBA programs in the state, ranking it No. 10 out of 44 institutions. The site noted the university's "dedication to academic excellence and student satisfaction" in its MBA programs.

Happenings

weVENTURE WBC NEWS ROUNDUP



The [weVENTURE Women's Business Center](#) (WBC) is expanding its impact through new programming, leadership growth and community recognition initiatives.

HerStory

In January, weVENTURE WBC [launched HerStory](#), a podcast series highlighting the experiences of women entrepreneurs. Hosted by small business owners Darcy Manning, founder of THE DARCYMM COLLECTIVE, and KyAlea Monma, founder of HOKU Design Group, the series features conversations exploring the challenges, successes and lessons that shape entrepreneurial journeys.

Advisory Board

weVENTURE WBC recently [expanded its advisory board](#) with nine new members, bringing expertise from across aerospace and defense, health care, philanthropy, entrepreneurship and organizational leadership. The volunteer board, now comprising 26 members, helps guide strategy, programming and events while supporting outreach, mentorship and community engagement.

New members include Jessica Cartagena Assam of STUDIO 4Forty, Charlene Butler of L3Harris Technologies Inc., Natasha Butler of Commonwealth Fusion Systems, Lisa Crites, Meeta Gandhi of Orlando Health Melbourne Hospital, Khalilah Maragh of Florida Realty Results, Eyad Mubaied of Cultivate Culture LLC, Megan Patel of Alluvionix and Inez van Ravenzwaaij of Evergreen Private Care.

Neighborhood Builder

weVENTURE WBC was named a 2025 Neighborhood Builder by Bank of America in recognition of its work supporting entrepreneurs through coaching, education, mentorship and leadership development. The designation includes a \$50,000 grant distributed over two years, along with leadership training and access to a national nonprofit network.

Women Who Rock

weVENTURE also [recognized](#) local leaders at its 2026 [Women Who Rock Awards](#) March 18.

Honorees included Christi Adams of The Glass House as Small Business Owner of the Year, Cheyana Fischer of Health First as Executive of the Year, Nicole Hosey of Montas Turner P.A. for

Excellence in Mentorship, Lauren-Ann Graham '20, '23 M.S., of Lockheed Martin as STEM Impact Leader, Alexis Eppes of Eppes Psych for Excellence in Caregiving, and Deborah Carson of Eightysecond Capital Partners for the Zonta Yellow Rose for Excellence in Community Service.

MARKETING STUDENTS PRESENT REAL-WORLD PROJECTS TO LOCAL BUSINESS LEADERS



In December 2025, students in assistant professor [Samuel Sekar's](#) marketing courses completed real-world projects for two local organizations—VitaGlide and Downtown Melbourne Main Street—and presented their work to the organizations' leaders during class visits.

Marcy Ullom, CEO of VitaGlide, and Kimberly Agee, executive director of Downtown Melbourne Main Street, met with students to review their findings and offer feedback.

In Sekar's [marketing principles course](#), students developed comprehensive plans for VitaGlide. The project required students to analyze the company's business environment, identify target markets, craft positioning strategies, propose actionable recommendations to support the company's growth and present their ideas directly to Ullom.

Her visit gave students the chance to receive critiques and guidance from a company CEO, mirroring professional practice. Ullom told the class that several of their ideas would be incorporated into VitaGlide's 2026 plan.

Students in Sekar's [marketing analysis and strategy course](#) conducted a research project examining how Florida Tech students perceive Downtown Melbourne Main Street compared with Melbourne Square Mall, The Avenue Viera and Eau Gallie Arts District.

The group designed and administered a survey; analyzed perception, preference and demographic data using cluster and discriminant analysis; developed a perceptual map; identified areas for improvement; proposed strategies to enhance community engagement and visibility; and presented their findings.

Agee attended the presentation, praised the group's professionalism and fresh perspectives and noted that their recommendations offered actionable strategies for community engagement.

