Panthers win historic first game

20-13 in 2013

ONE BIG QUESTION “WHY ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE TO STUDY MATH?” p. 15
Features

15 One Big Question with Semen Koksal
Mathematical Sciences Department Head Semen Koksal explains why it's important to encourage young people to study math.

16 Rob Phebus: Leadership and Loyalty
Rob Phebus' leadership and loyalty—both in his career and in his service to the university—exemplify the ideals of the Jerome P. Keuper Distinguished Alumnus award.

18 Panther Parent Pride
Youth leagues, high school accolades, family heritage ... Panther football parents reflect on the journey of building a collegiate athlete.

22 When Mars Attacks!
Seventy-five years after Orson Welles' infamous "War of the Worlds" broadcast, the question of alien existence still captivates us. The question Assistant Professor Hakeem Oluseyi ponders is how do we find it.

39 Honor Roll of Donors
The campus swelled with Panther Pride before the inaugural football game on Sept. 7. Tailgating activities filled the parking lots south of University Blvd., including a tent and concession area adjacent to the football practice field. The Panther Den. Fans also lined the route of the Panther Prowl, cheering the team as they made their way from the Denius Student Center to the Varsity Training Center in advance of the game.

Florida Tech Today
Florida Institute of Technology
President and Chief Operating Officer
Anthony James Catanese, Ph.D., FAICP
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
T. Dwayne McCay, Ph.D.
VC President for Marketing and Communications
Judy Tintera

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Alumni News
25 From the FTAA President
26 Homecoming 2013
28 On the Road
New York • Boston • Dad Vail
30 AlumNotes
Alumni Spotlight: James Wong
Alumni Spotlight: Melissa Steinman
Alumni Spotlight: Kim Bozik
34 News from Bino Campanini

Alumni Office
ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ALUMNI RELATIONS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Bino Campanini ’90, ’92 MBA (321) 674-8434, bccampanini@fit.edu
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
Diane Deaton ’10 MBA (321) 674-7198, ddeaton@fit.edu
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR: Marjorie Beckett ’98, ’08 MBA (321) 674-7642, mbeckett@fit.edu
ALUMNUS ENGAGEMENT OFFICER: Stevie Pursell ’12 MBA (321) 674-6826, spursell@fit.edu
ALUMNUS RELATIONS COORDINATOR: Hazel Rosskamp (321) 674-7190, hrosskamp@fit.edu

How To Keep In Touch
Florida Tech, Office of Marketing and Communications, 150 W. University Blvd., Melbourne, FL 32901-6975 (321) 674-6218, Fax (321) 674-6399, fltechtoday@fit.edu

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PRESIDENT’S PERSPECTIVE

Dear Florida Tech Alumni and Friends,

What a great way to start Florida Tech’s 55th anniversary! Sept. 7, we literally “kicked off” the year with a win in our inaugural football game, beating the Stetson Hatters 20-13. Our young men played with great spirit and energy. I can’t imagine a more fitting way to open a new chapter in the life of the university.

We recently got the news that, for the fourth straight year, U.S. News & World Report ranks us as a Tier One Best National University. Among the 1,500 institutions annually assessed by the publication, Florida Tech was again among the top national universities and the second-highest ranked private university in the state, behind only the University of Miami. Further, Florida Tech earned praise for being the second-most internationally diverse National University in the country.

We hope you’ll join us for Homecoming 2013, Oct. 22–26, as we reflect on some of these accomplishments and continue planning for the future. It will be a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and reminisce about days gone by.

Increasing enrollment, expanding programs and ongoing stories of alumni success converge to make Florida Tech a continued point of pride for us all. Stay tuned for more great news from your university, coming spring semester 2014. We appreciate your continued support.

Sincerely yours,

A.J. Catanese, Ph.D., FAICP
President & Chief Executive Officer
Feedback From Our Readers

Tell us your Two Cents. We welcome your input on the magazine. You asked for bigger photos, expanded campus coverage and more Alumni News; and we listened. Have a comment about something you’ve read? Want to share a memory about your FIT days? Email us at fltechtoday@fit.edu.

HIGH KICKERS REVEALED
Many of the high kickers from 1981 responded to our Nostalgia photo and shared the names of their comrades. We also received some fond memories and photos.

Thomas (T.R.) Hernacki ‘84 explained the origin of the photo as follows:
“Up to this point in time, it was tradition that the Men’s Crew provided the entertainment at the Homecoming Basketball game—the Varsity Men created one squad and the Freshmen created another.

This was the last year of the tradition. The newly created Cheerleading squad did not appreciate our antics that evening as we sort of destroyed their planned routine. At the next practice, Bill Jurgens laid down the law that the tradition was going to die a peaceful disappearance and the formal Cheerleading squad was going to be elevated from an intramural/club activity to a varsity sport activity.

This was the beginning, I believe, of the university changing from a male-dominated engineering college to a full well-rounded program with the female on-campus population increasing every semester. I cheered on the freshmen squad that year since it was my first year at FIT as a transfer student … in the ole gym with the falling ceiling tiles.”

Bruce Schwab ‘83 wrote, “I had a chuckle when I flipped the magazine over to see our picture from 1981!”

The varsity crew “cheerleaders” pictured here were: Juan Hinestrosa ‘84, Al Shawcross ‘83, Steve Fluhr ‘83, Greg Hogan ‘84, Steve Somosky ‘85, Dave Forcucci ‘83, John Sodano ‘83, Bruce Schwab ‘83, Mike McDevitt ‘84, Dave Hill or Steve Stevens and Glen Bunting (coach) or Tom Terry.

Do you know who the two far right fellows are?

WELCOME REVIEWS
I get a lot of magazines from universities around the country through my work, and I want to tell you that yours is one of the best, and is getting better all the time. I toss most of them aside, but I always find I hold up on Florida Tech Today and end up reading at least half the articles. The content is interesting and varied, the design and layout are snappy and modern, the graphics are grabby. I basically rank it with MIT’s Technology Review and Stanford Magazine. Sometimes I even get show ideas from it. So congratulations on a job well done.

Courtland Lewis
Host of American Variety Radio and senior consultant with the National Science Foundation

The current Alumni Association publication is a great asset to perpetuate.

Konan J. Afferi ‘84 M.S.

Spread the Love
2013 marks the 55th anniversary of Florida Institute of Technology. It’s not too late to tell us what you love about Florida Tech! Send your memories; share your photos; spread the love!

You tell us: fltechtoday@fit.edu

Florida Tech Today
Community Collaboration

FLORIDA TECH RECENTLY JOINED WITH LOCAL MEDIA IN TWO SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY NEWS COLLABORATIONS.

First, early in 2013, WFIT and local daily, Florida Today, began a joint effort to deliver local news. The newspaper’s reporters present their local stories through the university’s NPR radio station in three-minute segments six times a day.

“It’s another way WFIT can be an asset to the community and offer our listeners some local news coverage,” said TERRI WRIGHT, WFIT general manager.

Also, during summer 2013, in HEIDI HATFIELD EDWARDS’ “Writing About Science” and “Covering Science and Technology” courses, students got out in the field to Kennedy Space Center. They collaborated with Florida Today on a multimedia project, which examined health in zero gravity, and explored what life in space teaches to help people live better on Earth.

Edwards’ students produced multimedia stories for Florida Today and posted findings of interest to Twitter and Facebook.

Florida Today pulled in the feeds. “The students interviewed astronaut Chris Cassidy in a space to ground session with the International Space Station. It was very exciting,” said Edwards.

—Karen Rhine

Enriching Research

LIGHT-ACTIVATED GRANT

Under a National Science Foundation grant of almost $230,000, YI LIAO, associate professor of chemistry, is exploring the potential of a special molecule, “photoacid,” that can lead to photo-responsive materials. Such materials, changeable by visible light like glasses that darken outdoors, are valuable in a variety of applications, such as data storage, drug delivery, energy conversion and for photo-electronic switches.

