IN THIS ISSUE
Surfing Panthers—First in Florida
Football Fundraising in Full Swing
Knock ‘em Down: Bowling Anecdotes

Jenny McCoy ‘06 applied for her dream job in New York City … and got it.
Dear Florida Tech Alumni and Friends,

We are very proud of our technological and scientific history at Florida Tech—that expertise forms the foundation of this great university. However, we should not forget that Florida Tech is also creative, artistic, athletic, and fun!

A great example of this is seen in one of our features in this issue. The university’s surf team is making waves from coast to coast, ranked #1 in Florida and #8 in the nation. The skill, athleticism and, yes, artistry required for such accomplishment embodies the very spirit of achievement that we hope all Florida Tech students aspire to attain.

It was Albert Einstein who said, “After a certain high level of technical skill is achieved, science and art tend to coalesce in the greatest forms of technical skill is achieved, science and art tend to coalesce in the greatest beauty of form. The greatest scientists are always the greatest artists as well.”

I agree. Well-rounded people need a wealth of experiences that hone their analytical skills, spark their imaginations as well as energize their physical endurances. That fundamental philosophy forms the foundation of this great university. However, we should not forget expertise forms the foundation of this great university.

Our diverse experiences make us who we are—and in this case, more is better!

Sincerely yours,

A.J. Catanese, Ph.D., FAICP

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On the cover: Jenny McCoy, social media manager for MTV News, stands in a studio of the MTV offices overlooking Times Square. (Photo composite by Judi Tintera)
In Memoriam: George Shaw, Founding Father

George Shaw, founding trustee of Florida Institute of Technology, passed away June 15 at his home in Melbourne. A technological visionary, Shaw was co-founder of Radiation Inc., the telemetry company that later became Harris Corp. He was a steadfast supporter of Jerry Keuper’s effort to start a college and recognized the value it would bring throughout his lifetime.

“He went to every board meeting, came to almost every event on campus,” said President Anthony J. Catanese. Shaw was pleased to see the university grow and thrive.

“I always expected Florida Tech to be what it is today,” he said in a 2007 interview.

Born Oct. 27, 1921, in Brattleboro, Vt., Shaw married Mary Heath Robertson in 1945. The couple has three children. A private memorial was held in Shaw’s honor.

University Lands Helicopter Training

Florida Tech and Bristow Academy Inc. in Titusville, Fla., a division of Bristow Group Inc. (NYSE:BRS), have forged a combined program of university aviation education and helicopter flight training beginning fall 2010. This innovative program offers a university education to students seeking careers as professional pilots in the expanding helicopter industry. It is anticipated this program will be especially attractive to eligible military veterans under the new Post-9/11 GI Bill, which provides benefits to fully fund the combined program. As of early June, at least two current Florida Tech aeronautics students, post 9-11 GI Bill veterans, were on track for helicopter pilot training. They are Ray Anderson of Merritt Island, Fla., and Patric Schultz, from Berlin, Germany.

More information on the details of these benefits is available at www.gibill.va.gov. Bristow Academy is internationally recognized as a leader in the specialized area of helicopter flight training. Both institutions anticipate growth in this program, which will offer students a four-year university degree and specialized helicopter pilot ratings as a commercial and instrument helicopter pilot. Training is available for all collegiate students regardless of veteran eligibility.
On Campus

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have reduced populations. tortoises to islands where centuries of exploitation Research Station where they saw the tortoise—several locations. marine iguanas, sea turtles, sharks and sea lions at subterranean lava tunnels; and snorkeled with tortoises on the island of Santa Cruz; explored largest caldera in the world; encountered wild giant traveling by speedboat. The group climbed Isabela Islands for 10 days in May. students—primarily undergraduates—to the islands and Galapagos student study trip took 20 Rising senior Ben Compton snorkels with sea lions on the rugged coast of uninhabited Santa Fe Island. Undersea in the Galapagos Islands Professor Mark Bush’s summer field program and Galapagos student study trip took 20 students—primarily undergraduates—to the islands for 10 days in May. They visited six islands—three uninhabited—traveling by speedboat. The group climbed Isabela Island’s active volcano Sierra Negra, the fourth largest caldera in the world; encountered wild giant tortoises on the island of Santa Cruz; explored subterranean lava tunnels; and snorkeled with marine iguanas, sea turtles, sharks and sea lions at several locations. The group also visited the Charles Darwin Research Station where they saw the tortoise-rearing program that is helping reintroduce tortoises to islands where centuries of exploitation have reduced populations. President Earns Statewide Honor In the spring, President Anthony J. Catanese was elected chairman of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida (ICuF) for a two-year term. ICuF is a diverse association of 28 private, educational institutions. They serve more than 120,000 students at 180 sites around Florida. As chairman, Catanese will be ICuF’s principal advocate in Tallahassee and Washington. Training Air Traffic Controllers Florida Tech is among five new colleges to join in the Federal Aviation Administration’s Air Traffic Collegiate Training Initiative (AT-CTI) program and is the only school added from Florida. This is the third year the FAA has added schools to the program, bringing the number of participating institutions to 36. The FAA AT-CTI program helps recruit candidates for terminal and en route air traffic controller positions. No jobs are promised to students. However, from fiscal years 2005 until 2009, more than 3,000 or 41 percent of the air traffic controllers hired graduated from AT-CTI schools.

Telescope Expands Sky Sight Remote access to a telescope in Chile’s Andes Mountains gives a select group of astronomers and their students, including those at Florida Tech, a new window to the wonders of the Southern Hemisphere’s nighttime sky. Astronomers from 10 institutions have banded together through the southeastern Association for Research in Astronomy (SARA) consortium to refurbish and automate a 24-inch telescope at Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory in Chile. Through the Chilean telescope and a similar 36-inch telescope the group already operates at Kitt Peak in Arizona, each SARA institution can now view the night skies from both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres (even simultaneously) for about 30 days out of the year.

Library Engages Online Learners The world isn’t getting smaller—it’s getting closer. That sentiment applies to the critical job of information sharing led by the faculty and staff of the Evans Library. The library has committed extensive resources, in partnership with Online Learning, to ensure that the university’s more than 3,700 online learners have excellent access to the same resources that campus students enjoy. “Materials, information and staff expertise available through the Evans Library are critical components of the quality online education that Florida Tech provides,” said T. Dwayne McCay, provost and executive vice president. “As our online course offerings have grown over the last decade, so have the resources that we can deliver to students through the library.” “This is an incredibly exciting time for online learning,” added Mary Bonhomme, associate provost and dean of online learning. “Enrollments in our online learning courses continue to grow. The number of degree programs available online has reached 46. By working collaboratively with our friends in the library, we better serve the educational needs of all online learners.” Dean of Libraries Celine Lang agreed that partnership has been key. “Two examples illustrate this formula for success that enables us to anticipate rather than simply react to the students’ information needs,” Lang said. “First, Distance Learning Librarian Cheryl Davis helped a humanities instructor to make the telescope remotely accessible over the Internet. Together, the 30 astronomy researchers and 10 institutions that make up SARA form a virtual astronomy department that is as large as many major astronomy departments in the U.S.,” said Terry Oswalk, SARA chairman and head of the department of physics and space sciences at Florida Tech.