"These projects provide students with an opportunity to apply classroom learning in a practical setting, tackle real-world challenges and enhance their confidence through feedback from business leaders," Sekar said.

WALTON RECOGNIZED AS EXPERT U.S. DELEGATE IN GLOBAL INNOVATION STANDARDS



Professor [Abram Walton](#) has been recognized by the American Network for Innovation as an Expert U.S. Delegate to ISO Technical Committee

279 (ISO/TC 279)—the international body responsible for innovation management standards.

The recognition acknowledges Walton's contributions to the ISO 56000 family of standards—a suite of internationally recognized frameworks for innovation management systems.

ISO, the International Organization for Standardization, convenes experts from across the globe to develop shared frameworks that support quality, consistency and best practices across industries. Work within ISO/TC 279 focuses specifically on giving organizations the systems and methods needed to make innovation more intentional, repeatable and measurable.

Walton's recognition as an Expert U.S. Delegate reflects both his individual expertise and Florida Tech's growing stature in global standards development. Under his leadership as executive director, the [Center for Innovation Management and Business Analytics \(CIMBA\)](#) has grown into a platform for applied scholarship, global standards work and student development. Through CIMBA, Florida Tech has become an active contributor to international conversations about how innovation is defined, managed and measured—giving the university a seat at tables where language and governance of innovation are still being shaped.

STUDENTS GAIN PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE THROUGH SHRM PUBLICATIONS



SHRM Florida, the state affiliate of the Society for Human Resource Management, publishes the *Florida SHRM Newswire*, a monthly newsletter that reaches more than 16,000 subscribers. It features event updates, district spotlights and in-depth articles exploring key human resources topics.

For [Abram Walton](#), professor in the [Bisk College of Business](#) and head of SHRM Florida's Analytics and Innovation Research Committee, the *Newswire* also creates valuable opportunities for students and alumni.

"Since most students aren't looking to go into academia but do want to build their professional suite of what I call 'résumé-worthy experiences,' I look to create opportunities that I have the ability to dole out to our students and our alumni," he said.

Walton regularly collaborates with students and graduates to produce articles on timely HR topics, including the gap between HR practice and science, the role of AI in the workplace and data-driven approaches to improving employee retention.

Among those efforts is Walton's "Rethinking Quality of Work Life" series, the first two [articles](#) of which he co-authored with [industrial-organizational psychology doctoral student Alex Silverman '22 M.S.](#) He also co-authored "[Integrity by Design: A New Frontier in Fraud Detection](#)," exploring how HR can use artificial intelligence to shift from reactive to proactive fraud prevention, with undergraduate [business administration student Taylor Mooney](#).

Walton draws on a strong network of industry professionals and alumni to contribute, as well. Management consultant [Bob Seemer '85 MBA](#), for example, authored "[Improve Workforce Retention by Using Data](#)," which explores how AI can strengthen workforce retention.

"We enhance their learning environment, increase the students' engagement—and there is a ton of mentoring and enrichment opportunities linked with these articles," Walton said. "For these students, and for the alumni we enlist, they end up feeling even closer to their alma mater for this experience, as they

extend and deepen their relationships with Florida Tech."

Many students also present their work at competitive national conferences, expanding their professional networks.

"I have seen how impactful these experiences can be and am glad to be able to bring them to deserving student," Walton said.

COB LAUNCHES NEW GRADUATE PROGRAMS, EARNS STEM DESIGNATION

The [Bisk College of Business](#) will introduce two new [graduate programs](#) for the [2026-27 academic year](#): a [Master of Science in Business Analytics](#) and a [Master of Business Administration \(MBA\) with a specialization in space](#).

The business analytics M.S. will focus on statistical analysis, data mining, machine learning, business intelligence and predictive analytics. The program is designed to prepare students for leadership roles across private, public and nonprofit sectors by developing skills in data-driven decision-making and strategic problem-solving.