BEETTER TOOLS MAKE BETTER ROADS

A dilemma in road building can be bouncing, or rebounding, piles driven for foundations. Civil engineering faculty members earned a $225,000 contract from the Florida Department of Transportation to develop tools and conduct soil research to minimize the problem. Two more contracts brought the FDOT total of research work last spring to $750,000.
EXPERT ADVICE:

Behavior Basics

Why do children misbehave? The simple answer comes down to consequences. ALISON BETZ, assistant professor of psychology, explains how a few simple ground rules can make a big difference in changing a child’s behavior.

RULE 1: REINFORCE (REWARD) GOOD BEHAVIOR ... QUICKLY AND OFTEN.

When your child is rewarded for a particular behavior, that behavior is strengthened and more likely to occur again. This means you can’t take good behavior for granted. Be sure you pay attention to the good behaviors and reinforce the way you want your child to behave. Do this frequently and immediately after good behaviors occur.

RULE 2: TRY NOT TO ACCIDENTALLY REWARD BAD BEHAVIOR.

When poor behavior is reinforced, it too is strengthened and more likely to occur in the future. Beware of accidentally rewarding inappropriate behavior by “giving in” or paying attention to the behavior when all your child wants is your attention. When you “give in” to a tantrum—even in an effort to avoid a scene in public; it teaches children that such behavior will get them what they want.

RULE 3: TEACH MORE APPROPRIATE BEHAVIORS THAT CAN REPLACE THE MILD INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIORS.

When children act out in a mild way, like whining, saying “no” or not listening, try to teach them a better way to get what they want. Introduce these teaching opportunities, however, only with the mild behaviors and not the intensely inappropriate behaviors. A child is probably not listening when he or she is engaging in a tantrum, so wait for the right time to teach the replacement behaviors.

Often times, these rules are easier said than done. The key is to monitor your behavior as much as you do your child’s.

For more information about services available at The Scott Center for Autism Treatment, including training for teachers, parents and caregivers, visit www.thescottcenter.org or call (321) 674-8106.
Summer Field Program in Neotropical Archeoecology

“Incredible birds and butterflies, seven species of monkeys, a family of giant river otters eating piranhas, and—after 25 years of working in the Amazon, I saw my first jaguar—not one but four! How can you not love this place?” MARK BUSH commented on the summer field program he led with RICH ARONSON and MICHAEL GRACE. The expedition introduced 15 students and faculty members to the culture and natural history of Peru, including the lost city of Machu Picchu, Incan sites along the Sacred Valley and the Amazon rainforest.

FIRST FARMER SCHOLAR TURNS THE PAGE

Of course, it’s no surprise that ANDREW HERNANDEZ did well at Florida Tech.

The inaugural Phillip W. Farmer Scholar entered as an accomplished, high-performing freshman in 2009, recipient of the premier scholarship that covers everything for a full four years. He graduated in May with a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering.

Along the way, he was a student government leader, conducted research on Alzheimer’s disease, earned the 2013 Donald R. Mason Award as outstanding senior in the department of chemical engineering and was nominated for the internationally-renowned Rhodes Scholarship.

He also won first place in a student research competition with a design for an implantable biogenerator.

In summer 2013 Hernandez completed an internship with Mainstream Engineering in Rockledge, Fla., gaining some real-world experience. And he’s back this fall to welcome his next challenge: Florida Tech master’s degree studies.—KR

Scholarship Spotlight

KATHRYN DISHER, an aerospace engineering junior, strives to be part of the next generation of spacecraft designers. In her words, “What better place could there be” to study spacecraft design than at the historical place where the race to space started. She is also an active member of the College Players, FIT Rotaract and the Fencing Club, and credits the scholarship support she has received in making her academic and extracurricular commitments possible.

“I didn’t have to worry so much about working during my first year of college,” she says. “My college course work is very different from high school. The classes take time, thought and effort, and I feel so accomplished when I get an A.”

Disher is one of more than 500 Florida Tech students who have benefited from the generosity of the Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation, an organization dedicated to supporting women pursuing post-secondary degrees. The foundation generously provides scholarship funds to deserving female students at Florida Tech each year. After 25 years, funding of Florida Tech scholarship recipients has totaled more than $1.4 million. These resources facilitate the university’s quest to encourage students to pursue STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) majors.

—Stephanie Bacon

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS IN AERONAUTICS

In August, KEN STACKPOOLE, dean of aeronautics and vice president for aviation programs, moved from the dean’s position to focus his attention and time on aviation programs. KORHAN OYMAN, associate professor and former associate dean in the College of Aeronautics, became dean.

ACES FOR AUTISM

The 4th Annual Aces for Autism tennis clinic, held in June, benefited the social skills program of The Scott Center for Autism Treatment. Another “Aces” clinic was held in September.
Eyes on the Skies Prize

A video made by physics and space sciences students and faculty, led by Associate Professor DANIEL BATCHEDLOR, won a research grand prize and 25 hours of observing time on the ARKYD, the world’s first crowd-funded space telescope. The telescope should launch in August 2015.

Planetary Resources Inc. of Seattle will operate the ARKYD Space Telescope, named after the fictional droid manufacturer Arakyd Industries in the Star Wars universe. ARKYD’s 200mm aperture will be used to hunt for and characterize asteroids for future mining missions.

The education and research competition was part of a successful Kickstarter campaign by Planetary Resources that funded the ARKYD mission at $1.5 million. For the competition, participants were asked to produce a video about how the ARKYD telescope would enhance education and research at their institute.

Also helping to make the video were PERRY BIRD ’15, graduate students SAYALI AVACHAT and TRISHA MIZUSAWA, and ERIC PERLMAN, associate professor of physics and space sciences. The Florida Tech video can be viewed at http://bit.ly/ARKYD-FIT.

“This is an unprecedented opportunity for Florida Tech,” said Batchelor. “We will be able to involve our students in all aspects of performing research with a space-based telescope. This means writing and reviewing research proposals, operating the spacecraft, data gathering, analyzing the data and eventual publication in peer-reviewed journals.” —KR

ON CAMPUS

UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR OF BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

World-renowned scientist LARRY HENCH joined Florida Tech in the spring as University Professor of Biomedical Engineering in the College of Engineering. A member of the National Academy of Engineering (NAE), Hench is recognized for his work in bio-ceramics.

In 1969, he discovered Bioglass, the first man-made material to bond to living tissues, which is now clinically used throughout the world to repair bones, joints and teeth. His work has also resulted in numerous Federal Drug Administration (FDA) approvals for bioactive glass devices in maxillofacial and orthopedic surgery.

Hench is director of Florida Tech’s Center for Medical Materials and Photonics, and is currently overseeing a new, online Certificate in Biomedical Engineering program, which is expected to be in beta test this fall.

Most recently, he was awarded the highly acclaimed international 2014 Acta Biomaterialia Gold Medal, which recognizes excellence in research and development in the field of biomaterials. He will be presented with the award at the joint meetings of the European Society of Biomaterials and the United Kingdom Biomaterials Society in 2014.—KR

NAMESAKE SHRIMP

Andy Rhyne ’02 M.S., ’06 Ph.D., a student advised by Junda Lin through his graduate studies in marine biology, has named a new species of peppermint shrimp after his mentor: Lysmata Jundalini. Now an assistant professor at the Roger Williams University, Rhyne found the shrimp off La Parguera, Puerto Rico, and named it to recognize Lin’s work on the aquaculture and sexual biology of the Lysmata.

When translated from Mandarin, Junda means “gentleman”. We combined the given and family name of this remarkable biologist, mentor, colleague, friend and true gentleman, to the specific name jundalini.

ACCOLADES ABOUND

For 2014, Florida Tech has again been recognized by U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, THE PRINCETON REVIEW and the FISKE GUIDE TO COLLEGES. Florida Tech is the second-highest ranked private university in the state and the #2 National University in the country for fostering international student experiences, according to U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT.

