IN THIS ISSUE >
Golden Anniversary Campaign Surpasses Goal
New Research Park Ignites Innovation
Getting ‘Green’ In China   |   Honor Roll Of Donors
President’s Perspective

Dear Florida Tech Alumni and Friends,

Thanks for picking up the Winter 2010 edition of Florida Tech TODAY! We appreciate our readers!

This issue gazes skyward … focusing on Florida Tech’s ties that are found in the heavens, and our ongoing relationship with NASA and the space program. Since our founding as a “night school for misfits” in 1958, we’ve been a proud member of NASA’s extended family. Now, as the space shuttle era draws to a close, we reflect on our longstanding partnership with manned space flight and look to the future. Florida Tech researchers are involved in a range of studies with connections to space. We have faculty who are former astronauts and researchers, alumni who are astronauts, as well as countless alumni whose work connects them to the space program in some fashion.

So, what’s next? Former astronaut Neil Armstrong once said, “Science has not yet mastered prophecy. We predict too much for the next ten. “Wherever the U.S. space program goes from here, Florida Tech looks forward to joining in the journey.

My best wishes for a safe and rewarding 2010!

Sincerely yours,

A.J. Catanese, Ph.D., FAICP
President
Early inspirations
As I’ve expressed to Dr. Andrew Revay, who was my faculty advisor back during my undergraduate days at FIT, the tremendous opportunity afforded me by the superlative learning environment that was FIT in the early 1970s had a definitive role in my eventually reaching the Senior Executive Services ranks of the U.S. Air Force. FIT’s unwavering commitment to excellence helped enable me to take on many challenges in the Department of Defense—a tribute to Gibson Finley, John Miller, Ray Work, Harry Weber, Andy Revay, and all the hard-working faculty and staff of the university during that formative time. It has also been great to continually run into other Defense Department alumni of the university as FIT has spread its wings academically and appealed to many.

I made it back for the 50 year celebration and look forward to other visits.
All the best,
Ed Koenig ‘73

Kudos to ‘Clut’
Being a computer science grad, I remember Dr. Clutterham well. He took one of our classes to Martin Marietta to see an example of a functioning analog computer. On the return trip, the group stopped at a fast-food type of establishment for a snack. The counter girl was obviously not very intelligent. She had us all give our names to be called out when our order was ready. After observing her difficulty with any name that was not really simple. Dr. Clutterham realized he had a problem. He simply stated his name was “Clut,” and then had to spell it for her! Dr. Clutterham was a gentleman above all else, and a pleasure to learn under.
Tuck Fuller ’70

We’d love to hear from you.
Tell us what you’d like to see and give us your responses to the articles you’ve read in the magazine. Send your comments to fltechtoday@fit.edu.

New Research Park Ignites Innovation
Central Florida’s technology-research infrastructure is getting a jolt from the university. Through creation of the Florida Tech Research Park at the Melbourne International Airport, Florida Tech and the Melbourne Airport Authority are entering a 20-year partnership aimed at fostering economic development and increasing the region’s high-tech competitiveness.

“This relationship is a logical next step for the university,” said President Anthony J. Catanese.

“Florida Tech has world-class professors leading important research in a range of areas, from aerospace to biological sciences to engineering and beyond. Collaborating with Melbourne International Airport to utilize its physical resources for the Florida Tech Research Park is a win-win scenario.”

Approximately 100 acres of prime land fronting Melbourne’s NASA Boulevard is designated for the park, which will be within the Airport Industrial Park. The airport has approximately 500 acres of available land that can be developed and added to the research park, about 30 acres of which are contiguous.

“We couldn’t ask for a better partner to establish this new research park,” said Airport Executive Director Richard Ennis.

The impressive week already being done at Florida Tech, combined with the number of high-tech and defense-related airport tenants, create the ideal atmosphere for innovation and development.

“Florida Tech’s Emil Buehler Center for Aviation Training and Research and its Applied Research Laboratory will be important components of the park, which will include a 25-acre joint-use research compound for applications such as solar collection, or other related, sustainable energy systems.

“We believe that the Florida Tech Research Park will be very attractive to both startup businesses as well as more established enterprises,” said Cliff Bragdon, vice president for strategic initiatives.

Bragdon said the park will provide a wealth of research, educational, professional development, intellectual property and consulting opportunities through Florida Tech.

Research parks are well-established economic engines worldwide. A 2007 study by the Battelle Memorial Institute and the Association of University Research Parks found that 2.57 jobs are created in the general economy for every job created within a research park.

Textiles Tell Tales at New Funk Center
The Ruth Funk Center for Textile Arts, opened just last August, now offers group tours and averages almost 100 visitors a week.

The first exhibit of 2010, “Speaking with Thread: The Narrative of Textiles,” runs Jan. 30–April 24. This features textiles that present stories through their imagery and symbolism. Objects on display include Persian carpets, Imperial Chinese robes and embroidered European samplers.


Center hours are Tuesday–Saturday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. The center contact number is (321) 674-8313. Visit http://textiles.fit.edu. See ad on page 8.
Scott Center Opens to Target Autism Treatment Options

In October, the university dedicated the $5.2 million Scott Center for Autism Treatment, designed to lead the way in exploration of this complex condition.

Early, intensive behavioral intervention for young children has shown the most significant results,” said Fran Warkomski, executive director of the new center. Under a mantra of “Service, Research and Training,” the center is probing the mysteries of autism and, most importantly, working to develop “targets for autism.” Such antagonists may find a use as anti-inflammatory diseases and especially on the design of receptor classified government applications, the new center. Additionally, the Health Resources and Services Administration supported the facility with $2.4 million in federal funding.

“Florida Tech is particularly grateful to Scott and former congressman Dr. Dave Weldon for all of their efforts in making this facility a reality,” President Anthony J. Catanese said.

The 22,000-square-foot center will provide services for individuals with autism spectrum disorders, training for parents, teachers and other professionals and research on effective treatments for autism.

The facility is organized around a central glass lobby and features a playground, complete with a tricycle path, swings, basketball, putting green and a large activity center. Support for the playground was provided by the Evening of Hope fundraiser held in April 2009. Evening of Hope II is scheduled for April 9, 2010.