The MBA with a space specialization will build on the college's core business curriculum while emphasizing the strategic, financial and operational demands of the growing space economy. The program aims to prepare graduates to lead organizations operating within or supporting the space industry.

In addition, all Bisk College of Business [MBA programs](#) have been designated as science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) degrees following a campus review aligned with Classification of Instructional Programs codes from the National Center for Education Statistics.

The designation reflects the integration of quantitative disciplines, including microeconomics, econometrics, accounting analytics, financial planning and financial decision-making, into the curriculum.

VIERA HIGH WINS TOP SPOT AT HIGH SCHOOL BUSINESS ETHICS COMPETITION



A team from Viera High School won first place in the [26th annual Bisk College of Business High School Business Ethics Competition](#). Teams from Rockledge High School placed

second and fourth, with Melbourne Central Catholic High School (MCC) placing third.

The two-round competition is designed to enhance high school students' understanding of business ethics and their application in the field. Groups of three to four students are presented with ethical dilemmas and must determine how to apply tests and justify their choices. The experience teaches team skills and exposes students to the challenge of interschool scholastic competition. It also gives them a chance to work with experienced professionals and build relationships with [Bisk College of Business faculty](#).

The top teams were awarded up to \$192,000—primarily in merit scholarships to Florida Tech, but also some cash prizes. All participants are guaranteed a minimum merit scholarship of \$12,000, renewable for three additional years, if they enroll at the university.



Rockledge High School teams placed second and fourth



Melbourne Central Catholic High School (MCC) placed third

Career Sprint

Professional development bootcamp preps students for post-grad life



Students and mentors wrap up the inaugural Career Sprint program, a six-week professional development bootcamp focused on real-world skills, career coaching and meaningful alumni connections.

In March, the [Nathan M. Bisk College of Business](#) completed its inaugural [Student Career Sprint program](#), a six-week professional development bootcamp designed to bridge coursework with real-world readiness through an immersive blend of coaching, workshops and employer-focused skill-building.

Twenty students from across the college participated, from first-year Panthers to graduating seniors. Throughout the program, they engaged in mock interviews, résumé refinement, strength-based assessments, personalized coaching and workshops on business planning, entrepreneurship, salary negotiation, artificial intelligence in business and more.

The hybrid format, featuring four in-person evening sessions and supplemental virtual content, provided flexibility without sacrificing intensity.

A defining feature of the program was its strong alumni involvement. All nine mentors were Florida Tech graduates, and many of the workshop speakers were alumni. Several—including Connor Cassidy '19, '23 MBA, and [Letwan Sutton](#) '20 A.S., '20, '21 MBA—also served as speakers for the college's fall 2025 [Business Connect](#) event, which drew more than 180 students for hands-on career preparation.

"I chose to mentor in the Career Spirit program because I wanted to share the kind of guidance I wish I'd had as a Florida Tech student," said Cole Stubbe '22, '23 M.S. "The transition into the professional world can be a big shift, and I enjoyed helping the students navigate that change and move confidently into their next chapter."

Florida Tech's [Office of Alumni Affairs](#) and [Career Services](#) teams brought Career Sprint to life after Saurabh Gupta '04 M.S. proposed the idea to university President John Nicklow.

"By entrusting us with the opportunity to design and build this program from the ground up, President Nicklow gave us the chance to create something truly meaningful for our students," said Gina Yates '19, assistant vice president, Alumni Affairs. "It was an incredibly rewarding experience and far exceeded all our expectations."

The program reached capacity only a few days into its launch, reflecting high student interest. And its impact was immediate.

"Because of the connections and networking opportunities this event created, I was fortunate enough to secure two operations internships," student and Career Sprint alumna Caitlyn Keebler said.

Another student who participated has accepted a full-time position with one of the mentors in the program.

"It's exactly the path I hoped to be on," Keebler said. "And it would not have happened without the opportunities this program provided."