WOMEN’S BUSINESS EXPO

The 6th Annual Space Coast Women’s Business Expo, sponsored by Florida Tech’s Women’s Business Center, hosted nearly 250 entrepreneurs at the Hilton Melbourne Rialto Place on August 2. Exhibitors, networking opportunities and panel discussions centered around building, growing and making a difference in business.
DENIUS RETIRES

Assistant professor MARCIA DENIUS, who retired in May, taught at Florida Tech for 22 years. She is an accomplished poet and teacher, who still publishes frequently and produced the poetry chapbook, Sweet Surrender, in 2008.

"Marcia has touched so many students lucky enough to have her," said BOB TAYLOR, head of the School of Arts and Communication and history professor. "She’s one of the most dedicated teachers I have ever encountered."

A patron of the arts, Denius was founding president of the former Brevard Museum of Art (now Foosaner Art Museum).

Her greatest joy in retirement, she says, is more leisure time. Read more from Denius, in her own words, at today.fit.edu—KR

FACULTY ENDOwendments

Endowments are gifts that keep giving, and for two university colleagues, they are also a way to honor their loved ones.

In memory of his wife’s passing, KEN STACKPOOLE, vice president for aviation programs, initiated the Susan Stackpoole Endowed Fund for College of Aeronautics Faculty, Programs and Lab Enrichment. The endowment is designed to assist in faculty development, academic program development and aeronautics laboratory enrichment. Stackpoole has also designated the endowment as the beneficiary of his life insurance policy.

"Susan was adjunct faculty and loved teaching," said Stackpoole. "She believed in this college. I hope that people who loved her as much as I do will contribute."

VIRENDER SHARMA, professor of chemistry, recently set up the Mrs. Krishna Devi Sharma Fellowship Endowment for Chemistry students in memory of his late mother. Royalties from his books Oxidation of Amino Acids, Peptides, and Proteins and Mossbauer Spectroscopy: Applications in Chemistry, Biology, Industry, and Nanotechnology will go toward the endowment. In the introduction to his book on proteins, Sharma discusses his struggles with the loss of his mother and how her illness prompted him to delve into a new area of research. A beneficiary of scholarship and assistantship support during his time as a student, Sharma said he wants to give back.

—Lisa M. Onorato

For more information on the Stackpoole endowment, visit give.fit.edu/susan-stackpoole-endowed-fund. For information on the Sharma endowment, visit give.fit.edu/sharma-endowment or call the Office of Development at (321) 674-6400.

BEHIND THE SCENES

After diners finish a meal in Panther Dining Hall, they clean their tables and go to the three-tiered conveyor in the back where the dishes are shuttled behind the scenes.

Here, a state-of-the-art system is in place to reduce the waste, recycle the water, and clean and sanitize the dishes for reuse in the dining room.

First, the waste is rinsed from the dishes and processed through the waste pulper system. Next, the dishes are placed in racks and sent through the dishwasher unit.

This is how the waste pulper works:

1. Diner places dishes on conveyor belt tray.
2. Dining hall staff rinse waste material from dishes/glasses and stack them to load in the dishwasher unit.
3. Waste material is fed to the pulper through a trough.
4. The waste material is drawn into the stainless steel cutter and ground into a slurry pulp.
5. The slurry is piped to the water press.
6. A gear-driven helical stainless steel screw conveyor processes the slurry through the water press screen. Excess water is squeezed out through the screen.
7. The semi-dry pulp, which is an 88% reduction in volume, is fed to a trash container.
8. 95% of the water is fed back to the trough/pulper by the return pump.
Panther Dining Hall
STUDENT ORG SPOTLIGHT:

College Players

ONE OF FLORIDA TECH’S OLDEST AND MOST BELOVED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS IS COLLEGE PLAYERS.

This spring, the group marked its centennial performance—Steven Dietz’s adaptation of Bram Stoker’s Dracula. Since 1969, College Players has attracted Panthers of all disciplines to express themselves through art, dance, music, improv comedy, theatre and more.

For 45 years, that creative outlet has been a welcome relief to the Players and the campus audience alike.

“I’m thoroughly convinced that is part of why this university has been so successful!” says secretary CASEY DORAN.

Get behind the scenes, read more about College Players and share your CP memories at today.fit.edu.

—Christena Callahan

ALUMNISPOTLIGHT: LESLIE TAYLOR

Alumna LESLIE TAYLOR ’93 M.S. helps keep America’s armed forces flying high. Since 2008, Taylor has served in the Senior Executive Service, working as the director for Flight Test Engineering within the Naval Air Systems Command’s (NAVAIR) Integrated Systems Evaluation, Experimentation and Test Department. She serves as the chief flight test engineer for naval aviation, leading more than 900 flight test engineers across five geographic sites in the performance of integrated systems test, evaluation and experimentation to deliver critical warfighting capabilities to U.S. sailors and marines.

Taylor received her bachelor’s of science degree in civil engineering from the West Virginia Institute of Technology in 1984. She earned her master’s degree in engineering management from Florida Tech. She graduated from the Senior Executive Management Development Program in 1998 and has served as an instructor for Johns Hopkins University in the systems engineering curriculum.

Taylor has over 27 years of total civilian service. NAVAIR is headquartered in Patuxent River, Md.
Florida Tech researchers are preparing to send their novel biology experiment to the International Space Station aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket launch scheduled next year. The Florida Tech project, under the direction of principal investigators Sam Durrance, Daniel Kirk, and Hector Gutierrez, was one of only eight proposals chosen for the expedition.

Research continues within the College of Engineering’s Center for Space Commercialization, which works to identify promising areas of research and relevant technologies, and develop strategic roadmaps for space commercialization.

In 1958, Brevard Engineering College, now known as Florida Institute of Technology, held its first classes in rented space at Eau Gallie Junior High School; 154 students registered for the inaugural fall term.

In 1958, Space Channel spokesperson, TED Fellow and world-renowned astrophysicist Hakeem Oluseyi, appeared in two episodes of the Science Channel’s “Alien Encounters” in March, The Invasion and The Offspring. Get his insight on extraterrestrial life on page 22.
Gleason

**NAME A SEAT**

**Campaign**

“I invite all alumni to name a seat and leave our legacy in Gleason for future generations of Panthers, to support our alumni association and keep Florida Tech traditions alive. Join me and be part of the 500.”

Tom Folliard Jr., Class of 1989
Chief Executive Officer, CarMax Inc.

[alumni.fit.edu/gleasonseats](http://alumni.fit.edu/gleasonseats)
One Big Question

Q. WHY ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE TO STUDY MATH?

In modern societies, mathematics is an important part of everyday life. To function well in a technologically advanced society, every person should be familiar with multiple aspects of the mathematical sciences.

Although the mathematical sciences are pervasive, they are often invoked without an explicit awareness of their presence. For example, in the everyday operation of making a cell phone call, the mathematical sciences are essential in every step. We enter numbers in the decimal system, which are converted into sequences of bits (zeros and ones). Next comes conversion to an electromagnetic signal. After an available receiver is located, the signal is transmitted and converted into the sound of our voice. Wireless technology uses techniques called “error correcting codes,” “linear and nonlinear filtering,” “hypothesis testing,” “spatial multiplexing” and “statistical waveform or parameter estimation.” These are built on tools of the mathematical sciences such as matrix analysis, linear algebra, algebra, random matrices and graphical models1.

Many other technological advances such as CD and DVD players, Internet, Google, social network engines (Facebook, Twitter, etc.), computer games, pacemakers (for hearts), brain pacemakers (for Parkinson’s disease patients), medical imaging devices (MRI, CT, Pet Scan) and electric toothbrushes are based on mathematical ideas.

In a nutshell, mathematics is the building block of scientific and technological inventions. Decades from now, when young kids are at the peak of their career, if they don’t know these building blocks, they will feel the deficiency no matter what their job requires.