A stunning focal point in the lobby is the torn paper collage on canvas, “Blowing Bubbles,” by area mixed media artist Derek Gores. It was acquired at the Evening of Hope fundraiser by Dr. Ruben and Rita Moreno who donated it back to the Scott Center. Gores is now making prints of it available as an additional center fundraiser. Send e-mail to derek@derekgores.com.

First in Ranger Challenge Three Years in Row

Members of the Florida Tech Army ROTC Ranger Challenge team consistently prove their excellence, and this year is no exception. In the largest regional ROTC competition in the nation, Florida Tech cadets came in first place overall, defeating 41 other universities from Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Puerto Rico. The 10 Panther Battalion Rangers finished first in three of the nine events and placed in the top three in five more events. The Florida Tech team also took first place in the largest senior event for 2010.

The cadets’ feat was celebrated on campus on Oct. 28. In a ceremony, participating cadets received their “branching” pins, the pins that identify their choice of U.S. Army branch upon commissioning.

First in Ranger Challenge Three Years in Row

$850,000 NIH Grant Funds Chronic Inflammatory Disease Studies

Joshua Rokach, chemistry professor and director of the university’s Claude Pepper Institute, has been awarded a two-year research grant of $850,000 from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The grant, from the National Heart Lung Blood Institute, allows Rokach to continue his studies on chronic inflammatory diseases and especially on the design and synthesis of antagonists to the 5-oxo-ETE receptor. Such antagonists may find a use as anti-inflammatory and anti-allergic drugs.

Rokach has received worldwide recognition for his work. For example, he was recently honored with the prestigious 2010 Research Excellence Award from the American Chemical Society.

“Partnering with our colleagues at Harris is an excellent strategy to solve these difficult challenges. Florida Tech intends to be at the forefront of this research,” said Florida Tech President Anthony J. Catanese.

The Harris Institute for Assured Information was made possible by a $5 million gift from Harris Corporation through the Community Foundation of Brevard. An additional 5.2 million in corporate dollars is earmarked for research. “Our work here at the Harris Institute for Assured Information is as practical as it is visionary. This institute is dedicated to developing advanced solutions to solve global information problems for businesses, governments and individuals,” said Howard L. Lance, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Harris Corporation.

Unlike other information research efforts that target classified government applications, the new institute’s mission is to develop solutions for a wide range of real-world commercial and government applications. These include banking and finance, retail, health care, education, civil agencies and others.

The vision for the institute is to create a national center of excellence for cyber research in Melbourne. The institute will strive to become the focal center for ongoing workforce development in information assurance and a thought leader addressing the problems that users, companies and governments face with respect to using and storing information safely.

The three-story facility also includes space for biological sciences and computer sciences.

New Harris Center Explores Cyber Research

Supported by Harris Corporation leadership and by community members, Florida Tech officially dedicated the new 27,725-square-foot Harris Center for Science and Engineering in October. The center, made possible by a unique partnership between Florida Tech and Harris, houses the Harris Institute for Assured Information, which is designed to research innovative solutions to global information security problems.

“Partnering with our colleagues at Harris is an excellent strategy to solve these difficult challenges,” said Florida Tech President Anthony J. Catanese.

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Fast Track to Success: Co-op Engages Engineers

Long known for its high-tech, “hands-on” education, Florida Tech takes the concept further with its new ProTrack Co-op program for engineering and applied science students. Enrollment is going on now with the first class set to start August 2010.

The new program combines the benefits of traditional university cooperative education with a unique, student-centered approach. Engineering students can complete three semester-long paid work experiences related to their major and career interests while earning a bachelor’s degree in the traditional four-year period, with no graduation delay.

“We are very pleased to offer this tremendous advantage to engineering students and to meet the needs and expectations of industry,” said Gary Hamme, Florida Tech vice provost for enrollment management.

Benefits include major-related work experience, professional skill honing, co-op earnings, insight into one’s professional strengths, experience with the latest technologies and expanding a professional network by building valuable relationships.

Students may work with employers in all 50 states. Current co-op employers include Apple Inc., The Boeing Company, Florida Power and Light, GE, Harris Corporation, Lockheed Martin, Microsoft, NASA, National Security Agency, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon, Siemens and United Space Alliance.

The ProTrack Co-op program is open to students admitted to any College of Engineering degree program.

Prolific Publisher

Called by College of Science Dean Gordon Nelson, “a most prolific faculty member,” Ravi Agarwal, professor of mathematical sciences, is a writing, editing and publishing phenomenon. He is editor or associate editor of 40 international journals; many of these are considered best in the topic of mathematics. On average, he receives 15 papers a day to manage for these journals. He also teaches. And, in fall 2009 he visited Turkey and gave nine lectures in 20 days. Whew!

With a listing of 850 articles published in top international mathematical journals, it’s no surprise that Agarwal is listed #3 in his field for most published papers and most citations. A researcher referencing another author’s paper in his/her own paper is a citation. Additionally, he has published 23 research monographs or books. Among them are two just published in 2009 and a third that has been accepted for publication.

Agarwal, who received a doctoral degree in mathematics from Indian Institute of Technology in Madras, India, and a master’s degree in mathematics from Agra University in India, has taught and written in Canada, Italy, Germany and India.

“Dr. Agarwal is one of our unsung faculty members. Although largely unknown outside his field, he is a dominant figure in the world of mathematics,” said Dean Nelson.

To order your Florida Tech specialty license plate visit your local Florida DMV office or order online at www.pointandpay.com/newweb/Dmv_smartcart.htm

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Our donors know that sound investments yield positive results.
That’s why, year after year, they give to Florida Tech.
Join our team of smart investors and give to your alma mater today.

Contact Rosalind Weiss, Director of Annual Giving, at rweiss@fit.edu or (321) 674-6849 for more information.

Ruth Funk Center for Textile Arts

Jan. 30 - April 24, 2010

For more information, visit www.fit.edu/co-op.
Spirits Soar as Golden Anniversary Campaign Surpasses $59 Million

Excitement was the emotion of the evening as Florida Tech polished off its Golden Anniversary Campaign. The university officially concluded its 50th anniversary celebration on Sept. 26 announcing that the Golden Anniversary Campaign for Florida Tech had exceeded its $50 million goal, raising $59,465,000.37.

The campaign, under way since 2004, benefits a range of areas—from scholarships to bricks and mortar facilities. Supporters celebrated the successful campaign conclusion at a ball for donors held in the Clemente Center.