Together, the Career Sprint and Business Connect programs highlight the college's growing ecosystem of professional development—powered by alumni leadership, dedicated volunteers and cross-campus collaboration.

Students: Cohen Fagerstrom, Nilsu Demiran, Kevin Wolfe, Benjamin Bucci, Leylah Grimes, Danae Butler, Kyle Russell, Sean Monrreal, Brayden Bowen, Caitlyn Keebler, Eseroghene Oguma, Hannah Harris, David Krinock, Angel (AJ) Wydra, Natalie Rhodes, Caesar Menezes, Carl Mason, Kenneth Nguyen, Nicholas Feliciani

Mentors: Scott Lewitt '82, '85 M.S., Rick Horner '90 M.S., '93 MBA, Rebecca Menard '03, Chris Parlier '09 M.S., Connor Cassidy '19, '23 MBA, Jessica Applewhite '21, Cole Stubbe '22, '23 M.S., Matthew Bowden '23, Kendall Gavin '25

Presenters: Emily Glatz '15, Madison Hatzel, Melissa Patton, Daniel Rassoul '17, '19 MBA, Letwan Sutton '20 A.S., '20, '21 MBA

Alumni Spotlight: Sarah Irizarry



For almost 15 years, Sarah Irizarry '10, '12 MBA, has brought energy, dedication and Panther Pride to campus. She began her journey at Florida Tech as a student, earning both a [bachelor's and master's degree in business](#), and is now a leader shaping the student experience through [athletics](#) and events as assistant athletic director for facilities services. We caught up with her to learn more about her journey and what keeps her inspired.

How long have you worked at Florida Tech? What's the secret to that kind of longevity?

I have worked at Florida Tech for 14 years. The secret is to truly embrace the "why" of

Florida Tech. I love coming to work every day, hoping to help be a small part of a student's success story.

When did you first join Florida Tech, and what have you done throughout the years?

I first joined Florida Tech as a student and received both my bachelor's and master's degrees in business before becoming a staff member full time. I have been a part of managing the [Clemente Center](#) from a facilities/operations perspective, and now I oversee all athletic facilities. My goal is to make it a great experience for every student, faculty, staff and external user.

What do you love about your job?

Two words: the students! They are not only why we are all here but give us such an opportunity to learn from them, and also, mentor them to help them be successful once they graduate. Helping students get their dream jobs by just being a small part in their journey is an awesome opportunity.

What is your favorite Florida Tech memory?

I really enjoy being a part of [commencement](#) every year. Nothing beats seeing the excitement of students and their families/support systems on that day. The energy in the Clemente Center is

incredible. Seeing students graduate is awesome! I always say, the Clemente Center is the first place a student comes when they check in for orientation and then, the last place they leave on campus after graduation. How cool is that?

How would you describe your relationship with the students? Are there any student success stories that resonate with you?

I would describe my relationship with the students as fun! Supervising student workers at Clemente really helps me get to know the students, as well as help them gain work experience for their postgrad plans. The best part is when former student workers return to campus and visit and talk about their time working at the Clemente Center and how much they enjoyed their experience.

How have you seen the university (and/or your department) grow/change over the years?

The university has grown a lot over the years in the advancement of academia, as well as in other areas. Florida Tech, over time, has shown that it isn't Florida's best-kept secret. The drive of the campus community will continue this growth, and I am excited to be a small part of it.

Faculty Spotlight: Tim Muth



For more than 18 years, [Tim Muth](#) has been a driving force in the [Bisk College of Business](#) (COB), bringing real-world insight, student-centered dedication and an unwavering commitment to Florida Tech's mission. After joining the university in 2007 following a long corporate career, he has become a trusted instructor known for motivating students, embracing innovation and fostering collaboration across campus. We caught up with him to reflect on his journey and what continues to inspire his work.

Working as a COB instructor, how have you seen Florida Tech and its students evolve?