Semen Koksal, Ph.D., is a professor of mathematics and head of the department of mathematical sciences. Since she received her Ph.D. in 1992, she has been actively involved in research and teaching in applied mathematics. As a math educator and a math lover, her passion is to increase public awareness for math and provide top-quality math education for her students. She believes that encouraging children in math in their early years is especially crucial. She also serves as a mentor on the National Mentor Network Committee of the Association for Women in Mathematics.
Leadership and Loyalty

Rob Phebus ’74:

The Dr. Jerome P. Keuper Distinguished Alumnus Award
DURING A TIME WHEN COMPANY LOYALTY WAS GIVING WAY TO COMPANY HOPSCOTCH, ROB PHEBUS ’74 BUILT A DISTINGUISHED 32-YEAR CAREER AT FORD MOTOR COMPANY.

Fresh on the heels of a Florida Tech management degree and a Notre Dame MBA, he had his pick of positions in banking, consulting or industry.

“What I like about Ford is under one umbrella, one major multinational company, you could—and I did—have opportunities to work in many different areas,” he says.

He climbed the ladder of corporate finance, while being exposed to product development and engineering, manufacturing, banking, mergers and acquisitions, recruiting and international business.

In fact, the highlight of his tenure at Ford was 11 years spent overseas as the chief financial officer for the company’s divisions in Venezuela, Brazil, Taiwan and South Africa—the operations at each destination growing progressively larger in scope.

“I was fortunate in that the jobs I had in the States tended to have a broad perspective on things, but you still didn’t have input and effect on the entire business,” he says.

In his international assignments, he enjoyed that macro-level involvement.

“You were controlling and working with the operating teams in each location to effectively make all the decisions and make money for the company,” he says. “The 11 years I spent overseas were the best part of my career.”

The experiences were rewarding both professionally and personally. Phebus and his wife Deborah enjoyed extensive travel and culinary adventures and developed broad cross-cultural awareness.

His contributions to his alma mater parallel those of his career—taking a leadership role with both the Florida Tech Alumni Association board of directors and later the university’s board of trustees to support and guide the university.

In 1995 at the invitation of then-board president CHARLIE MCMANUS ’75, a friend from his campus days, Phebus joined the FTAA board of directors.

At the time, the FTAA was still in its infancy and was struggling to get alumni reconnected with the university. One of Phebus’ first tasks as a board member was organizing a market research study to survey alumni on what they wanted from their alumni association.

“Based on the responses we received, we tried to structure programs differently and structure the organization differently so that we could be more responsive to people’s needs,” he says.

With the growth and progress of the alumni association and the university as a whole, he feels those early efforts were a success.

Leveraging his time in Taiwan, he also played an active role in securing funding for the refurbishment of the Chao Tsu-Yu Chinese Clock that stands in front of the Keuper Building. Taiwanese officials presented the clock to the university in 1981 in recognition of Florida Tech’s leadership in granting graduate fellowships to Chinese students in the 1970s and 1980s.

“It’s really quite an interesting clock with an interesting history,” Phebus says. “I’m glad to see that it’s still in good working order.”

His FTAA board service continued through 2003, with a stint as president in 1996–1997. Today, he is a member of the board of trustees, serving on the audit committee, the finance committee and the investment committee.

Phebus’ leadership and loyalty—both in his career and in his service to the university—exemplify the ideals of the Jerome P. Keuper Distinguished Alumnus award and make him a fitting recipient for this year’s honor.

—Christena Callahan

The true measure of a university’s greatness can be found in the achievements of its alumni. Florida Institute of Technology has established a worldwide reputation for developing leaders and innovators across diverse fields, from academia to private industry to government. In that stratum of “the best of the best,” FIT alumni have gained their unique distinction through successes in their professions, service to the university and contribution to their communities.

The Dr. Jerome P. Keuper Distinguished Alumnus Award recognizes an alumnus who has made significant contributions to the university and whose career accomplishments have honored its legacy of excellence. This year’s recipient is Rob Phebus ’74 who will be presented with the award at the Homecoming Awards Gala on Oct. 26.
Panther Parent
I’m more excited, I think, than he is to a certain degree because I understand the magnitude of the first tackle, the first interception … all of that is out there when you’re coming out like this in your inaugural (season).

You could be on a quiz. Who was the first guy to …

— Tony Cadore
Against all odds

Born three weeks prematurely, his lungs were not developed and he was put on a heart-lung bypass machine that was experimental at the time and only used for children with a chance of survival of 10 percent or less.

“They told us he’s going to have learning disabilities, he’s going to be small, he’s going to be sick ... there’s going to be all of these issues,” said his father. “And he’s definitely none of those things.”

“... you don’t quit when it gets hard, that kind of stuff that you try to teach your kids.”

In fact, the offensive lineman was so big that as a 10-year-old, eager to start playing youth league football, he was told he was too heavy. If he wanted to play, it would be with the 14-year-olds. Not wanting to expose him to playing against the older kids at such a young age, he wasn’t allowed to play until he was a freshman in high school.

It wasn’t long until he developed the kind of work ethic he is now known for.

However, as his mother will tell you, football has had a bigger impact on her son than simply what has happened on the field. He has developed life skills that will serve him well beyond the game.

“We see it translate,” she said. “That discipline—you don’t quit, you don’t quit when it gets hard, that kind of stuff that you try to teach your kids, I think he’s learned that growing up with football.”

Against all odds, Colton Odom, son of Lee and Lottie Odom, plays offensive line for the Panthers. He is a graduate of Rockledge High School.
“His granddad played on a high school team in Haines City that went undefeated two out of three years and sent 22 kids to Division I football back in the 50s,” his father said. “We’re a football family.”

To that end, the sports management major spent a lot of time as a kid with a football in his hands, either at the beach (he and his dad love to surf) or in his backyard.

“Until he was 10 years old, every afternoon it was nothing but football,” his father said. “I threw footballs to him and his brother every day. He’s probably caught more balls than most kids his age.”

It was at 10 that he was switched from wide receiver to quarterback. He led his high school team to a district championship, but he will move back to wide receiver in college, which his dad feels is his more natural position.

Wherever the Panthers play, this wide receiver figures to have plenty of support.

“It’s going to be exciting,” his father said. “I’ve got family all over Florida that will be at the first game, pretty much every home game and at some of the away games. It’s a good deal for the whole family.”

Football bloodlines run in Collin O’Neal’s family. The wide receiver from Auburndale High School in Auburndale, Fla., is the son of Danny O’Neal and Jeri Jackson.

CHARACTER CREATION

For the strong safety, his inspiration to play football came from his uncle who won a state championship in high school and went on to play for the New Orleans Saints and the Montreal Machine of the World League of American Football.

However, it was his father who coached him in the youth league from the time he was 4 years old until he entered high school.

“He’s learned how to communicate with people, believe in himself and believe in his teammates,” his father said. “Just work as a team. I think that’s something he’s learned through football. I think his character has definitely been built. It’s very high now.”

“I wouldn’t say I set a high bar, but as a coach and as a father, I always expected him to do more. He knew that, and he always strived for that. It’s paying off now.”

In high school, he won a state championship with a number of his former youth football teammates. Now, he’s ready for the next step.

“We’re excited, because we like to see him play football,” his mother said. “We want to see him get an education, but we want to see him do something he loves to do. I’ve seen him since he was 4 years old. I’m ready to see my baby at the next level.”

Character creation is one trait, among many, Trai Cadore and his parents Tony and Dawn Cadore, attribute to football. The strong safety is a graduate of Cocoa High School.
... WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM ... IT'S

WHEN MARS ATTACKS!
It was 1938. Adolf Hitler seized control of Germany. Superman soared in his Action Comics #1 debut. And aliens invaded New Jersey.

Or so six million Americans feared Oct. 30, huddled around their radios as “The Mercury Theatre on the Air” program crackled with breathless accounts of otherworldly enemies.

Confused listeners were captivated by a faux newscast declaring that tentacled, marauding Martians had landed. Worse, they were incinerating the unsuspecting Grover’s Mill population with heat rays.