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On Campus

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Styling the Modern:
Fine Art Meets Fashion
Jill A. Wiltse and H. Kirk Brown III Collection
MAY 8 – AUG. 21, 2010
Curated by Guest Curator Shanna Shelby
Featuring 41 scarves and two couture dresses created by the famed Ascher Studio.

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Graduation by the Numbers
At Florida Tech's May commencement, 739 degrees were awarded. This includes 443 campus degrees as well as 189 degrees at extended graduate sites and an additional 107 degrees awarded to online graduates. Graduates came from 41 countries and 34 states plus Puerto Rico.

Associate of Arts .......................................................... 22
Bachelor of Arts ........................................................ 23
Bachelor of Science..................................................... 321
Master of Arts in Teaching ...................................... 1
Master of Business Administration ............................ 28
Professional Master of Business Administration ....... 1
Master of Science .....................................................295
Ph.D. ............................................................................. 18
TOTAL .......................................................................... 739

College of Aeronautics ................................................. 38
Nathan M. Bisk College of Business ............................ 307
College of Engineering ............................................ 226
College of Psychology and Liberal Arts .................. 70
College of Science ................................................... 98
TOTAL .......................................................................... 739

Also, 34 athletes graduated and five who earned bachelor of science degrees also became newly commissioned U.S. Army officers.

Open Soon
Fabric of Life:
Textiles of Latin America
SEPT. 11 – DEC. 18, 2010
This exhibition displays complex and colorful textiles from Mexico to Brazil. Hand-painted Amazonian weavings, Panamanian molas and indigenous costumes from Ecuador and Guatemala illustrate the vibrant traditions that have survived through centuries of modernization. The exhibit includes highlights from the center’s permanent collection and objects on loan from private collections.

Tuesday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Saturday, noon – 4 p.m.
http://textiles.fit.edu

Responding to Gulf Oil Spill
Florida Tech joined 14 other institutions in the Oil Spill Academic Task Force, an organization formed to help with the response to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. The consortium of scientists and scholars worked in collaboration with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Institute of Oceanography. George Maul, head of the department of marine and environmental systems, sits on the task force, which met on June 2 in St. Petersburg, Fla.

That day, Florida Tech faculty member Stephen Wood, with undergraduates and graduate students, left on the research vessel Weatherbird II from St. Petersburg on the first of four research cruises to observe the spill and collect water samples. The cruises went to Key West, into the Straits of Florida and included a stop at Dry Tortugas. Adjunct faculty member Michael Splitt also led students in this research.

Other universities involved include University of Miami, University of Florida, University of South Florida, Florida State University and New College of Florida.

S E N I O R  P R O F E S S I O N A L  M A S T E R S

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Research News

Human Factors Expert Earns $1 Million for Power Plant Studies
University Professor Guy Boy, director of the College of Engineering’s Center for Interaction Design, received an award of more than $1 million over four years from AREVA, an international energy company that offers solutions for highly reliable nuclear power generation. Under the grant, Boy will research and supervise two doctoral students on the ergonomics and human factors in the design and development of nuclear power plant control and management.

Alfredo Casas

Boys Snare $1 Million for Power Plant Studies
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Also on the research team are Rochester Institute of Technology in the United States and University of Sussex in the United Kingdom.

The story attracted coverage from dozens of media outlets, including the Christian Science Monitor and Scientific American.

The most likely cause for this SMBH to be off center is a previous merger between two older, less massive SMBHs. "We also find, however, that the iconic M87 jet may have pushed the SMBH away from the galaxy center," said Batcheldor.

Black Holes That Roam

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Focuses Discovery

Camera Gift Valued at $100,000 Focuses Discovery

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

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

For example, Florida Tech lightning researchers can use the camera to observe sporadic atmospheric occurrences, such as meteors and transient luminous events. The lightning group currently maintains an observation station for such phenomena on campus. This effort will benefit from the high spatial resolution images provided by SI-16M8-FF camera.

Edward L. Principe, university research professor in the department of physics and space sciences, helped obtain the gift.

The Salvador Foundation, in Colorado Springs, Colo., provides grants to churches and organizations in the United States and Latin America. The foundation is a Christian charitable foundation established in 2004 as a private 501(c)(3) organization.

$670,000 Gift Funds Flight Training Devices

Aviation students will soon be “flying high” inside new, state-of-the-art flight simulation equipment. The Emil Buehler Perpetual Trust is granting the university $670,000 to fund Seminole Level 5 Flight Training Devices. Manufactured by Frasca International Inc. in Urbana, Ill., a simulator allows safe, fuel efficient training in all weather conditions, 24 hours a day.

“Thanks to the Emil Buehler Perpetual Trust, our College of Aeronautics students will enjoy the benefits of advanced and efficient flight training equipment in the Emil Buehler Center for Aviation Training and Research,” said President Anthony J. Catanese. “This important gift only raises Florida Tech’s profile in the aviation education community.”

The university is continuing to add equipment and programs that are elevating its flight training reputation on an international scale, according to Winston Scott, dean of the College of Aeronautics and former astronaut.

“These two new flight training devices will be welcomed assets to our evolving educational offerings at the Buehler Center,” Scott said. “Equipment of this type is a tremendous educational resource for a number of reasons—particularly known for enhancing the hands-on flight training experience and improving safety outcomes.”

The gift to fund the flight training devices is the second major donation from The Emil Buehler Perpetual Trust to Florida Tech—the first helped fund The Emil Buehler Center for Aviation Training and Research, located at Melbourne International Airport.

“Emil Buehler was a leader in providing unique educational opportunities and, in keeping with his interest, the trustees of the Emil Buehler Trust felt that funding advanced flight training devices at Florida Tech is an opportunity for the trust to again perpetuate Emil’s mission,” said George Weaver, trustee of The Emil Buehler Trust.

The Emil Buehler Center for Aviation Training and Research at The Melbourne International Airport opened in February 2009. Construction of the 12,240-square-foot facility began in 2008 following a $1.5 million gift from The Emil Buehler Perpetual Trust of Paramus, N.J. The center, valued at $5.1 million, consists of a main building and 17,600-square-foot hangar and is located on eight acres at the airport. It is the headquarters of F.I.T. Aviation and all Florida Tech flight operations.
Remembering Florida Tech …

Founded at the dawn of the space race 51 years ago, Florida Tech is known for its research expertise and is the only independent, technological university in the Southeast. With more than 8,000 students enrolled on the main campus, extended campuses and online, Florida Tech has been named a Barron’s Guide “Best Buy” in College Education, listed among America’s best colleges in U.S. News & World Report and ranked in 2010 as one of the nation’s top 17 engineering technical institutes by the Fiske Guide to Colleges.

FIVE EASY WAYS YOU CAN HELP FLORIDA TECH GROW AND PROSPER

Help Us Recruit New Students
Help Florida Tech identify recruiting opportunities and refer potential students. Don’t forget to use your Alumni Endorsement Grant privilege to award $1,000 annually for up to four years to any students you nominate (any major). Alumni Endorsement Grant forms are always available online at www.fit.edu/alumni.