“The spirit of the Golden Anniversary Capital Campaign is inextricably woven into the fabric of who we are as researchers, scientists and educators,” said Florida Tech President Anthony J. Catanese. “We look to the horizon and see not only what is, but what could be.”

“As I reflect on the campaign, I’m particularly gratified to consider the thousands of students who will reap its benefits,” said Campaign Chairman Phillip W. Farmer. “Students from all walks of life, socioeconomic backgrounds, cultures and countries, now have new opportunities to pursue their dreams of an education thanks to expanded scholarship funds. Those seeking the latest in technological advancements have new opportunities to pursue their educational ambitions and to succeed.”

Other gifts include funding to build facilities and create programs for the Emil Buehler Center for Aviation Training and Research, the Scott Center for Autism Treatment, the Ruth Funk Center for Textile Arts and the Northrop Grumman Engineering and Science Student Design Showcase.

“The completion of this successful campaign affords us the opportunity to look inward, as we focus on quantifying those resources that are required to continue the advancement of the university’s mission,” said Dale A. Dettmer, chairman of the Florida Tech board of trustees. “The commitment to education and innovation is the core of our decision-making process. The storied history of this university stretches from the Earth to the moon and beyond, and serves us well as we face the challenges of the future.”

“Foundations, corporations, individuals—all have stepped forward to affirm their belief in this university and its future,” said Kenneth Stackpoole, senior vice president for advancement. “All have invested in that intangible yet all-important idea that Florida Tech’s brightest days are yet to dawn.”
Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation Funds Scholarships

The Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation has presented Florida Tech with a $5,000 gift for the third consecutive year. The contribution is in support of the Wachovia Wells Fargo Merit Scholarship Program. The award will be presented to the recipients by a Wachovia representative during the university’s annual Scholarship Reception in February. "Wachovia and the Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation is proud to contribute to scholarship programs that make quality education at Florida Tech accessible to deserving students in under-represented groups," said Ann Luke, community bank president in the Brevard and Polk county areas. Florida Tech will award the scholarship to up to five commendable students in an under-represented group, particularly female and/or minority students who are pursuing a degree in engineering, science or mathematics. The scholarship will be awarded first to a deserving senior, then a freshman-level student through the Office of Financial Aid. Qualifying applicants must have a grade point average of at least 3.2 or higher based on their past performance.

New Scholarship Salutes Engineering Pioneers

A new endowment for mechanical engineering students has been fully funded at $25,000. The Marvin Yarosh and John Wiles Scholarship is named in honor of two Brevard County engineering pioneers. The endowment has been endowed by the Spacecoast Chapter of the American Society for Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), the Canaveral Section of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), and Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation is proud to contribute to scholarship programs that make quality education at Florida Tech accessible to deserving students in under-represented groups," said Ann Luke, community bank president in the Brevard and Polk county areas. Florida Tech will award the scholarship to up to five commendable students in an under-represented group, particularly female and/or minority students who are pursuing a degree in engineering, science or mathematics. The scholarship will be awarded first to a deserving senior, then a freshman-level student through the Office of Financial Aid. Qualifying applicants must have a grade point average of at least 3.2 or higher based on their past performance.

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Alumni News

On the Road
Alumni Receptions
Reconnect
Old Friends
and Make New Ones

Puerto Rico

Florida Tech supporters display their spirit at a fall alumni reception at the El San Juan Hotel in San Juan, P.R. From left: Maria Lobron Vizarramundo (current student’s mother), Jeseca Chardon, Angel Figueroa ’74, Daniel Chardon ’03, Minerva Figueroa, President Anthony J. Catanese, Ricardo Sepulveda ’87, Axel Rivera ’02, Delma Wolfard, Senior Vice President for Advancement Kenneth Stackpoole and Juan Chapi ’98.

Vero Beach

Alumni and friends gather at the Costa d’Este Beach Resort in Vero Beach to connect, reconnect and learn more about the university. Ken Stackpoole, left, and President Anthony J. Catanese flank Foust and Bonnie Spitzmiller.

Dean of the College of Science Gordon Nelson and Kerry Bartlett get acquainted.

Among the large Florida Tech contingent is Tristan Fiedler, left, research assistant professor and assistant vice president for corporate and foundation relations. With him, hearing more about Florida Tech, is Peter O’Bryan.

Trenton

The fresh air alumni get-together at Trenton’s Waterfront Park joins Senior Vice President for Advancement Ken Stackpoole, left, President Catanese and Jonathan Zung ’86, right, with a prospective student and her dad.

Jonathan Zung’s family turns out for the picnic and game between the Trenton Thunder and Harrisburg Senators. With mom Renee are Andrew and Ashley.

San Francisco

From left, prospective student Othman Chaney and his father, and Asif Quoreji, guest of Hafeez Raja ’85, join President Anthony J. Catanese at the City Club of San Francisco.

Smiling brightly all around in San Francisco are, from left: Helana Rottersman ’87, Reagan DuBose ’63, Florida Tech’s first graduate when it was Brevard Engineering College; Bob Rowe, associate director of undergraduate admission; prospective student Megan Johnson and her father.

Los Gatos

Enjoying a night out at the country club in Los Gatos are, from left, the event host Vic Verma ’87, Ravi Pendekanti ’90, Sunuta Pendekanti and Robin Henley. Verma’s assistant, Verma is now president of strategic venture development for Lockheed Martin.