Panicked, some residents in the Northeastern U.S. and Canada fled their homes. Listeners frantically phoned CBS, newspapers and the police confused by what they thought were authentic “we interrupt this program” news bulletins.

Seventy-five years later, Orson Welles’ infamously misunderstood “War of the Worlds” dramatic broadcast is a footnote of history, but little green men still slink through the nightmares of some, and spark the imagination of others.

Others like HAKEEM OLUSEYI, assistant professor in the physics and space sciences department at Florida Tech. An internationally respected astrophysicist who holds master’s and doctoral degrees from Stanford, Oluseyi travels the world discussing galactic structure, the age of the Milky Way and the origins of the universe.

But what do most non-academic types ask him about?

“Aliens,” he acknowledges with a chuckle, speaking from his summer research assignment at UC Berkeley. “No matter where I go and give a talk, three topics—black holes, time travel and life on other planets—dominate the questions. And I think aliens are edging ahead. I did this six-city tour in South Africa for the U.S. State Department in 2011, and one night I was a guest on a national radio call-in show. The possibility of life on other worlds was easily the most common question I got asked.”

Inquiries about aliens continue to intrude on his weightier work examining the cosmos. Not long ago, he did a television interview on “Alien Encounters” for the Science Channel. He said continuing advances in technology are fueling new interest in extraterrestrials.

“Now we have the ability to detect planets around other stars and have done so for the last two decades... We interrupt this program... it’s the end of the world as we know it

Continued on page 24
with increasing regularity. We know that the physics of the universe is the same everywhere, with local differences, so chances are life is most likely ubiquitous. To think that we are the only life in the universe is quite arrogant and short sighted. The question is, ‘how do we find it?’”

But Oluseyi cautions against the notion that E.T. will look like us—or even look like E.T., for that matter. “If you look at people’s ideas, they don’t deviate very far from pop culture ideas,” he said. “That’s one thing we have to be careful of. If there is multicellular life out there, chances are they are going to be very different from anything we’ve ever seen.”

So when will the Earth be visited by life from beyond the stars? “We may already have been,” Oluseyi said. “There’s the idea of panspermia. Life has a rule that it lives by—that is survival of the fittest. What we know is that planets and stars are temporary physical entities. They live and they die. The universe will select for life forms that have the ability to leave their planets. Chances are this type of life, because it can survive in space, can be spread … you would think that we are meant to leave our planet.”

When and if aliens do announce their presence on Earth, Oluseyi cautioned against fears of an “Independence Day” style intergalactic onslaught. “The whole idea of an alien species showing up in a ship to attack is completely ridiculous,” Oluseyi said. “There is nothing you can get from an invasion that would be worth the cost and the energy of the trip. The more likely scenarios are panspermia or an alien species like us that had to evacuate its home planet like the scenario we created in my NatGeo show ‘Evacuate Earth.’ When Columbus showed up, he didn’t show up on a Nimitz class aircraft carrier; he limped in.”

Oluseyi flips the fascination of us being visited by aliens, arguing that humankind should be focused on visiting strange new worlds. “I think we should continue to search and probe and understand our universe,” Oluseyi said, “Remembering that if the human race is going to survive, it must ultimately leave this planet.”

Oluseyi can be seen on two Science Channel series, “Outrageous Acts of Science” and “Alien Encounters,” as well as the NatGeo documentary “Evacuate Earth.”

— Wes Sumner
With Homecoming and the FTAA’s annual general meeting rapidly approaching, your Alumni Association is focused on several key areas: building relationships between alumni and the FTAA, increasing support to refurbish the seats in the Gleason Performing Arts Center and planning for renovating the Alumni House.

The success of an alumni association is based on the strength of the relationship between alumni and the university. We strongly encourage participation at any level: get involved with an active alumni chapter, start a new chapter, volunteer as an alumni recruiter in your area, serve as a guest speaker on campus, volunteer as a career mentor or donate to the FTAA Scholarship Endowment or FTAA Operating Endowment. And stay connected! It’s easy to update your contact information through Panther Connect at http://alumni.fit.edu/pantherconnect.

Every student on the Melbourne campus has used the Gleason Performing Arts Center at one time or other. Leave your legacy by placing your name on a seat. There are a variety of payment options available at alumni.fit.edu/gleasonseats.

If you are on campus, come by and visit the Alumni House. Many improvements have been made to your campus home, but there is still much to be done. We welcome your donations or gifts in kind, such as building materials. Contact Bino Campanini at bcampion@fit.edu for more information.

This year’s Homecoming celebration, which marks FIT’s 55th anniversary and includes the inaugural football season, will culminate with the presentation of the Dr. Jerome P. Keuper Distinguished Alumnus Award and selection of an Outstanding Alumnus from each of the different colleges. The nomination process for next year’s award recipients will begin immediately following this year’s celebration. The FTAA seeks your recommendations and nominations for these distinguished awards no later than Feb. 1, 2014. Award criteria and nomination forms are available at development.fit.edu/Alumni_Awards_2012.pdf.

Lastly, I’m aware of two reunions taking place during Homecoming, Classes of 1971–75 Electrical Engineering Alumni, contact alumni.fit.edu for more information. Delta Delta Tau Fraternal Society, Classes of 1967–73, 40th Reunion, contact www.ddt-fit.org or alexisloo@msn.com for more information.

There’s no place like Homecoming! Hoping to see each of you at this year’s festivities ... building relationships that last a lifetime!

Alexis

YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS
Alexis Loo ’75 | President | Pasadena, MD | alexisloo@msn.com
Allyn Saunders ’76, ’80, ’83 | Vice President | West Melbourne, FL | allynpar5@aol.com
Jim Herdt ’92 | Treasurer | Chelsea, AL | jimherdt@cox.net
Penny Vassar ’77 | Secretary | Anderson, SC | pvassar@fit.edu
Dean Smehil ’74 | Member-at-Large | Silver Spring, MD | dsmehil@yahoo.com
Palma Young ’76 | Member-at-Large | Villa Rica, GA | p young@comcast.net

For more information on your official class ring, please visit us online or call 1-866-225-3687.
Join us for a celebration of Florida Tech and its Alumni!

October 22–26, 2013

FIT Homecoming Fest Set to Take Over Downtown Melbourne

FRIDAY, OCT. 25
6 p.m.–1 a.m.
National recording artists Taking Back Sunday will headline this year’s SGA and FTAA sponsored FIT Homecoming Fest. The free concert will take place in Downtown Melbourne on Friday, Oct. 25. Arrive early to the street party and enjoy food, drinks and live entertainment.

For more information or to register visit: HOMECOMING.FIT.EDU
Featured Events:

**THURSDAY, OCT. 24, 2013**
Downtown Melbourne FIT Homecoming 5K Run
The race will start and finish at Meg O’Malley’s. Prizes will be awarded to race category winners. All registrants will receive an FIT 5K Run T-shirt. Visit homecoming.fit.edu to register for the run.