Help Us Keep Our Curriculum Relevant and Current
Recommend course updates, new courses or new academic programs based on industry trends and needs. Identify potential faculty members and/or potential donors for lab equipment or instructional materials.

Identify Key Contacts
Identify key industry contacts, potential board of advisers members, internship/co-op career opportunities, fundraising prospects or other opportunities to partner with industry.

Contribute to the Florida Tech Fund
Your gift, whether $100 or $1,000, will help fund lab equipment, recruitment, curriculum, faculty, research and development projects throughout the university. Make your gift today and ensure Florida Tech’s continued success.

Stay Connected
Keep in touch with your alumni association and participate in or help organize alumni activities and gatherings in your area or on campus. Additional information is always available online at www.fit.edu.

Wenyi (Clacken) Nazon

from the FTAA President

From the desk of Alan Prestwood ’73, ’80

This summer was a time of change for the alumni association with the retirement of Ken Droscher from Florida Tech after 10 years of service. Ken played a pivotal role in the development of not only the alumni association, as its executive director, but also in Advancement where he served as associate vice president. Ken loved Florida Tech and it showed through his passion for his work and his dedication to our alumni. You can read more about Ken’s great legacy and his many accomplishments on page 18. Although all of us who worked with Ken will miss him greatly, we are pleased that he will now have time to enjoy his grandchildren out west in Arizona.

As we move forward, we are very fortunate to have someone who shares Ken’s passion for Florida Tech taking the helm. Bino Campanini ’90, ’92 M.B.A., is a former captain of our NCAA II National Championship soccer team, a member of the Florida Tech Sports Hall of Fame and a recipient of the Alumni Achievement Award. He is a former member of the FTAA board of directors (serving nine years), the board of overseers of the Nathan M. Bisk College of Business and the board of trustees. His 24-year involvement with Florida Tech places him in a unique position to help the alumni association continue to connect with and serve our alumni.

The future of Florida Tech continues to look bright and our campus continues to grow with the opening of a new food service facility, parking garage and swimming pool on the south campus. As our campus grows, so does our alumni community—with 700 new graduates joining our ranks this year. We are now over 40,000 strong and growing. I hope everyone had a great summer and that many of you will consider visiting your alma mater this fall for Homecoming. In addition, make sure you become a fan of the Alumni Association Facebook page and that you stay connected with Florida Tech. Visit facebook.com and type in Florida Institute of Technology Alumni Association. Ad Astra Per Scientiam!

Alumna Spark: Weyni Clacken Nazon ’01

Wenyi (Clacken) Nazon came from the tiny rural town of Southfield, St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, and stands just 5 feet, 4 inches tall. But there is nothing little about her enthusiasm, energy or heart. Just 30, she’s climbed the corporate ladder to a vice presidency at Goldman Sachs in Jersey City, N.J., but makes time to give back to her community and alma mater.

When Nazon graduated from Florida Tech with a computer engineering degree and 3.94 GPA in less than four years, she left her imprint on many people and organizations. Besides the Caribbean Students Association (CSA), she was on the board of the National Society of Black Engineers and Tau Beta Pi. On the CSA board, Nazon helped foster relationships with a nearby elementary school. In Tau Beta Pi, she chaired a special committee under the guidance of Professor Ed Kalajian, which re-launched the annual engineer’s week.

Nazon began at Goldman Sachs after graduation. While there, she completed her master’s degree in electrical engineering at Columbia University. She currently works in Network Management Architecture, where as the technical lead, she assesses and drives implementation for reliable, efficient and scalable solutions.

As part of her firm’s community involvement, she visits local schools to discuss the financial markets and how to make the most of technology. Nazon sits on the board of the firm’s Technology Black Network and, after work hours, mentors 14-year-old Quoshonah through Big Brothers/Big Sisters. But she never forgets Florida Tech.

As an alumna, Nazon led the charge to start a CSA alumni fund that now provides a $1,000 annual scholarship. She works to augment the fund’s endowment and to build the Caribbean Alumni database to facilitate jobs and networking. She returns to campus at least once a year to continue to mentor students.

“My experience at Florida Tech was really wonderful. If I’m able to help others make the most of their college life, then I want to do that,” said Nazon.

The 2009–2010 academic year was Nazon’s first year on the alumni association board.

“She gets things done,” said Bino Campanini, executive director of the alumni association. “Weyni is a great asset for us.”

Married in July to Nedgy Nazon, she is now Weyni Nazon. Congratulations, Weyni!

Karen Rhine
NEW YORK ALUMNI PROFILE (PHOTO 3)

Ray Paprocky ’90 looked forward to seeing Bino Campanini ’90, ’92 M.B.A., again at the alumni reception in New York City. In Campanini’s new job, the former varsity soccer star will be evident all over the country at alumni events.

Although it was Paprocky’s first alumni reception, he’s been back to campus “at least 10 times” since graduation and hopes to make it for Homecoming 2010. He’ll be celebrating 20 years as an alumnus.

A Nathan M. Bisk College of Business graduate with a degree in finance, Paprocky works for the biotech pharmaceutical company Biogen Idec from its New York location. As area business manager, he sells medications for multiple sclerosis.

Busy with his work and family—wife of 13 years Christine and children Nicole, 7, and Jessica, 4—he still thinks about his college days.

“I had a great experience,” he said. “First, I got a very good education and second, I met three of my best friends there and we still stay in contact.” He also played basketball and was on Florida Tech NCAA Division II tournament teams in 1989 and 1990.

New York area alumni, prospective students and guests were treated to an expansive view of the East River at the reception held recently at the Water Club. The elegant restaurant and meeting facility is atop a renovated barge on Manhattan’s East Side.

Greater Boston area alumni enjoyed a panoramic view of historic Boston Harbor when the On The Road team met in the Boston Harbor Hotel Pavilion.

BOSTON ALUMNI PROFILE (PHOTO 3)

When an alumni reception is scheduled in the Boston area, Peter Velkin ’97 always tries to make it. He has good memories of earning his Florida Tech degree in electrical engineering and forged long-standing friendships.

“I had a really good time at Florida Tech,” he said. But his fondest memories are probably being a part of the rowing team.

Velkin, who came to Florida Tech from Bulgaria on a Presidential Academic Scholarship, immediately joined the crew team. His team won at Dad Vail in 1996 and his boat was selected to race at the Henley Regatta in England—a rare honor.

“I was up at five every morning for practice and had the chance to travel all over the U.S. I am grateful to coach Casey Baker for the opportunity because crew had a defining role for building the strength of my character,” said Velkin, who was drawn to Boston, in part, for the chance to row on the Charles River. And he does, several times a week.

Velkin is now vice president of marketing for Zmags, a digital publishing software company. He lives near the river in downtown Boston, with wife Albina and 3-year-old son Christo.
About 100 alumni, friends, crew members and their families enjoyed a reception at Boathouse Row’s Vesper House on the Schuylkill River at the annual Dad Vail Regatta. Florida Tech had its own tent during the races, May 7–8, keeping the rowers’ fans out of the wind and dust, and in fellowship.

Florida Tech’s women’s varsity boats placed fourth and sixth in the finals. The varsity four claimed fourth in the final, crossing the finish line at 8:44.71; the varsity eight notched sixth place, powering through the waves and past the buoys at 7:36.20.