Also in Los Gatos, from left: Bob Rowe, associate director of undergraduate admission; prospective student Garrett Count and his mother; prospective student Marie Nielsen and her father Eric.
Preserving the Past
The Golden Anniversary Time Capsule was "buried" at the Florida Tech Alumni House on Oct. 17 as a crowd of alumni, staff, faculty and professors eremeriti looked on. Not a typical burial, the Time Capsule is wall-mounted in the Alumni House for all to see—a visible reminder to preserve Florida Tech history. Visiting alumni are encouraged to view the gift from the Florida Institute of Technology Alumni Association Board of Directors in honor of the university’s 50th anniversary. The Time Capsule includes items of historic significance that symbolize the passion and dedication of alumni, faculty and staff from 1958 through 2009. At the university’s 75th anniversary, the following contents will be revealed:
- Howard Engineering College Class of 1965 Ring
- University Building Inventory with Campus Map
- Aerial Photos of the Campus—CD
- University Organization Chart
- 2009–2010 University Catalog
- Undergraduate and Graduate Online Materials and DVD—University Alliance, Florida Tech University Online
- Sociology, 9th Edition, by Richard T. Schaefer—University Alliance, Florida Tech University Online
- Senior Design Showcase—DVD and CD
- College of Engineering Senior Design Newspaper Articles
- Department of Physics and Space Sciences—DVD
- Photo of Class of 2009—CD
- Crimson Student Newspaper articles that might be written in 2039—CD
- Federal Depository Library Pin—Evans Library is the only Federal Depository Library in our Congressional District (Brevard County)
- Evans Library 25th Anniversary Booklet
- Evans Library Original Catalog Card and Printout of the Computerized Catalog Record of First Intranet Search
- Arm Patch of Security Officer Royce McCain, shot and killed while on routine patrol, May 6, 2004
- Performance of President Cataneo’s Band “TWITCHY”—DVD
- Florida Institute of Technology History Book by Professor Gordon Patterson
- No Small Dreams 50th Anniversary History Book by Jay Wilson
- Delta Delta Tau Fraternity 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin, Lupel Pin and DVD
- Alumni Association’s 50th Anniversary Edition Directory
- Alumni Association Board Member Pin
- 50th Anniversary Gold Bovine—similar to bovines worn by founder and first president Jerome Keuper
- Overseas Ring given to Alumni Association 50th Anniversary Banquet Attendees on Saturday, Oct. 18, 2008
- 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin
- Florida Tech TODAY Magazine, 50th anniversary editions, Fall 2008
- Florida Tech Specialty License Plate
- President Weaver Congratulations Letter to Dr. Paul Cosentino and his students for winning the 1997 National Concrete Canoe competition
- First Gift to the University of 37 Cents

Getting ‘Green’ in China
In October 2009, I joined Florida Tech’s Director of Athletic Partnerships John Thomas, who is also a Nocatee city councilman, and Lee Feldman, Palm Bay city manager, in a trip to China at the invitation of the Tangshan City municipal government. We attended a forum on sustainable development. Tangshan, a metropolitan area population of about seven million, is roughly 100 miles southeast of Beijing. The city’s darkest hour came when it was the epicenter of a 7.8 magnitude earthquake in July 1976 that leveled much of the area, killing more than 270,000 residents. Much of the city was rebuilt since then and that construction expertise is again being pressed into service, this time for a new development.

In 2005, the Chinese central government authorized the development of a new industrial and residential area to be built with comprehensive environmental sustainability best practices in mind. The project, called the Caofeidian New Area, covers more than 125 square kilometers (48 square miles), much of it raised from the Bohai Sea as part of a massive land reclamtion project. The early phases of the project will complete the land reclamtion, create the industrial areas and build a new neighboring city. This city will soon be home to about 300,000 industrial workers and their families. This phase will cost $28 billion, with half this amount already expended.

Ultimately, the city, master planned by the Swedish planning firm Sweco, is planned for one million residents. They will enjoy the first “live, work, play” city built from scratch in China’s Middle Kingdom. The Caofeidian Forum was a first-time effort by the Tangshan government and the first sponsored forum on sustainability in China. It was developed, in part, to “show off” the New Area’s progress to domestic and international guests and to bring together an impressive array of international expert speakers to make the case for sustainable development.

John, Lee and I were joined by representatives from the United Kingdom, Australia and several African nations. Most importantly, we could see how urgent the need is for a major policy shift in China’s environmental practices. Air pollution is omnipresent, not only in the cities but across the entire region we observed. Stormwater management is nonexistent; soil field compaction with a fish farming operation was a common sight.

But the promise of the Caofeidian New Area gives hope, not only to the Chinese, but to urban planners around the world. Its massive scale, absence of private land ownership and the ability of planners and developers to mold their vision in the dirt exactly as it appears on paper is unique. The ambitious goals include a 99.5% recycling rate for solid wastes and 97.5% for water. This will become the largest steel production base in China by 2010.

From left, Lee Feldman, John Thomas and Milo Zonka at the sustainability forum in Tangshan City.
In 2005, the Chinese central government authorized the development of a new industrial and residential area to be built with comprehensive environmental sustainability best practices in mind.
Alumni Win Homecoming Awards

Some alumni who came to Homecoming 2009 left with awards. These include Patrick Kennedy '87 M.B.A., a who took home the Outstanding Humanitarian award. Among his many acts of humanitarianism, Kennedy founded Melbourne’s Shephard Center for Seniors, which today serves more than 1,000 local residents.

Daniel Williams ’90 M.B.A., ’95 Ph.D. earned the award for Outstanding Achievement for his reputation as chief engineer at SW Commercial Steering Systems. Williams’ leadership of research and development project teams has created improved suspension systems for automobiles.

At the George M. Skurla Award Luncheon, Jill Marie Demko ’99 was named the 2009 Skurla Award recipient. A National Transportation Safety Board air safety investigator for the past 10 years, she completed more than 350 accident and incident investigations and has recommended numerous safety changes in the aviation industry. She was also awarded the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Andrews Air Force Base Campus 2009 Faculty Member of the Year Award by her current employer. Also at the luncheon, Tom Ullery, associate professor of aeronautics, was selected to receive the annual James Constantine Faculty Excellence Award.

In addition, John Valente ’76, chairman of the alumni association board’s 50th anniversary committee, Russ Ballagh ’74, president of the alumni association board, and President Anthony Catanese received 50th anniversary awards for excellence in carrying out their responsibilities for the 50th celebration.

Finally, Bob Taylor, head of the department of humanities and communications, and Amanda Burns, Ohio Studio director, were honored by the board for their three years of dedication to the Pioneer Video Project. Through their efforts, 34 Florida Tech pioneers have been recorded for posterity.

See pages 20–23 for more Homecoming coverage.

Ball Is 2009 Aviation Professional of the Year

Robert M. Ball ’74, air commerce, joined the Lee County Port Authority in August 1993 as deputy executive director. He rose to executive director three years later, a position that has enabled him to leave his mark on the history of Florida airports.

Ball’s work on the expansion of Southwest Florida International Airport resulted in a regional economic impact of more than $3.6 million. He developed international air service, increased passenger traffic to more than three million annually and moved the airport to a new $438 million terminal. The Page Field General Aviation Airport, also under his purview, also advanced.