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON, OCT. 26**
Homecoming Parade & Tailgating — Main Campus
Football Game — FIT vs. Warner — Pirate Stadium

**SATURDAY EVENING, OCT. 26**
Homecoming Awards Gala — Clemente Center
Honoring Jerome P. Keuper Distinguished Alumnus Award Winner Robert L. Phlebus Jr. ’74

Other Highlights:

**THURSDAY, OCT. 24**
10 a.m.—5 p.m. Theodore Waddell: Far West, Foosaner Art Museum
11:30 a.m.—1 p.m. Panther Basketball Tip-Off Luncheon featuring guest speaker Pete Gillen

**FRIDAY, OCT. 25**
8 a.m.—4 p.m. College of Aeronautics Alumni Association and the College of Aeronautics present Breaking the Chain 2013 Safety Symposium

**Textiles & Culture:**
Highlights from the Permanent Collection
10 a.m.—4 p.m. Textiles & Culture: Highlights from the Permanent Collection, Ruth Funk Center for Textile Arts
11:30 a.m.—1 p.m. Panther Basketball Tip-Off Luncheon featuring guest speaker Pete Gillen

**SATURDAY, OCT. 26**
8:30—10:30 a.m. Alumni Tennis Match for all former varsity players, FIT campus court
10 a.m. Homecoming Parade, FIT campus

**11 a.m.—1 p.m. Homecoming Cook-out and Tailgate Party, Florida Tech Campus**

**1 p.m. Homecoming Football Game vs. Warner University, Pirate Stadium**

**6:30 p.m.—10 p.m. Homecoming Awards Gala, Clemente Center, featuring entertainment from TWITCHY**

Florida Tech Today | 27
ON THE ROAD — ALUMNI NEWS

New York

Donna Harmon and Dr. Harvey Harmon ‘77

Prospective student Erin Mckinney and her mother

Aymeric Buchwald ’99, Josh Friedland, Steve Alper, David Cassagnol ’01

Jared Mitchell ’06 receives a T-shirt from Bino Campanini

Boston

In the hours before the Boston reception, Alumni Association staff visited a temporary memorial in Copley Square for the Boston Marathon bombing victims. For two months, visitors placed posters, stuffed animals and running shoes at the site. An FIT Panther joined the collection to show Florida Tech’s support.

Carl Banks ’12, Douglas Schuler ’72, ’91, Bernie Fuchs ’70, President and CEO Anthony J. Catanese

Chris O’Connor and Lisa O’Connor ’91 M.S.
Dad Vail

The Panthers’ varsity four celebrates its Aberdeen Dad Vail Regatta Championship. From left: Assistant Coach Casey Dalal, Troy Toggweiler, Frank Campione, President Anthony J. Catanese, Jacqueline Horbert, Alec Bertossa, Jose Gomez-Feria, Athletic Director Bill Jurgens and Aberdeen Asset Management Chief Executive Gary Marshall.

Women’s Coach Adam Thorstad, Megan Mellinger ’89, Lisa Innis ’93, Nancy Orbell ’88, Bill Jurgens, Jennifer Gillette ’10, ’12 MBA

Mrs. Catanese, 2012 Farmer Scholar Brayden Thompson, Dr. Catanese

Bill Jurgens, Jim Petrowski ’92, Art Schofield ’90, Chris Cornell ’89, Scott Killian ’79, Jim McDevitt ’90, Rob Mildish ’88, Andy Loeffler ’87, Wayne McFarlane ’90, Jim Barrett ’88

Alumni, family and friends cheer the Panthers to victory.
**ALUM NOTES**

**share your news!**
Submit your AlumNotes to alumni@fit.edu

1970s

**BRUCE HAMMETT** '72 is in alternative energy. With 30 years applying his electrical engineering degree, he is president of WECS Electric Supply Inc., a leading parts supply company for utility scale wind turbines and a growing number of utility-size solar systems. This is a picture (below) from his front window.

1980s

**JOANIE REGAN** '83 is the City of Cocoa Beach stormwater utility manager. She is also past president of the Florida Stormwater Association, a board member of the Marine Resources Council and a member of the Cocoa Beach Surfrider Foundation. She has two children, son Jesse and daughter Kim; grandson Gabriel; and two "kitties" M Kitty and Tyrone. Her passions are traveling, surfing, native plant landscape, boating and street festivals.

**JAMES WONG: INTERNATIONAL DELEGATE**

**JAMES WONG** '07 M.S. is the chairman of publicly listed Chimney Alliance Engineering Ltd. His company is the exclusive agent for U.S. companies (such as Raytheon and Harris Communications) in Hong Kong and China. The agency’s customers include casinos, airports, subways and major infrastructure facilities in the region.

A graduate of the University of Washington, he holds a master's degree in information technology from Florida Tech as well as a Juris Doctorate from the University of California–Hastings. He currently serves as an adjunct professor with Florida Tech’s Extended Studies Division, where he designed and teaches courses in Law 1, Law 2 and Health Care Law.

Wong has written and lectured extensively on social media, law and customs, and China. He has served as a delegate on international panels for the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, the Association of Corporate Counsel and the Thomson Reuters Company. His columns on doing business in China appear monthly in the LA Daily Journal and the ACC Docket Magazine.

Meet James Wong

Family: Two children Cameron, 16 & Samantha, 11
Little known fact: Has over 1.5 million frequent flier miles
Hobbies: Hosting celebrity visitors to Hong Kong
Best part of being a Panther: Alumni network and access to faculty expertise

**ROBERT "ANDREW" ABERNATHY** '77 celebrated 30 years in an aerospace engineering career with the Boeing Corp. As a test engineer/test director, he worked on several notable space programs including External Tank launch processing at Kennedy Space Center (STS 1-4), Spacelab launch processing at KSC (Spacelab-1 through Astro-1 with McDonnell Douglas), Space Station integration and launch processing with McDonnell Douglas/Boeing and satellite processing. He lives in Huntington Beach, Calif.

**JIBRIN AHMED** '87 is a captain with Kabo Air in Nigeria. He has a total of 9,875 flight hours as chief pilot in the B-727, the LR-45 and the B-747-200.
and -400. He recently visited FIT Aviation.

1990s

LISA O’CONNOR ’91 credits Professor ROBERT FRONK with taking a chance on her with a provisional acceptance and she later graduated with honors. She went on to Boston University for her doctoral degree and teaches computer science at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.


DAVID IOSCO ’92 M.S. was named deputy director of the Office of Procurement at NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center in Alabama. He and wife Lisa have three children and live in Owens Cross Roads, Ala.

2000s

OTTON ASKIN ’01 and wife Megan sent this photo of baby Kain Aryan, born Oct. 29, 2012. They live in Kissimmee, Fla.

SARA (PARENT) FIEBERG ’01 ’09 M.S. AND DIRK FIEBERG ’01 ’03 M.S. welcomed Oliver Dieter Fieberg May 8, 2012. He joined big sister Alexis Beverly. Sara and Dirk reside in Groton, Mass. Dirk works for Philips Color Kinetics, and Sara is a stay-at-home mom who is a consultant for Thirty-One and Rodan & Fields.

RYAN KAUFMAN ’01 and wife Karen welcomed their son Wyatt Jacob on Dec. 18, 2012. Ryan is a first officer at Southwest Airlines and a lieutenant commander at Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VR-56). The family resides in Chesapeake, Va.

TIFFINI (SHELDON) MORRIS ’01 and husband Chris announce the birth of their daughter, Alyce Vivianne Morris on March 13, 2013. She weighed 7 lbs., 4 oz. and measured 20 inches long. Her two big brothers, Aidyn, 6, and Ryley, 3-1/2, welcomed her home.

OLU OYEJOLA ’01 and wife Neriia now live in Naperville, Ill. Here is a picture of curly-top son Tobi, born April 5, 2012.

EDISON MUI ’03, ’05 M.S., and wife Samantha welcomed their new daughter, shown here with floral flair.

JESSE DAVIS ’04, ’06 M.S., is a coastal engineer with Tetra Tech Inc. in Stuart, Fla. He manages construction oversight of the City of Ft. Pierce Marina island breakwater creation, a $19 million project involving 15 acres of islands in the Indian River Lagoon. He and his wife recently welcomed daughter Sawyer.

ROBBY FINKLEA ’04 is a captain at ExpressJet Airlines, based at O’Hare in Chicago, Ill. He has lived in Jacksonville, Fla., since graduation and just became engaged to fiance Teri Mayfield, M.D. They’ve set the date for May 3, 2014 in St. Augustine. He looks forward to upcoming FIT football!

RORI MCGOWAN SHONK ’04, husband Jim and big brother James announce the birth of their newest addition, Ethan John, born June 6, 2013. The family lives in Red Bank, N.J., and Rori is a first officer with ExpressJet Airlines, based out of Newark.

BRIAN WILKINS ’04 is proud to show daughter Hannah, at 14 months old, wearing her first FIT shirt.