Change is constant—the growth of social media, the pandemic, economic and political events and the rise of AI have all influenced

students, staff and faculty. To thrive, Florida Tech must keep adapting. I remember when online courses were introduced in 2008. Today, AI is challenging us to incorporate new technology while ensuring students still develop critical thinking and communication skills.

What role does interacting with the campus community play in keeping your job fresh?

I enjoy working with people across Florida Tech. While it is easier to stay inside your own silo, it is more rewarding to learn new things from other areas and to implement programs that help the entire university.

What do you love about your job?

I love working with motivated students, meeting interesting people, unlimited educational opportunities and traveling to new places.

What makes Florida Tech a unique place to work?

Small class sizes allow us to get to know our students; the presence of foreign students exposes us to different cultures; and we have the freedom to bring unique learning experiences into our classrooms.

Favorite Florida Tech memory?

There are many: watching students give professional presentations to local businesses,

seeing them help each other on projects, taking them to business competitions, hearing about alumni career successes, playing on COB dodgeball and kickball teams, watching students grasp new concepts and sharing their excitement when they get their first job.

How would you describe your relationship with students? Any success stories?

I'm always available to meet with students. I try to be a role model, motivate them to always give 100% effort, remind them they have unlimited potential, show them a sense of humor and encourage them to stay positive. I have many student success stories—too many to summarize easily.

How have you seen the university or your department change?

I've seen physical growth, rising enrollment—both on campus and online—expanding athletic programs and new educational technologies. I've also had the privilege of meeting many smart and kind people.

What do you see in your future, personally or professionally?

My goals are to continue motivating students, travel internationally, keep learning every day, volunteer in the community and give thanks for my loving family.

Doctor of Business Administration Update

DBA Candidate Presents ERP Implementation Research at CFGS



On April 22-24, [DBA](#) candidate Ernest Savage, alongside other doctoral students, represented Florida Tech at the [Conference of Florida Graduate Schools](#) in Gainesville, Florida.

Savage presented a poster on his preliminary dissertation research titled “ERP Implementation: A Qualitative Analysis of the Moderating Influence of ERP User Attitudes on the Relationship Between Behavioral Intention and Actual ERP Use.”

This study analyzes the influence of user attitudes on the relationship between behavioral intention and actual Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system use. ERP implementation can be a critical differentiator for firms seeking a competitive advantage.

Consequently, if the return on investment required to attain said advantage is not attained, a failed ERP implementation can result in financial ruin, decreased employee morale and reputational harm.

Building on the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) and related theories, the study explores the psychological and organizational factors that hinder or facilitate ERP adoption, particularly in high-compliance industries, such as aerospace and defense.

Assistant professor [Keiron Hylton](#) serves as Savage’s advisor, supporting and guiding his research throughout the dissertation process.

DBA Student Spotlight: Wavell Williams



Wavell Williams is a DBA student and warrant officer in the U.S. Army, where he serves as a senior technical adviser in the Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Intelligence directorate within the United States Special Operations Command. We spoke with Williams about his journey in the DBA program and the impact it has already had on his career.

What is your current research focus, and why does it matter in the real world?

I’m studying how improving data-sharing capability maturity, grounded in a dynamic capabilities’ framework, impacts speed of access and operational cost across organizational and security boundaries. It matters because we still rely on manual, network-bound approaches while sustaining multiple networks and redundant capabilities without a clear way to know if we’re actually improving access or lowering cost.

What skills or insights have you gained that you’re already applying professionally?

As crazy as this sounds, the value of a well-crafted problem statement and a logically sound argument, along with a deeper understanding of organizational behavior. These three skills have helped me communicate complex ideas in a way that resonates with everyone from senior leaders to the newest team members.

What advice would you give to someone considering a DBA at Florida Tech?

Do not let imposter syndrome and self-doubt stop you from your greatness. There are humans out there just waiting to hear your perspective. The DBA program at Florida Tech will challenge you but will also sharpen your thinking and elevate your impact.