In 1998 Ball was named Airport Manager of the Year for the Southern Region by the Federal Aviation Administration. That year the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) honored him as Aviation Professional of the Year. In 1999, the year he received the College of Aeronautics George M. Skurla Outstanding Alumni Award, he was also honored by Gulsheer Life magazine as one of its Men of the Year.

In 2003 the Florida Tech Alumni Board recognized Ball’s significant contribution to his field with the Outstanding Achievement Award. The FDOT once again selected him as Aviation Professional of the Year in 2009, the only time they have honored an airport professional a second time.

“I’m extremely impressed with the quality of my education from this institution,” said Ball. “It has certainly paid off for me in the aviation industry. I am also proud that my eldest son got an aerospace engineering degree from F.I.T. and is training to fly F-15 fighters for the United States Air Force.”

Call For Entries

Each year, the Joan Bixby Award recognizes a Florida Tech student, staff and faculty member (male or female) who enhances the climate for women’s participation and development at Florida Tech. They are chosen through nominations by people like you.

Is there a faculty or staff member you would like to nominate? Think of someone who has rallied female students in some way, provided advancement opportunities to women or recognized and illuminated women’s accomplishments.

If you can think of someone who qualifies, please use the nomination form posted at www.fit.edu/alumni/womens_history. This site also provides a history of the Joan Bixby Award.

Any questions? Contact Marjorie Beckett at mbecket@fit.edu.
HOMECOMING 2009

1 Lexie Fieberg revels with parents Dirk Fieberg ’03 M.S. and Sara (Parent) Fieberg ’09 M.S. at her first homecoming. Dirk is a new alumni association board member.

2 WFIT General Manager Terri Wright’s feathered friends harmonize with the kazoo marching band.

3 The TKEs of Tau Kappa Epsilon show their spirit.

4 Gretchen Sauerman (left) and Beverly Sanders, from the Office for Development, gamely blow their kazoos.

Reigning on this float are the King and Queen of Lambda Chi Alpha.

Parade Grand Marshall Alan Prestwood ’73, ’80, relishes his official duties.

Everyone loves a parade!
Homecoming 2009—More than Meets the Eye—has come and gone, leaving some fine memories in its wake. Alumni who arrived from far and wide included Eugene Julies ’88 who came from South Africa.

1. Incoming Alumni Board President Alan Prestwood ’73, ’80, left, congratulates outgoing President Russ Ballagh ’74. Ballagh earned a 50th Anniversary Award.
2. Patrick Kennedy ’87 M.B.A.—Outstanding Humanitarian
3. Olin Studio Director Amanda Burns and head of the department of humanities and communication Bob Taylor receive awards at the banquet for their three-year commitment to the Pioneer Video Project.

Jill Marie Danico ’99 is the 2009 Skurla Award recipient.
Exploring the Boundaries of the Solar System—Are We There Yet?

Gaining understanding of the origin and evolution of the solar system has been a primary scientific goal of planetary missions. So far, explorers and spacecraft have sampled material within the solar system, where most of the observed particles originated from our sun and have been modified, energetically and dynamically, by the sun’s magnetic influences. For the first time, both frontier probes, Voyagers 1 and 2, are near the edge of the solar system. At the same time, a new spacecraft, the Interstellar Boundary Explorer (IBEX), is mapping remotely the boundaries of our local space neighborhood. Now, scientists are tuning in for the exciting stories from the edge of our solar system.

These are moments of drama and discovery for physics and space sciences professors Ming Zhang and Hamid K. Rassoul. Both have worked extensively on the Voyagers’ particle and field observations within the solar system in the past and waited patiently for decades to study its outer boundaries’ plasma environment.

According to NASA, Voyagers 1 and 2 were both launched in 1977. Voyager 1 encountered Jupiter in 1979 and Saturn in 1980. Voyager 2 reached Jupiter in 1979, Saturn in 1981, Uranus in 1986 and Neptune in 1989. After reaching their original destinations, and with no way to stop or return to Earth, Voyagers 1 and 2 simply kept going. This new leg of the journey is called the Voyager Interstellar Mission.

“After nearly three decades touring outer planets, the twin Voyager spacecraft have both crossed the ‘termination shock,’ (2004 and 2007), where the solar wind, a tenuous hot, ionized gas from the sun, slows down abruptly,” Zhang said. “The Voyagers, now at roughly 100 times the distance from the sun to the Earth, or roughly 10 billion miles away, are exploring the solar system’s final frontier, the ‘heliosheath,’ a vast turbulent expanse where the sun’s influence ends and the solar wind crashes into thin gas between stars called ‘interstellar medium.’

To further understand the heliosheath, NASA launched IBEX in October 2008, a small satellite orbiting the Earth at about 200,000 miles above the planet. It will observe the heliosheath remotely with its special telescopes, which collect particles rather than light. These particles, called energetic neutral atoms (ENA), are produced in the interaction between the solar wind and interstellar gas inside the heliosheath and travel in almost straight lines toward the Earth. On Oct. 15, 2009, NASA released the first IBEX heliospheric results and sky maps to the scientific community—and a public audience—for the first time.

“The global images observed by the ENA telescopes on IBEX are providing unique information about the properties of the heliosheath where the single-point Voyager observations couldn’t see,” Rassoul said. “Understanding the ENA observations from IBEX depends on our knowledge of particle acceleration or heating by the termination shock. Florida Tech’s theoretical modeling of various particle acceleration mechanisms in the energy range covered by IBEX are making an indispensable contribution to the IBEX mission to achieve its major goals: understanding the acceleration of particles by the termination shock, the global structure of the heliosphere and plasma flow at the boundary.”

“IBEX has provided us with global maps of the interstellar interactions,” Zhang added. “These are highly complementary to, and synergistic with, the detailed single direction measurements provided by the Voyager satellites. The new results were completely surprising. We certainly need more time to discern what these pictures are telling us.”

All communications with Voyagers 1 and 2 are done through the NASA Deep Space Network (DSN). This is an international network of antennas that supports interplanetary spacecraft missions and radio and astronomy observations for the exploration of the solar system and the universe.