Following two solid efforts in their heat and semifinal, the Panthers’ men’s varsity eight earned a third-place medal in the final, stopping the clock at 6:38.94.

Director of Advancement Services Ali Faisal traveled to Pakistan recently to participate in receptions in Islamabad and Karachi organized by the United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan (USEFP). The USEFP was founded in 1950 to support education and cultural exchange between the United States and Pakistan, and is one of 51 Department of State Fulbright Programs worldwide.

1) Ali Faisal, left, outlines Florida Tech programs for prospective students with the aid of Hadi Garib ‘95.
2) From left, Zeeshan Usmani ‘06 M.S., ’09 Ph.D., and Faisal join members of the USEFP staff and prospective students. Usmani is an assistant professor of computer science at GIK University in Pakistan.

Florida west coast alumni were hosted by Bill and Barbara Roy in Naples at their private country club, the Moorings.

1) Event hosts Bill Roy ’70 M.S. and Barbara Roy are flanked here by Beverly Sanders, assistant vice president of development, and Bino Campanini. 2) Bino Campanini discusses Florida Tech happenings with Michael Kirby ’81.

About 100 alumni, friends, crew members and their families enjoyed a reception at Boathouse Row’s Vesper House on the Schuylkill River at the annual Dad Vail Regatta. Florida Tech had its own tent during the races, May 7–8, keeping the rowers’ fans out of the wind and dust, and in fellowship.

Florida Tech’s women’s varsity boats placed fourth and sixth in the finals. The varsity four claimed fourth in the final, crossing the finish line at 8:44.71; the varsity eight notched sixth place, powering through the waves and past the buoys at 7:36.20.

Following two solid efforts in their heat and semifinal, the Panthers’ men’s varsity eight earned a third-place medal in the final, stopping the clock at 6:38.94.
Ken Droscher: Beloved Ambassador Bids Adieu

When Ken Droscher arrived at Florida Tech July 10, 2000, he found a very different place than he retired from this summer. In those 10 years, he made a lasting impact and in the process earned the love and respect of just about everyone he came in contact with. Although he retired with the title associate vice president for advancement, he found the most joy as executive director of the alumni association.

Almost from the moment he arrived on campus, it became apparent he did not think of his work as a job. It was his mission. His sincere interest in everything made him love everything about Florida Tech. He loved its history and the future he perceived for it. Most of all he loved the people with whom he came in contact. He told them so, too. “I love you,” he would tell them. And they loved him back.

Ken seemed to see the potential in taking action where others did not. The Link Trainer, discovered in a closet, was restored and is now on display. The Chao Tsu-Yu clock in front of the Keuper Building runs again. The marble clock in the Denius Student Center. Statues of our panther mascot and our founding president, Melanie Keuper, helped him acquire archival pieces. And of alumni the love and respect of just about everyone he came in contact with.

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Ken Droscher

A wonderful listener, Ken feels the position helped him learn how to deal with people. He spent four years dealing with problems like finding tickets to sold-out events for demanding big shots, handling overbooked shows and disguising under-filled houses. Eventually, he served as associate athletic director for Arizona before being named athletic director at the University of California at Santa Barbara. At the time, he was the youngest athletic director of an NCAA Division I-A school in the country. His first stint as director of alumni relations was at South Oregon University where he met his wife Mary.

The couple sought a new challenge when they came to Florida Tech and the rest is history. Joan Richey
when you apply for your dream job, you need to be prepared to get it

First Stop Florida Tech
Next Stop MTV

Jenny McCoy earned her bachelor’s in communication in 2006. Today, she is social media manager for MTV News in New York City.

Read on as Jenny shares her love of social media, her love affair with the bright lights of the big city and the benefits of a friendly push on the journey to living the dream.
I’II tell you from personal experience that Alka-Seltzer helps the news go down.

On April 26, I e-mailed my application to MTV News.

On May 26, I began work in Times Square.

That’s your CliffsNotes, here’s the full story.

Let’s start with my first trip to NYC. >>

The first time I met the iconic buildings I now call home was as a member of the Florida Tech Volleyball team. I remember seeing “Mama Mia” on Broadway, and while the show was great, I was most impacted by the realization that everyone on that stage was living their dream. They said, “I want to be on Broadway,” when they were six years old and they actually did it. And to me, that was more memorable than all the ABBA tunes you can fit into a two-hour performance.

I took that memory away, finished my degree and took my first steps as a young professional—again, at Florida Tech. I folded envelopes for alumni events and wrote letters asking each of you for your earnest donations. But more importantly, I was taken in by some wonderful people who saw that I had a knack for writing and helped me develop it. When I decided to leave and pursue my next job in Fort Lauderdale, they—along with my friends and family—gave me a gentle push out the door.

That push was what I needed. I needed to experience the world a little more and develop my writing in a more intense setting. On day one, my new employer told me to learn this new thing that was all the rage ... social media. So in addition to writing, I started a blog, a Twitter account and a Facebook page for my company.

Immediately, I was fascinated with this medium. It gave my company a voice. It allowed us to talk to real people. I loved it—so much so, that within a few months I decided to start my own blog http://JenMcCoy.com. This quickly became my nightly labor of love. I would come home from work and rather than watch a movie or drink a few beers, I would work until 2 a.m.

I grew a small audience and weeknights became weekends as I worked on new pieces, shopped them around as bait to other blogs and, in general, got to know a ton of really cool people who were in the same situation. They had aspiration, they had talent and they weren’t happy in their current position.

Because of this, I feel extremely fortunate to have entered the work force during the rise of corporate acceptance of social media. The same skills I learned on the job as an entry-level copywriter allowed me to develop my own voice, find a readership and, ultimately, land my dream job by creating a site http://SocialJenny.com that easily shared why I deserved to be the new social media manager at MTV News.

That’s how I got here.

Now, here’s a little about what I do at 1515 Broadway.

I left Florida on a one-way flight with one bag, one suitcase and a reservation on an air mattress (of two Florida Tech alums). Band-Aid approach, baby. The lights were big, the bags were heavy and, I’ll admit, the transition was abrupt. Looking back on my first week in the city, I’d compare myself to a mixture of Eddie Murphy in “Coming to America” and Buddy the Elf. I smiled at everyone. I got excited when they said my subway stop, and I ate breakfast in front of “Good Morning America” before my first day in the office—because I showed up 1.5 hours early.

I’m basically a professional now though. I hit the door at 8:15 a.m., grab coffee at 8:20 a.m. and it only takes me a few seconds when I hit daylight at the Times Square exit to locate the bright lights and walk toward their glaze.

And then there’s the office. Sway Calloway is on one side of my quarters and our interview room is on the other. As my boss put it on day five, “the curtain is up.” It’s true and it’s strange, but despite the visits of Ice Cube, the “Idol” finalists and several others, I’m still most fascinated with one of my side tasks—posting Kurt Loder’s movie reviews.