REBECCA (DAVIS) MEDVECKY ’06 sends this photo of daughter Emmalyn Grace Medvecky, born April 18, 2012. Dad is Matthew Medvecky (2002–06, Lambda Chi Alpha).

Florida Tech Today | 31
Melissa Steinman was privileged to boldly go where no Panther has gone before. As a fellow with The Mission Continues, a service organization that empowers post-9/11 veterans through volunteerism, Steinman made a cameo appearance in the summer blockbuster STAR TREK INTO DARKNESS.

The road to celebrity status began in 2010 when she was selected for The Mission Continues fellowship program. Serving at the Adobe Mountain Wildlife Center in Phoenix, Ariz., she provided free wildlife education programs, created new curriculum and introduced more than 5,000 students to the center’s rehabilitated wildlife.

She says the experience was instrumental in helping her reconnect with a purpose. “My fellowship was a perfect match to hone my skills and feed my passion,” she says.

Steinman completed her Florida Tech oceanography degree between deployments with the U.S. Coast Guard. Missions to New York, Boston, Guantanamo Bay and Kuwait punctuated periods of study at the Melbourne campus—the schedule was challenging, as were the demands of her work.

“Between deployments, I became the first female in the history of our unit to qualify as a tactical boat driver,” says Steinman. “Not only did I command crewmen and weapons, but also the boats and equipment necessary to protect my fellow servicemen and women.”

As she transitioned back to civilian life, she earned a master’s degree in teaching and settled in Arizona, but her fellowship, she says, was “an amazingly restorative experience.”

Today, Steinman is a high school teacher and athletic director for Waldport High School in Oregon. As a Mission Continues alumna, she continues to volunteer in her local community and recruit new fellows.

Read more and see footage from Steinman’s scene in STAR TREK INTO DARKNESS at fit.edu. —Christena Callahan

Melissa Steinman: Mission to Starfleet

Natalie Weathers ’09, husband Tay and son Tayvius welcomed their newest family member, Miss Nataya Lexine Weathers, on March 23, 2013. The family lives in Palm Bay, Fla.

Capt. Joseph Sinkiewicz ’08 and Melissa (Rego) ’09 were married May 1, 2013, just outside Fort Drum, N.Y. They met at Florida Tech and received their flight ratings while enrolled in the College of Aeronautics’ professional pilot program. Melissa works in the airline industry, and Joseph is a U.S. Army Apache helicopter pilot, serving his second tour in Afghanistan.

Adeljean Ho ’10 M.S. is a doctoral student at Florida Tech in biological sciences. He is studying the evolution of fish to drought in light of climate change.

Navy Ensign Michael K. Holland ’10 M.S. graduated from Navy Officer Candidate School (OCS) and has received a commission as an ensign in the U.S. Navy while assigned at Officer Training Command in Newport, R.I. The mission of OCS is to develop civilians, enlisted and newly commissioned personnel morally, mentally and physically and imbue them with the highest ideals of honor, courage and commitment to prepare graduates for service in the fleet as naval officers.

Shirlene and Joseph Pindell ’10 M.S. visited Cradle Mountain in Tasmania, Australia recently (below).

Crystal Wilson ’11 embraced her son Christian after his entrance into the world Feb. 16, 2011. Crystal is a supplier supply chain manager at a contract manufacturer in Charlotte, N.C.

Meet Melissa Steinman

Current City: Waldport, Ore.

Little known fact: In high school, I swore I would never be a scientist or a teacher.

Favorite Florida Tech memory: Receiving the Damon Monsour Award

Hobbies: Kayaking, Hiking, Crabbing, Clamming

Best part of being a Panther: Network with DMES alumni and professors
KIM BOZIK, LEADERSHIP RECRUITER

KIM BOZIK ’87 knows a thing or two about campus leadership. As a promotions director and chief of staff on the Campus Activities Board (CAB) as a student, he dedicated himself to engaging his peers and enhancing student life.

“I was one of the first student leaders on campus. We changed the campus from a student life perspective.” Bozik says. “We succeeded in getting the first budget for CAB and brought Cyndi Lauper and Jimmy Buffett to FIT, plus regular live events at the Rathskeller.”

Today, Bozik is a senior program manager and recruiter for Intel, but he continues to have Florida Tech students’ best interests in mind. He recently created the Bozik Family Endowment to support exceptional engineering students. In addition to meeting academic standards, potential recipients must demonstrate leadership on campus through activities such as The Crimson, Campus Activities Board or Student Government Association. “Of course academics are important, but my intent is to promote and reward students who go above and beyond and have an input on the campus and community at large,” he says.

Plus, it promotes résumé-building accomplishments. “As a person who hires people, [leadership experience] factors in. It shows that an applicant can pull a team together to solve a problem,” he explains.

As a current Alumni Board member, Bozik is also working to bring Intel recruiting events to campus. “I got a world-class education at FIT, and I want to bring even more industry recognition to the university.”

He encourages fellow alumni to support endowments. Endowment gifts are invested, with the principal amount permanently remaining intact and earnings used annually for the purposes the donor wishes. “Endowments can be funded by anyone—you don’t have to be a large donor to continue to make a difference in areas you care about,” he says. For more information, contact the Office of Development at 321-674-6400. —Lisa M. Onorato

Meet Kim Bozik

In three words: Funny, Competitive, Compassionate

Family: Married to Jessica (to a USF Bull, but we’ll ignore that) for 12 years. 2 little Panthers, Piper; 11 and Jarod. 8. They both love the FIT campus.

Little known fact: I drove my car during my FIT days until it literally broke in half ... right after I had bought a new car and used it as a trade in!

Notable achievement: Being part of an engineering team that created a new navigation system used on Atlas and Titan rockets for almost two decades.

Hobbies: RC airplanes, golf

FAMOUS FALCONS

MATTHEW MALCZYK ’13 brought Pete along to capture high-speed video of the Atlas 5 with a Photron SA1 camera near the Kennedy Space Center. As an imaging engineer for QinetiQ NA, Matthew is currently researching and experimenting with the latest/greatest digital video technologies to determine which equipment should be used for future launches (starting in 2017 with SpaceX’s manned space flight).

ALUMNOTES

BRUCE LOCUSON ’01 passed away on May 15, 2013. Most recently he worked for Nestle Purina in St. Louis. He is survived by his wife of 16 years, Becky, two sons, a daughter, six grandchildren, his mother, Carolyn and his siblings and their families.

IRWIN “SWITCH” SWICHHOW ’70 M.S. passed away on June 29, 2013. A longtime resident of Merritt Island, Fla., he is survived by his wife of 50 years Marilyn, a daughter, two sons, two grandchildren and a brother. He had retired from NASA.

PATRICIA REED TANNER ’92 MBA passed away on May 24, 2013, at home in Indialantic, Fla. She worked in the health care field in Brevard, Indian River, Lee and Orange counties. She is survived by her husband of 59 years Chuck Tanner, children Peyton and Austin, mother, Haru Reed and sister Harriet Condon.

CYRUS ELY WARDEN Jr. ’82 A.S. passed away on June 8, 2013, and was a resident of Satellite Beach, Fla. He is survived by his wife Janelle Walker Warden and many other family members. He and Janelle had just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in December.

Florida Tech trustee emerita MARILYN C. LINK was recognized this spring with an honorary doctorate from Binghamton University in Binghampton, N.Y. She is an accomplished pilot, educator and philanthropist and served as the first managing director of the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute. She has been a member of the Florida Tech board of trustees since 1984.
News from the desk of

Bino Campanini ’90, ’92 MBA
Assistant Vice President for Alumni Relations
and Executive Director, Alumni Association

ON FOOTBALL

Collegiate athletics have always had an important role at Florida Tech. The fact that this year marks the 25th anniversary of two national championships is testimony to that tradition. The NCAA II national championship in men’s soccer and the Dad Vail heavyweight varsity eight championship in men’s rowing cement 1988 as the seminal year in Panther athletics. However, 2013 marks a new era as football takes the field. I think it is going to have a positive effect on both our student body and our alumni.