“We hope Voyagers 1 and 2 stay healthy and talkative as they continue on their outward journeys beyond the outer boundaries of the heliopause and the bow shock,” Zhang said. “If they do, it would be the first time that we can sample particles and fields of a medium beyond the local ‘walls’ of the solar system. With help from the NASA Deep Space Network (DSN), we keep listening as long as they keep talking.”

Jennifer Nessmith
GREAT EXPECTATIONS: SPACE SHUTTLE RETIREMENT BRINGS MIXED EMOTIONS

Laura Slovey ’04

Laura Slovey remembers the first Space Shuttle launch she ever saw; it was during the first week of classes her freshman year at Florida Tech.

“We were able to convince our professor to let us out a little bit early that day,” she recalls. “As we left the lecture hall, rushing over to the Crawford Building, I noticed that other classes had the same idea we did. Everyone ran the stairs to the top floor balcony just in time to see the shuttle rise above the horizon.”

Watching a shuttle launch from campus has been a defining Florida Tech experience for many Panthers, which makes its imminent retirement particularly poignant. Yet, the perspective shared by some closest to the transition is more glee than gloom.

“It’s exciting to think about the different types of exploration and science that will be possible with a new vehicle,” says Slovey, who works in the Mission Control Center at Johnson Space Center.

She is a member of the MMACS group (Mechanical, Maintenance, Arm and Crew Systems), which is responsible for all the mechanical elements of the space shuttle, including landing gear, hydraulic system, auxiliary power units, payload bay doors, docking system and the overall structure of the vehicle.

“Essentially our job is to keep the vehicle healthy to ensure the astronauts return home safely,” she explains.

While Slovey’s current duties focus on shuttle missions, her work has already begun to transition as part of the Constellation program. Her team is providing operational input for the new vehicle design, including designing crew displays, deciding what telemetry should be monitored by mission control, developing mission timelines and eventually writing documentation at the conclusion of the design phase.

Ultimately, Slovey sees the transition as an opportunity to spark interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.
“There is an entire generation who work in the science and engineering industry because of the excitement that was invoked by the Apollo moon landings,” Slovey says.

“The new adventures that will be possible with a new vehicle, I can only hope, will encourage today’s youth to get involved in science and engineering, and one day inspire an entirely different generation to do the impossible.”

Sam Durrance, professor of physics and space sciences and former astronaut, sees that enthusiasm building on campus now.

In October, the physics and space sciences department held a breakfast and group viewing of NASA’s controlled rocket crash into the moon via NASA TV. The overwhelming turnout required a larger room than expected and still the event was standing room only.

Durrance also sees the opportunity for Florida Tech to take a leadership role in advancing STEM-related education, including studies at the Space Life Sciences Lab at Kennedy Space Center and partnerships with Starfighters Inc. to conduct research projects aboard their F-104 high-performance jet.

Helping students get the connections and experience they need is central to the Florida Tech mission.

For Ken Revay ’82, it ended up defining his career. As a Florida Tech student, he was president of the student chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and credits several professional and professor mentors with jumpstarting his success.

Revay began working at Kennedy Space Center immediately after graduation, and today he is manager of hypergolic systems on the space shuttle—a job that will carry over to the new vehicle.

“We still have hypergolic systems on the new generation vehicle,” says Revay, “especially the Orion crew and service modules.”

Yet Revay is reluctant to see the shuttle go.

“I know we need to progress and move forward, but I also think the shuttle has done a fantastic job over the years. It’s a great vehicle. I can see it continuing to fly. I’d like to see it fly at least until 2015, if not to 2020.”

Durrance, on the other hand, believes the time is right for retiring the aging shuttles.

“In order to continue flying it, we would just accept a level of risk that I think is not good for us to accept,” he says. “Personally, I think the only way to quantify the risk is to just look at the number of flights versus the number of failures. In which case, it’s a fairly risky system to fly.” Though he admits,

“I would fly in it again in a minute. It’s just been an amazing system and being able to fly on it, be a part of something—a job that will carry over to the new vehicle. I’d like to see it fly at least until 2015, if not to 2020.”

With an estimated 7,000 jobs at stake, Florida Tech has partnered with Brevard Workforce to offer business training to qualified aerospace workers through the Nathan M. Bisk College of Business Entrepreneurial Training Services program.

The program takes a cohort of participants from introductory workshops, through concrete business skills training and on to formal business plan presentation and review.

“There are some transitioning workers who are truly inspired,” says Annie Becker, principal investigator and facilitator of the ETS program.

“They may not launch their business tomorrow, but they’re on this path and their passion is coming through. To me, that’s the inspiration of this all.”

The End of an Era

Ultimately the future looks promising. The Ares I-X enjoyed a successful test flight on Oct. 28, 2009. Still, most can’t help but feel a sense of melancholy at the twilight of a brilliant piece of American ingenuity—a vehicle that represented so much more than space exploration.

“I have to admit that I am a bit sad that the shuttle is retiring,” says Slovey. “The shuttle is such an amazing piece of technology. It is so complex that sometimes it’s hard to fathom how creative the engineers must have been to create such a design.”

Durrance concurs, “It’s kind of uplifting to think we could build something that amazing. It was way ahead of its time.”

Winston Scott, dean of the College of Aeronautics and another former astronaut in the Florida Tech family, feels equally sentimental.

“I have mixed feelings about retiring the space shuttles,” he says.

“They are indeed old and need to be replaced. They do, however, represent an era in the timeline of American space flight and those of us who flew them will feel a sadness when the final shuttle lands from the final shuttle mission.”

As the future unfolds, Florida Tech will continue our long tradition of exceptional education and space partnerships—maintaining our identity as the university founded by rocket scientists.

Christena Callahan
Lindsay Greene, aerospace engineering major and member of the Florida Tech women’s basketball team, shoots high, whether it’s toward a career or at the hoop.

Since elementary school, Greene’s goal has been to become a NASA astronaut. That goal has now wavered slightly. Because of motion sickness she has moved into engineering and hopes to play an active role in the U.S. space program. Her concern now is that through loss of federal funding, NASA will be forced to suspend ground operations.

Greene, who has already had two internships at NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC), says, “NASA will always be my ultimate career goal.”

She grew up in North Carolina building model rockets and staring at the stars with her family. Thanks to her dedication to science and math through high school, she has realized her goals. In 2008, during her sophomore year at Florida Tech, she was accepted for her first internship in the NASA Undergraduate Student Research Program.