Despite all the exciting distractions, I do have big expectations. It’s my task to take an evolving online newsroom that used to live on cable and make it social. Currently, I do so by delivering our news to our Twitter followers and creating a reason for them to engage with us. In the coming weeks and months, this job will become more involved as we incorporate each of our five newsroom blogs and take our story onto Facebook. It’s a fun challenge and the work is really never done—but I’m happy to be a part of such a dynamic industry and I’m thankful for the opportunity. In the same vein, I’m thankful for the people who helped me get here.

I feel strongly that no matter where you start and where you end, you don’t get there with one push. For that reason, I’m thankful for every push along the way—from my parents showing up to every game I’ve ever played in, to my big brother helping me get my start in Fort Lauderdale, to my Florida Tech family who took me through college and into my first job. Your pushes helped me get here, and I’m loving every minute of it.

Now book your flights and come visit me already!

Jenny McCoy

Far left: Jenny McCoy, second from right, on her first trip to New York City with the Florida Tech volleyball team.

Left: Jenny McCoy rides a cable car over the Hudson River with Derek Steinle, ‘06 aviation management, right, and another friend.
Tentative Schedule of Events

**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 3**

All Day
Office Decorating Contest
7 p.m.
Women’s Basketball Exhibition Game—Clemente Center

**THURSDAY, NOV. 4**

7-9 p.m.
Talent/Lip Sync Show—Pantherium
10 p.m.—1 a.m.
Homecoming Dance—Clemente Center

**FRIDAY, NOV. 5**

9 a.m.—noon
Alumni Association Board of Directors Meeting—
All Faiths Center
4–7 p.m.
Paw Wow—Southgate Field
7 p.m.
Volleyball Match (vs. Tampa)—Clemente Center
7–8 p.m.
Reunion Receptions—Locations TBA
7:30–9:30 p.m.
Florida Tech Ice Hockey—
Space Coast Ice Plex, Rockledge
8–10 p.m.
College Players Fall Production—
Gleason Performing Arts Center

**SATURDAY, NOV. 6**

8–10 a.m.
ASME Yarosh Wiles Scholarship 5K Race
11 a.m.—noon
Homecoming Parade—
Homecoming and Reunion Barbecue—
Panther Plaza and Pantherium
2–4 p.m.
An Afternoon of Entertainment—
Panther Plaza and Pantherium
Alumni Association Banquet—TBA
9–11 p.m.
Homecoming Concert—Southgate Field
**Payment required**
Schedule subject to change.

For complete information by area, please contact:
College of Aeronautics/FITSAA—Ryan Tenny: (321) 674-7369 or rtenny@fit.edu
Alumni Affairs—Hazel Rosskamp: (321) 674-7190 or hrosskam@fit.edu
Student Affairs—Judy Thompson: (321) 674-8080 or thompson@fit.edu

Homecoming 2010 REGISTRATION FORM OR REGISTER ONLINE http://homecoming.fit.edu

To register by credit card or check (payable to Florida Tech Alumni Association), fill out this form and send to:
Florida Institute of Technology, Office of Alumni Affairs, 150 West University Boulevard, Melbourne, FL 32901-6975

**Saturday, Nov. 6**

Alumni Association Banquet—starts at 7:30 p.m.

\# Attendees __________ @ $45 per individual before Oct. 1
\$50 per individual after Oct. 1

TOTAL AMOUNT REMITTED

**Choice of entrée:** BEEF, SALMON or VEGETARIAN
Please indicate entrée selection for each member of your party.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of guest</th>
<th>Beef</th>
<th>Salmon</th>
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<tr>
<td>Choice of entrée: BEEF, SALMON or VEGETARIAN Please indicate entrée selection for each member of your party</td>
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**Check enclosed** —or— **Credit Card** —Visa —MasterCard —American Express —Discover

Cardholder Name ____________________________
Card # ____________________________
Expiration Date ____________________________
CV# ____________________________
Cardholder Signature ____________________________

Whoever said cats don’t take to water never met Florida Tech’s Surf Team. These Panthers have made the ocean their personal playground, clawing their way to the top of the beach’s best.

The university’s fledgling surf squad remained ahead of two other Florida collegiate teams competing in the National Scholastic Surfing Association (NSSA) National Championships June 16–19 in Dana Point, Calif. The team finished eighth overall in the competition—but first in Florida. Two team members, Sebastian Moreno and Justin Ellingham, made the semifinals.

“It was so exciting to qualify for nationals and to compete there,” said team captain Moreno, a senior majoring in international business. “This was our first year as a team, and we’re just very proud of what we’ve achieved.” The NSSA is the highest profile amateur competitive surfing association in the United States.

Florida Tech qualified for the national contest after placing second only to the University of North Carolina–Wilmington in the NSSA East Coast Championships in April. Other team members who competed in California were Alex Ferrence, Frankie Brown, Katie Spagnolo, Pat Brendan, Pat Reily and Ellis White. Supporting the team were James Woerner, Kiki Roettinger and Samuel Breit.

The national competition fielded 16 teams, including four from the East Coast of the United States. The two other Florida teams participating represented Florida Atlantic University and the University of Central Florida. The University of California–Santa Barbara team earned the first-place crown for the 12th time.

Wes Sumner
Ready for the Real World

It’s at the top of every human resources manager’s wish list: Recent graduates who are “job-ready.”

And Florida Tech’s got you covered.

Tell goals are just that—ready to thrive in today’s dynamic workplaces. In addition to a top-notch theoretical education, engineering, science and math students also get invaluable hands-on experience through the senior design and senior research programs.

Starting with their freshman year, we explain to the students that this project will be the highlight of their experience here,” said Hamid Rassoul, associate dean of the College of Science. “It will be a crucial part of their résumé.”

Rassoul used an old Chinese proverb to underscore the value of the program. “Tell me, and I forget. Show me, and I may remember. Involve me, and I’ll understand.”

Each April, approximately 40 College of Science teams and 95 College of Engineering teams display their projects during the Student Design Showcase at the Clemente Center. The diversity of the projects mirrors the broad range of Florida Tech disciplines.

Math and science projects may address space physics, such as the erosion of lunar soil when landing rockets on the moon, biology, examining coral growth; or science and math education, evaluating different teaching methods.

“Several of these projects continue on at the graduate level, and many are published in scientific journals,” said Stephanie Hopper, director of laboratories for the College of Engineering.

“The real successes come when we see students working across disciplines and across cultural differences to create a winning design,” said Hopper. “Several of these projects continue on at the graduate level, and many are published in scientific journals.”

One of this year’s most recognized engineering projects was the Blended Wing Body Plane, created by a team of aerospace students. The project was a continuation of an effort the students began as a toy-sized plane more than two years ago, which they redesigned and scaled up to a 16-foot wing-span plane for their senior project.

The plane has potential applications as a cargo plane, possibly for delivering emergency supplies or time-sensitive information, said team leader Sharif Abdel-Magid. “It’s 30 percent more efficient and can carry more than your conventional airplane; this is a win-win situation for this design, and the possibilities are endless. The plane as we know it has been redesigned.”

The BWB team exemplifies the strength of an interdisciplinary approach, using mathematics to model a biological process, might provide scientists with new insight on the complex reproductive processes of all species. In addition to NAS recognition, Mazzone’s project earned high praise from attendees at this year’s showcase—including President Anthony J. Catanese.