The reaction to the upcoming football season has been tremendous. Season tickets are sold out and the demand for single game tickets continues to grow. Alumni near and far can catch the action since two Panther games are going to be televised nationally: West Alabama on CBS Sports Channel and West Georgia on ESPN 3. Not only will this give alumni a chance to watch a game, but it provides unprecedented exposure for your alma mater. Regardless of the score on the field, it is clear that this football season Florida Tech will be the winner.

ON HOMECOMING

Homecoming continues to expand, and we expect this year to be our best week ever. We are partnering with Meg O’Malley’s and moving our 5K run to Thursday night in downtown Melbourne. This will increase participation in the race and provide a great tie-in with FIT Homecoming Fest on Friday night. Several fraternity and affinity group reunions this year will help swell our attendance at Homecoming events, and we fully expect another large crowd at FIT Homecoming Fest. We have already received a lot of positive feedback about our headline act Taking Back Sunday.

ON COMMUNICATION

I have received a lot of calls and emails about the Harris Connect postcard and the alumni directory. This program helps us maintain up-to-date records on our alumni. Without current data, many would not receive the Florida Tech Today magazine, the Panther’s Tale e-newsletter or various other communications from the Alumni House. I urge those who did not respond to send your current contact information to alumni@fit.edu so we can ensure you remain connected to Florida Tech.

ON LEGACY

At the start of the school year, the FTAA hosts a Legacy Breakfast. We invite a new generation of Panthers who are family members of alumni to come with their family to meet President Catanese and members of the FTAA board. This is a unique group of students who are carrying on the Florida Tech tradition. This year, the breakfast was very special for me as I was joined by my daughter, Isabella, who is enrolled in the forensic psychology program and is a member of the women’s soccer team.

ON ALUMNOTES

We want to hear from you! Surveys show ALUMNOTES is one of your favorite sections of the magazine, so I encourage you to help us expand it.

Send your news to ALUMNI@FIT.EDU. We will share it with the 60,000+ alumni worldwide!
A sellout crowd exceeding 5,400 fans saw the Panthers beat Stetson 20-13 in their inaugural game on Sept. 7 at Palm Bay High School’s Pirate Stadium. The game sold out 10 days in advance of the historic event.

The Team

Class by percent

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 Majors represented
- Accounting
- Aerospace Engineering
- Aviation Management
- Bio Sci, General Biology
- Bio Sci, Molecular Biology
- Bio Sci, Premedical
- Biomedical Engineering
- Bus Adm/Global Mgmt & Finance
- Business & Environmental Studies
- Business Adm/Accounting
- Business Adm/Marketing
- Business Adm/Sport Management
- Business Administration
- Chemical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Communication
- Construction Management
- Electrical Engineering
- Forensic Psychology
- General Engineering
- General Studies
- Humanities
- Information Systems
- Interdisciplinary Science
- Mechanical Engineering
- Ocean Engineering
- Premedical Physics
- Psychology

PANTHER FIRSTS

**FIRST POINTS:** Field goal by kicker Brion Ashley, 49-yard field goal, 00:00, 2nd quarter

**FIRST TOUCHDOWN:** Wide receiver Xavier Milton, 26-yard reception from Sean Ashley, 6:25, 4th quarter

**FIRST RUSHING TOUCHDOWN:** Quarterback Sean Ashley, 3-yard run, 10:9, 4th quarter

**FIRST EXTRA POINT:** Kicker Brion Ashley, 6:25, 4th quarter

**FIRST TACKLE:** Defensive lineman Tevin Kirkland (Stetson quarterback Ryan Tentier 9-yard loss, forced fumble), 1st quarter

**FIRST TACKLE FOR A LOSS:** Tevin Kirkland (Stetson RyanTentier 9-yard loss, forced fumble), 1st quarter

**FIRST FORCED FUMBLE:** Tevin Kirkland (Stetson RyanTentier 9-yard loss, forced fumble), 1st quarter

**FIRST FUMBLE RECOVERY:** Defensive back Manny Abad (Stetson wide receiver Rob Coggin), 4th quarter

**FIRST OFFENSIVE PLAY:** Sean Ashley rush for 12 yards, 1st quarter

**FIRST NON-PENALIZED PASSING PLAY:** 2nd drive; 2nd and 10; Sean Ashley 12-yard reception to Xavier Milton, 1st quarter

**FIRST PASS RECEPTION:** Xavier Milton, 12-yard pass from Sean Ashley

**FIRST FIRST-DOWN:** 1st drive, 1st and 10; Sean Ashley 12-yard rush, 1st quarter

**FIRST FIRST-DOWN VIA NON-PENALTY:** 1st drive, 1st and 10; Sean Ashley 12-yard rush, 1st quarter

**FIRST PUNT RETURN:** Xavier Milton 29-yard return to FIT 47-yard line

**FIRST PUNT:** Punter Brion Ashley, 61 yards to STET 0 (touchback), 13:21, 1st quarter

**FIRST KICKOFF RETURN:** Davis Fluker, 33-yard return to FT 34, 1st quarter

**FIRST GAME-WINNING DRIVE:** 5:22 left in 4th quarter, vs. Stetson, 11 plays, 82 yards, 4:30, Sean Ashley 3-yard run

WOMEN’S SOCCER ALUMNAE EXCEL

Jennifer Gillette ’10, ‘12 MBA, was named Women’s Professional Soccer League All-East Conference Second Team after her first professional soccer season with the ASA Chesapeake Charge.

Kay Photography

Mist Eliasdottir ’11 helped Breidablik defeat Thor/KA 2-1 to win the Icelandic FA Cup Championship.

EVA BJORL Photo

TENNIS ACADEMIC HONOR

Ten men’s and women’s tennis players were named Intercollegiate Tennis Association Scholar-Athletes for posting a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher through the 2012–13 academic year. The women’s tennis team was named an ITA All-Academic Team for recording at least a 3.2 cumulative GPA. Pictured is one of the team’s members, Kristina Hula.

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2013 INAUGURAL SEASON

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Men’s soccer won Florida Tech’s first NCAA Division II National Championship 25 years ago, defeating Cal State-Northridge 3-2 to capture the program’s first of two national championships in three years.

DIVAC’S SON TO PLAY FOR FIT

Former NBA star Vlade Divac, center, posed for a picture during student orientation with Assistant Vice President for Alumni Relations Bino Campanini, head men’s basketball coach Billy Mims and his son Matija Divac (left to right). Matija is a freshman at FIT, majoring in psychology.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL 101

In August, more than 50 international students gathered at Harris Village for a welcome barbecue spiced up by Florida Tech football players. Ten team members arrived in uniform, with footballs, to explain the uniquely American tradition. The players demonstrated how to pass a football, explained the rules of the game and, judging by the student enthusiasm, drew some new fans to the sport.

WOMEN’S SWIMMING ACADEMIC HONOR

The women’s swimming team earned the College Swimming Coaches Association of America Team Scholar All-America Award for the fourth time in two years. The Panthers registered a 3.30 cumulative GPA in the spring to reel in the honor.

VOLLEYBALL LANDS IN BIG APPLE

The volleyball team traveled to New York to play in the Pace Setters Classic from Sept. 13–14 in Pleasantville, N.Y.
Each year we honor trustees, alumni, faculty, staff, students, parents, corporations, foundations and other friends in the Honor Roll of Donors. This year’s Honor Roll of Donors consists of those who gave to the university between May 1, 2012 and April 30, 2013. We salute all who remembered Florida Tech during the 2013 fiscal year.

Ad Astra

Ad Astra is a lifetime giving society that consists of individuals who have given a minimum of $10,000 to Florida Tech.

Ad Astra Honor Roll of Donors

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The Galaxy Society consists of Florida Tech’s most elite group of donors who have given at least $1,000 to the university over the course of one fiscal year. All Galaxy Society members listed below met the requirements of membership as of April 30, 2013.

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Florida Tech TODAY | 53

10/13 3:20 PM
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