Greene took this opportunity not only to learn about and perform mechanical testing and analysis, but also to network and create a niche for herself among the aerospace community. This helped Greene earn a second internship in 2009 where she worked with shuttle propulsion elements through the MSFC Resident Management Office at Kennedy Space Center (KSC). She has seen her work in motion as two NASA rocket launches thrust through the sky on boosters that she had worked on.

“Seeing the impact of my project was the most rewarding thing I have ever done,” she says. Greene also glimpsed the next generation flight vehicle created through the Constellation Program, which is one of the options evaluated by the Human Space Flight Committee.

Greene chose Florida Tech for several reasons. The strong tie to NASA was the number one attraction. Being taught by former NASA engineers and listing these professors on her résumé also excited Greene. As she realized she needed to put her full concentration on her studies, Florida Tech was a natural choice. The university has a noted engineering program and offers Division II sports, requiring work, of course, but not quite as much as Division I. Greene plays basketball in her free time with friends from NASA/MSFC that understand her, she says, when she “speaks rocket.”

Sharing her enthusiasm with everyone she meets, Greene goes home and visits schools to talk about her NASA experience. She also shares her concern for the future of the space program. “The only reason,” she says, “that the space program is losing funding is due to a lack of recognition and marketing to the general public. The average American doesn’t realize the benefits of medical and technological experimentation that goes on in space. For example, microwave technology, Velcro, duct tape and countless medical breakthroughs have all come from NASA.”

Greene says she’s confident that the U.S. national pride instilled by our space program will be regained. She cautions, however, that suspension of the active space program will contribute to loss of leadership and innovation in the United States.

Today NASA considers other options for its future, such as partnering with commercial space flight. These partners would be private companies that are funded to build manned space vehicles, such as Space X. NASA could contract with these companies to send astronauts into low Earth orbit, specifically to the International Space Station.

There are benefits, Greene agrees, to having multiple U.S. companies that can launch into space. “This would stimulate competition in space flight and lower the costs of launching and materials.”

As the current space program winds down, she believes that the excitement for manned space flight must continue. Educating children about the potential of space travel, she emphasizes, could be a goal of engineers that are leaving NASA programs. “If we give up on a 60-year-long project that has finally become pivotal, what else will we give up as American people? Don’t we want a cure for cancer, AIDS, osteoporosis and other diseases? Since these cures have not been found here on Earth, maybe they can be found in space,” Greene says. “The world doesn’t go around because a space shuttle goes up,” Green cautions, “but everything is about balance.”

Windy Thomas, undergraduate business major

Once the Shuttle is retired, there will be a gap in America’s capability to launch humans into space. That gap will extend until the next U.S. human-rated launch system becomes available. The Committee estimates that, under the current plan, this gap will be at least seven years long. There has not been this long a gap in U.S. human launch capability since the U.S. human space program began.”

—Summary Report of the Human Space Flight Plans Committee
Florida Tech alumnus Calvin Turzillo began working at Kennedy Space Center after earning his bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering in 2005. He has held the titles lead orbiter electrical engineer for Discovery and Endeavour, Ares I-X integration engineer and Orion assembly, integration and production engineer. He earned his master’s degree in space systems in 2007 and is currently pursuing a master’s in space systems management.

He shares the following impressions on the transition of the space program with Florida Tech TODAY.
THAT OLD RUSTY FENCE:
Looking Back To Move Forward
With Human Space Exploration

For any given space shuttle mission, the most memorable moment for the general public is launch. The anticipation as the clocks count down. The seemingly cryptic calls from the firing room describing the launch sequence. The hissing and popping as valves are opened and closed. With time running out just a few seconds before T-0, the thunderous roar of the main engines is heard. A few seconds later, two blindingly bright fiery pillars of smoke and sheer earth-shaking power are ignited. A symphony of controlled explosions and rapidly expelled gases are guiding a space shuttle orbiter toward the heavens on yet another voyage.

It is this sense of romanticism that truly underlies the passion of those who work at the Kennedy Space Center. To us, the orbiters are not mere machines but are often regarded as family. We care for them like we would a sister. There is a shared joy when they perform as expected. When something is amiss, we empathize with them. If a system goes awry, we worry with hatred until we know everything is alright.

When they finally return home, we can relax and enjoy the company of our companions once again. You would be hard pressed to find another industry with such strong personal connections.

It’s no secret the shuttle era is coming to an end. When exactly that end will be is still a matter of political debate, but we all realize that it will be within the span of our careers. While the job losses, skill retention, asset reassignment and which museum gets which orbiter has been discussed at length, the psychological toll on those who have dedicated their lives to these beautiful beasts seems to have been largely ignored. Many take comfort in the fact that they can walk into the orbiter processing facilities and put their hands on the birds, to feel that connection to the cosmos, but what happens when they are behind bars and glass at the Smithsonian?

Despite these dire feelings, there is also a great sense of hope in the ranks of the rocket scientists. A passion once thought dead has been reignited to fill the void that is being left. The ideals of a generation past are working their way back into the hearts and minds of those who replaced them. While the space shuttles have brought us the thrill of discovery, it is the Ares system that will fan the flames of exploration once again. To push our boundaries of what is possible. To go further than we ever have before. To truly be a spacefaring race.

Not even a week ago (at the time of this writing), we successfully launched the first test flight of the Constellation program, the Ares I-X. The detractors said it couldn’t be done, that the United States space program lacked the skills and knowhow to develop and fly a new system successfully. Boy, did we ever show them! It had been nearly 30 years since a new system had flown from the Kennedy Space Center, and the excitement of that day will be with me forever. It was an honor to have been just a small part of it.

I had the unique privilege to spend the launch day with Apollo astronauts, space shuttle astronauts and Saturn engineers. As the seconds ticked down on the clock, they all chatted among themselves, sharing stories of launches past. The Apollo astronauts passing tips onto shuttle, and future Orion, crew members. The Saturn engineers answering the plethora of questions from the Ares engineers. It was definitely a sight to see the different generations so enthusiastically interacting.