After walking the showcase aisles and reviewing dozens of projects personally, Catanese summed up the program’s focus as he addressed the audience, “You don’t come to Florida Tech to read about math, science and engineering—you come here to do it.”

Bob Klein, vice president of engineering at Northrop Grumman, echoed the sentiments heard from many human resources executives. He was part of a nine-person team that evaluated the projects during the annual showcase.

“The Northrop Grumman judges and I were really impressed with the student projects,” he said. “Not only did they design them, but they built them and tested them and offered very creative solutions. We are happy to partner with Florida Tech and look forward to seeing the students’ creative solutions in the future.”

Cristina Mazzone, a biology senior, attests to the success of the program. Her project in the interdisciplinary field of biomath was one of nine projects nationwide selected to present at a conference hosted by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) in Washington, D.C.

“Being able to understand this signaling pathway and the role of each molecule in the pathway during fertilization and maturation could lead to the development of better contraceptives and could help those with infertility issues,” Mazzone said. “The interdisciplinary approach, using mathematics to model a biological process, might provide scientists with new insight on the complex reproductive processes of all species. In addition to NAS recognition, Mazzone’s project earned high praise from attendees at this year’s showcase—including President Anthony J. Catanese.”

Students completing senior research projects in the College of Science experience a different kind of teamwork, said Rassoul. “Often, our projects are multi-phased, where one student works for a year or so, then another student picks up where the previous student left off. It’s more of a sequential team. In the end, the legacy is divided equally.”

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In celebration of National Bowling Week—July 31–Aug. 7—Florida Tech TODAY decided to pay homage to this historic pastime, and to our surprise, we scored a “turkey”—you provided fun facts, we discovered a bit of Florida Tech history and we gained an academic lesson in the physics of bowling.

**What I love about bowling:**

Since bowling is a game based on the laws of physics, I get to apply my engineering education to improve my game. If I perform the correct action, I will get the desired reaction.

I love the head-to-head competition on league night. I love the camaraderie and the teamwork.

I love the fact that my personal contribution has a large effect on the outcome.

I absolutely love the smell of wood oil, shoe disinfectant spray and greasy food.

I get to apply my engineer-based on the laws of physics, systems

**Top 10 reasons that real bowling is better than Wii:**

10. Have you seen the type of people who hang out in bowling alleys?
   - I don’t want them playing with my Wii console.

9. That special bowling alley smell of wood oil, shoe disinfectant spray and greasy food.

8. Those little Wii controllers don’t slide down the lane very well.

7. You get to rent shoes!

6. Wii keeps track of my progress so it’s harder to lie about my score.

5. It’s all the exercise I get.

4. It’s hard to fit the whole league in my living room.

3. You look kinda silly carrying around a Wii controller in a bag with your towel, wrist support, resin powder.

2. Why bother playing Wii when my ColecoVision bowling challenge 3000 is the best game ever?

1. Adults have a good chance of winning against 9-year-old kids.

Kurt Winkelman—Associate Professor, Chemistry

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**REAL BOWLING FANS**

Robert Messony III—Real bowling is fun, but I got a higher score in Wii bowling.

Bina Wagshul—Wii games are not fun! In fact I find them really boring. I prefer the real thing hands down!

Joe Haddad—Real bowling with bumpers

Kai L. Clark—Real bowling, no contest

Harrison Schott—Real bowling is better than the game he’s figured out the way to bowl a perfect game every time.

Other real bowling fans: Lauren Solomon, Stephen Hujarski, Rika Abbikhed, Bonnie Klein, Sparky Waters

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**Wii Bowling Fans**

Lesa Yabush Webb—In real bowling, no but I kick butt on Wii bowling.

Tracy Brown—Wii bowling all the way, lil’ bro.

Ayahbe Semenitari—Wii is up.

Alaybe Semenitari—Wii is up.

Sarah Beverley, LaDonna Amon White

**Our informal Facebook survey yielded the following results:**

**Wii vs Traditional?**

Remember when?

In what year did the bowling club wear these t-shirt designs?

Answers below.

**Wii Bowling**

**Real Bowling**

**Both**

Answers: (a) 2001–02;   (b) 2002–03;   (c) 2000–01

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Answers below.
BOB AND CINDY PRATT:

For Love and Alma Mater

Florida Tech holds a special place in the hearts of Bob and Cindy Pratt.

It’s where they met, fell in love and got engaged at a campus landmark they helped establish. It’s where they made life-long friends and built a network of colleagues. And it was the stepping stone to career success.

The couple first met through College Players, where Cindy acted and Bob worked backstage. They were friends for several years, and both were active in numerous campus organizations before they started dating in 1996.

After graduating in 1995 with a B.S. in physical oceanography, Bob joined the alumni association and began campaigning for the panther statue. Cindy, who graduated two years later with a B.S. in biological oceanography and chemical oceanography, shared Bob’s dream.

“It was something we worked together for years on and finally in 2000, we ended up getting the statue,” said Bob, who, along with Cindy, works with and lands jobs thanks to Florida Tech alumni.

Bob joined York Telecom as a program manager and currently works for the Los Angeles-based Fortune 500 biotech firm Amgen.

“I oversee an engagement of York staff members who provide video conference network management and live audio/visual events,” Bob said.

Cindy works as a hydrographic surveyor for Fugro West Inc., an international geosciences and consulting and marine study firm. Most recently, she’s spent time in the office helping with project logistics, Geographical Information System mapping and report writing. Prior to that, she worked at sea mapping the seafloor looking for underwater hazards, artifacts and position levels.

“When I showed her the donor plaque, it said ‘Bob and Cindy Pratt’ and I proposed at the statue,” Bob said.

Added Cindy, “Bob had this well planned. I love the fact he had the confidence I would say yes.”

Not only did Florida Tech play a key role in the Pratt’s love lives, it also paved the way for successful careers.

“Amazingly enough, all of our career moves have been based off of our friends and fellow graduates from Florida Tech,” said Bob, who, along with Cindy, works with and lands jobs thanks to Florida Tech alumni.

The Pratts are grateful for their time spent at Florida Tech, especially the positive relationships they shared with the faculty and the numerous friendships they made that have lasted more than a decade.

“The professors and staff were truly interested in the lives of students. They were encouraging and supportive and made an impact on our life,” Cindy said.

Added Bob, “We had a great experience at Florida Tech. It truly changed our lives and a lot of other lives as well.”

Kristine Woolley

“I learned a lot of skills at Florida Tech that became valuable in the real world. It provided me with a lot of the organizational skills and technical writing skills that make me better at my job,” Cindy said.

Despite their busy careers, the couple still finds time for a myriad of hobbies such as guitar playing, gardening, photography, scrapbooking and watching soccer and Formula One racing.

About six years ago, they restarted the Los Angeles Chapter of the Florida Tech Alumni Association, where members meet for an annual barbecue, baseball game and wine tasting—one of their favorite West Coast pastimes.

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Kristine Woolley
Semen Koksal: Defying Equation

Love and math in the same sentence? An equation that doesn’t compute for some. Yet professor and mathematician Koksal pairs these two concepts together and speaks of her field with such enthusiasm and affection it’s contagious.

“Math is the most beautiful subject of all,” she exclaims. “It’s so elegant. It’s not a science by itself, but every science depends on math. Without math, you can’t really do anything.”

She explains the critical and analytical thinking skills of mathematics are necessary for every discipline from psychology to law. Therefore, she can’t comprehend a lack of math appreciation. Therefore, she can’t comprehend a lack of math appreciation.

“When people tell me, ‘I hate math,’ it just breaks my heart,” she says. “I cannot understand how math can be boring or something that you hate.”

In her native Turkey, mathematics is praised and encouraged as a study discipline for both genders, and Koksal’s natural aptitude for the subject made it a logical pursuit. About 85 percent of her undergraduate class was female as were nearly half of her professors.

“When I came to the United States for my Ph.D. studies, it was very surprising to me how uncommon it was for a female to study math, especially at the higher level,” she says.

In light of this dichotomy, she takes an active interest in encouraging the brightest students to reach their full potential, regardless of gender.

Her unique research area offers a prime platform for challenging and rewarding young scholars.

Koksal, together with Robert Van Woensel of biological sciences, started collaborative research and education activities in biomathematics at Florida Tech about six years ago. This interdisciplinary field, at the intersection of biology and mathematics, applies mathematical principles to biological systems. Using mathematical modeling, scientists can study and interpret complex biological interactions.

Through a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant, Koksal, Van Woensel and three other colleagues—David Carroll and Richard Linden from biology and Eugene Dishalow from mathematics—are entering their third year of the Undergraduate Biological and Mathematical (UBM) training program, funding the research of six undergraduate students annually.

Two of Florida Tech’s UBM students were invited to present their research at the Beyond BIO2010 Symposium: Celebrations and Opportunities at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C., in May. They were among just nine students nationwide selected for this honor.

The success of the UBM program inspired Koksal and her biomath collaborators to develop a full-fledged undergraduate major in biomathematics beginning this fall. Florida Tech is one of only a dozen universities nationwide offering such a degree at the undergraduate level.

It’s poetic when you learn Koksal was the first graduate of the Florida Tech Ph.D. program in mathematics and today she is head of the department and starting a new interdisciplinary degree program.

She discovered Florida Tech by chance and returned to join the faculty by coincidence. At a time before e-mail and Internet access made overseas communication commonplace, Koksal began her search for U.S. doctoral programs at the library. It was there that a friend suggested she apply to Florida Tech.

Following graduation, she had post-doctoral and faculty appointments in Louisiana and Illinois, before her husband’s career path landed the family back in Melbourne.

Ironic that fate and love would play a role in the career of a mathematician, but such is Koksal’s story, and igniting a similar love for mathematics in her students inspires her on a daily basis.

“I always get excited when I teach—my voice rises and my hands move. If I can reflect that excitement, transform that excitement to the students, that really satisfies me the most,” she says.

In the classroom, she makes a point of working along with students.

“I don’t like to solve a lot of problems before going to teach. To me, it’s kind of superficial, mechanical. I like to show the students that the professors also struggle when they’re solving problems. If I go to class and solve all the exercises and give students the impression that as soon as I read I know everything and this is what is expected from them as well, it doesn’t work.”

What does work is combining the unlikely equation—love + math—to excite and encourage the next generation of mathematicians.

Christina Callahan
A Dream Come True

Nearly every child imagines which career path he or she will follow when they grow up.

Although the road to any dream may be difficult, it can be achieved with hard work, perseverance and patience. As a child, Rocio “Ro” Hernandez ’08 had her sights set on playing soccer. Born in Madrid, Spain, Hernandez moved to the United States at age 16. After graduating from high school, she played one year at the University of Texas at Austin and became the first World Cup player from Puerto Rico. Hernandez continued her pro career when they grew up.

With the help of first-year coach Fidgi Haig, Hernandez began to grasp her potential in 2005. In the team’s preseason workouts, he noticed her exceptional talent and moved her from forward to defense. She eventually bought into the idea and became the player her coach imagined.

“By Ro’s senior year, she was one of the top center backs in the nation,” he said. “She was the whole package.”

Hernandez continued her collegiate career by helping the Panthers post their best record in the program’s brief history. In doing so, she became the first Florida Tech women’s soccer player to earn All-South Region honors. Upon graduating, she signed with FC Indiana of the Women’s Premier Soccer League (WPSL).

“FC Indiana had a huge impact on my life and career,” she said. “The training itself was a reality check. We practiced two times a day for several months. I would have to say Florida Tech prepared me for my first professional experience and FC Indiana prepared me for my professional soccer career.”

A few months later, Hernandez helped Puerto Rico vie for a spot in the 2008 Olympics. As a captain, she scored one goal in the country’s first-ever win over the Cayman Islands. Even though Puerto Rico did not qualify, she continued her professional career in Russia and competed in the UEFA Champions League Cup.

“When I played in the UEFA Cup, it was a huge moment in my life,” she said. “When soccer fans think about the sport, they often think about the World Cup, Champions League and Olympics.

As Haig looks back on Hernandez and realizes her post-college success, he could not be more proud of her accomplishments.

“I’m very happy for Ro,” Haig said. “Soccer was her endeavor and a path that she chose. It wasn’t easy, but she’s a perfect example of what happens when you stick to your dreams.”

Outstanding Athletes

Florida Tech Athletics recognizes its top award winners at the conclusion of the 2009–10 season.

Garnering the two top awards as the Panther Male and Female Athletes of the Year were Michael Demma (baseball) and Sara Trané (cross country). Jonathan Hanna of the men’s tennis team earned Tech’s Male Scholar Athlete of the Year award while there was a tie on the women’s side. Both Cristina Mazzone (cross country) and Danielle Healy (softball) received plaques as this year’s Female Scholar Athletes of the Year.

Demma (Coral Springs), a senior first baseman for the Panthers, finished out the 2010 season as the team’s leading hitter with a .362 average at the plate, helping Tech to its second postseason appearance in the last three years. He racked up a team-leading 75 hits, including 18 doubles, nine home runs and 51 RBIs to also lead the squad. He ranked among the Sunshine State Conference leaders in nearly every offensive category and was honored as an All-SSC first team selection.

Trané (Pizbo, Sweden) became the first Panther female runner to earn All-American status as the graduate student finished 18th at the NCAA Division II National Championship meet in November. Among her accolades this year, she was voted as the South Region Female Athlete of the Year and the SSC Runner of the Year. Trané additionally became Tech’s first women’s individual regional champion and finished as the top runner at the SSC Championships. She earned five top-five finishes during the season, including four individual wins.

Hanna, a senior aviation management major, graduated with honors from Florida Tech this spring. A native of Nassau, Bahamas, Hanna is the consummate student-athlete, successful both on the court and in the classroom, as well as being heavily involved on campus and in the community. On the tennis court, Hanna earned a winning record in singles and doubles this year and was the team captain each of the last two seasons. He was also a four-year member of Tech’s Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and was the vice president this year.

Mazzone (Melbourne), balances her time between running for the cross country team, serving as the SAAC president the past two seasons, and participating in both on and off the field, the biology/pre-med major posted consecutive 4.0 GPAs this year. She has additionally volunteered her time with Florida Tech’s SAAC, serving as the group’s secretary in 2009–10. The junior finished second on the team in hitting and, as just effective defensively, threw the game-winning out at home plate against 15th-ranked Nova Southeastern on Feb. 21.

Also receiving two of Florida Tech Athletics’ top honors were Natalia Ramos (tennis) and Hanna as the inaugural Panther Sportsmanship award recipients. Ramos (San Juan, Puerto Rico) was also recognized as the ITA’s Arthur Ashe National Leadership and Sportsmanship Award winner and became Florida Tech’s first-ever women’s tennis All-American, finishing the 2010 season ranked 14th in NCAA Division II singles action. Hanna received the Arthur Ashe Regional Sportsmanship Award.

Rebecca Vick

Florida Tech Athletics
1980s

Joseph Ilk ’89 M.B.A. has earned a Doctor in Business Administration with a concentration in accounting and management information systems. He lives in Spotylvania, Va.

Gloria Anne Rees ’80, ’84 M.S. was named a Fellow by the Society for Technical Communication and honored in a ceremony at the annual conference. She is a senior member of the Society and Governor’s Teaching Fellow and contributes to communication and education practices with international reach.


1990s

Rebecca (Shear) Willard ’94 and David Willard became parents for the first time when Luciana Marie was born in September 2009. Rebecca is a stay-at-home mom and David is a Navy submarine officer, working at the Pentagon. They currently live in Alexandria, Va.

Elesha Goodfriend ’95 and husband Daniel are parents of Haley Emma, 4 years old. She teaches biology at Walters State Community College in Tennessee. Friends may contact her at elesha2@hotmail.com.

Laurie (Hockridge) Robertson ’94 and husband Paul are proud parents to Frankie, David. Laurie is a PE teacher; Paul is a policeman. The family lives in Chichester, U.K.

Tom Schuermann ’98 and wife Paige welcomed Harbor Thomas in August 2007. Tom is owner of TS Construction and Engineering in Breckenridge, Colo. His e-mail is tom.schuermann@gmail.com.


2000s

Elena Elesha was born in September 2009. She is a stay-at-home mom and David is a Navy submarine officer, working at the Pentagon. They currently live in Alexandria, Va.

Morgan Tweedie ’07 and James Woodward ’09 are engaged and have scheduled their wedding for June 17, 2011, in Indian Harbour Beach, Fla. Morgan is a biology/marine science teacher and swim coach at Viera High School; James is with AdvanTek Consulting, Inc. James takes part in Cat 3 bike racing, and Morgan does Masters swimming.

In Memoriam.


Patrick Ferrenner ’02 M.S. died of leukemia in Loganville, Ga., June 6, 2010. He is survived by his wife Sharon, daughter Kelley and son Connor.

Jeffrey Simonds ’90 died in a car crash on the Seven-Mile Bridge in the Keys, Feb. 18, 2010.

Oceanographer Joanne Bintz ’95 passed away on June 28, 2010 after battling an aggressive form of breast cancer. She was 46. An expert in coastal ecology, she began her ocean science career in Washington, D.C., at the National Academy of Sciences Ocean Studies Board in 2001 while working on the dissertation for a doctoral degree from the University of Rhode Island. She went on to work for the Southeastern Universities Research Association, and most recently began a new job as science and environmental compliance coordinator for the Consortium for Ocean Leadership, also in Washington. A celebration of Joanne’s life is being planned for later this summer in Rhode Island. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations he made in her name to Susan G. Komen for the Cure at www.komen.org, or The Ocean Conservancy Rapid Response and Recovery Team in the Gulf at www.oceanconservancy.org.

Calling all Panther Cub Fans!

Congratulations on your new arrival!

If you’ve recently welcomed a new Panther Cub to your family, contact us for your free infant T-shirt. Your only obligation is to send us a photo of your baby wearing the shirt—we will proudly display it in this section of Florida Tech TODAY.

E-mail hrosskam@fit.edu to receive your shirt.

From the Office of Alumni Relations, we’d like to formally invite the Classes of 1980 and 2000 to come home for your class anniversaries!

Separate mailings will follow, and as we speak, the Board’s Alumni Relations Committee is hard at work putting together fun activities for your arrival! We will also be extending invitations to the Classes of 1979, 1981, 1999 and 2001 to help celebrate!

If you would like to join the organizing committees or have ideas, feel free to pass them along to Weynii Clacken ’81, chair of the Alumni Relations Committee, at Weynii.L@hotmail.com.

A permanent recognition program for graduates, students, parents and friends of the university.

Ad, Now!

Have a brick inscribed in honor of yourself or another special person, in memory of someone not forgotten, or as a gift of encouragement or congratulations for a current student or recent graduate.

Go to www.fit.edu/alumni/special_interests/bricks_terraces to see the bricks already inscribed and to www.fit.edu/development/documents/bricks_terraces.pdf to download the appropriate form for submission.

For questions or more information, please contact diddeaton@fit.edu.

1. Share your news!

Submit your information at www.fit.edu/alumni/ftaaform.html or send this to Florida Tech Alumni Affairs, 150 W. University Blvd., Melbourne, FL 32901-6975. Fill out our online form at: www.fit.edu/alumni/ftaaform.html.

2. Alumni News Notes

The official website of Florida Tech Athletics

3. Drive with Panther Pride

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To order your Florida Tech specialty license plate visit your local Florida DMV office or order online at www.license.com/newnew/Drive_Smart/Car.html.

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Calendar

September
12 Aces for Autism Tennis Exhibition, 1–4 p.m., Kiwi Tennis Club, Satellite Beach. Call Scott Center for Autism Treatment at (321) 674-8106
16 Tampa Alumni Reception, 6–8 p.m., University Club of Tampa (321) 674-7190 www.fit.edu/alumni

October
3–9 Alumni Receptions in the Middle East
11–15 7th International Conference on High-Performance Marine Vehicles, E-mail: Prasanta K. Sahoo at pksahoo@fit.edu

November
3–5 Human Factors Conference, HCI Arena 2010: Crew Ground Operation at Future Tech and the Institute for Human and Machine Cognition in Pensacola, Fla. E-mail: hciarena010@live.com
3–7 Homecoming 2010
17 Florida Tech Jazz Syndicate, 5 p.m., Hartley Room
19 Fall Music Showcase (strings, woodwind, and jazz, 7 p.m., Gleason Performing Arts Center

December
1 Panther Jazz presents “Scions of Africa: Jazz with African Essence,” 5 p.m., Hartley Room

For more information on music events: (321) 674-7200 or 674-7248
For Women’s Business Center events and classes: http://wbc.fit.edu

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- Be assured of permanent e-mail forwarding.

Did you know the Florida Tech Alumni Association is on Facebook? Contact ftaa@fit.edu for more information.

Available FREE to all alumni!

www.fit.edu/alumni | click on Alumni Online Community

To obtain your security ID so that you may register for the alumni online community, contact Marjorie Beckett, assistant director, at (321) 674-7642 or e-mail mbeckett@fit.edu.

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“SAVE THE DATE” EVENTS | HELD ON CAMPUS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

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