I spent a majority of my afternoon talking to one of the Apollo engineers who was around for the transition to the space shuttle. We got on to the topic about the public and political criticism of the Ares program, and the constant doom and gloom mentality of the media. He passed on a great bit of advice to me. Don’t bother dwelling on the naysayers, they were just as prominent, if not more so, back in the day. Do the best job you can, and make them eat their words when we do what they said was impossible. That is our job after all, isn’t it? We’re not called rocket scientists because it’s easy! In 30 years time, history won’t remember their negativity anyway. Only the great things we achieved.

With that, I look forward to the future, whatever it may hold. It will be a bumpy road to get there. Old friends will be leaving, while new ones fill the void left behind. There is a lot of work to be done, and undoubtedly there will be tears shed along the way, but that is all part of the necessity of change. I just hope that one day I get to stand along that rusted fence, watching the clock hit zero, sharing a laugh and a tear with future generations as we watch the next great leap in space exploration take flight. Per Aspera Ad Astra

FLORIDA TECH ASTRONAUTS—ALUMNI AND FACULTY:

Sunita Williams
M.S., Engineering Management
Paxusent, 1995
194 days, 18 hours, 2 minutes
STS-116, STS-117

Joan Higginbotham
M.S., Management, Spaceport, 1992
12 days, 20 hours, 45 minutes
STS-116

Kathryn Hire
M.S., Space Technology
Spaceport, 1996
15 days, 21 hours, 50 minutes
STS-90

Frederick Sturckow
M.S., Mechanical Engineering
Paxusent, 2000
37 days, 12 hours, 42 minutes
STS-88, STS-105, STS-117, STS-128

George Zamka
M.S., Engineering Management
Paxusent, 1997
15 days, 2 hours, 23 minutes
STS-120

Sam Durrance
Professor, Physics and Space Sciences
25 days, 14 hours, 13 minutes
STS-35, STS-67

Winston Scott
Dean, College of Aeronautics
24 days, 14 hours, 34 minutes
STS-72, STS-87

For me, I see the orbiters like a child that is heading on a journey. There is a shared joy as family. We care for them like we

Calvin Turzillo

Calvin Turzillo
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 2008 and April 30, 2009. We salute all who have made donations to Florida Tech during the fiscal year 2008–2009.
In his fifth year at the helm of the Florida Tech women’s soccer team, head coach Fidgi Haig has led the Panthers to yet another historic season in 2009.

Thus far, the team has achieved its highest national ranking, No. 14, in the program’s seven-year history. At the conclusion of the regular season, the Crimson and Gray finished a program-best second in the Sunshine State Conference. As they prepare to open NCAA Tournament play, they hold an impressive 14-2-1 record. Their four wins shattered the program’s previous single-season win total. Their seven conference victories established a new single-season record as well.

The team’s accomplishments do not stop there. They have also set program records in shutouts with 10 and consecutive wins with eight. Last year’s No. 1 goal scorer, Megan Gillette, suffered a season-ending injury six games into the year. Key players, Cara Bortz and Mallory Bond, also had their seasons cut short due to injuries. Needless to say, the Panthers have adjusted well. The smooth adjustment can be attributed to the team’s senior class: Teresa Brantley, Jennifer Gillette, Brittany Gohish, Mikaela McKinney, Melissa Pyles and Therese Svensson.

The Panthers have also experienced success off the field as this season has increased awareness and raised money for breast cancer research. When McKenney approached Haig about the possibility of partnering with the Susan G. Komen Central Florida Race for the Cure, Tech’s head coach was more than happy to help out any way he could.
"Community service is such an extremely important part of our program," he said. "It is a great feeling to give back to others that are not as fortunate. Mikaela’s idea to help benefit the Susan G. Komen foundation was terrific. I really hope one of our players will step up next season because it is such a great cause."

The team began to raise money in September at soccer and volleyball matches. On the eve of the breast cancer run/walk, the men’s and women’s soccer teams deemed their two home contests, “Pink Games,” to increase awareness, honor those who have been touched by the disease and support the student-athletes in their fundraising efforts.

Originally, the goal for donations was set at $1,000. The Panther student-athletes surpassed that mark by raising nearly $3,000 for Susan G. Komen for the Cure. McKenney, whose family has battled the disease, could not be more pleased with the success she and her teammates had.

“My aunt passed away from breast cancer and my grandmother has definitely dealt with the disease. I wanted to do my part in the fight and help celebrate those who have battled the disease. Following the race/walk, participants had the chance to wear signs in honor of a loved one who may have been affected by the disease. Following the race/walk, a parade of survivors received a standing ovation at Bright House Networks Stadium.

All of the accomplishments the Panthers have earned this season, both on and off the field, make this team a special one. As Haig noted, each team he has coached at Tech has been special in its own way. With the Panthers set to begin postseason play, they will be looking to achieve a few more of their goals in the upcoming weeks.


When all is said and done, there’s not much left to cross off the list for Sara Trané of Pixbo, Sweden. The 5-foot-9-inch graduate student has pretty much seen and done it all in her one year of eligibility with the Panthers. Trané transferred to Tech after graduating from Washington State University, where she had already made a name for herself in the Division I running world.

Trané ran cross country and track and field for three years for the Cougars and was a two-time Pac-10 champion in the 3000m steeple chase, among other accomplishments. Upon graduation, Trané transferred to Florida Tech for its industrial/organizational psychology program and, fortunately for head cross country coach Pete Mazzone, had one year of NCAA eligibility remaining.

"Sara came to Florida Tech after completing her undergraduate degree in psychology from Washington State with a 3.96 GPA," said Mazzone. "She was a standout track athlete there and ran cross country as a sophomore, junior and senior. She had one year of eligibility remaining in cross country and wanted to get her master’s in industrial/organizational psychology and applied to Florida Tech. Sara contacted me on March 15, 2009, about an opportunity at Florida Tech and that is how it started for her and us."

Picking up where she left off at WSU, Trané essentially dominated the SSC during the 2009 season and racked up the accolades in the process. For the first time in Florida Tech history, a Panther runner earned All-American status as Trané finished 18th at the SSC Cross Country Championships and took home the title and earning herself South Region Female Athlete of the Year honors.

All total, Trané won four of the seven races she participated in this season, taking second out of 279 runners at the Walt Disney World Classic: 5k and finishing third behind two Division I runners at the Sunshine State Conference Championships in October, edging out her closest competitor by 21 seconds.

"Being able to run has been great because I enjoy it so much," said Trané, "but being able to run at school and in this season, taking second out of 279 runners at the Walt Disney World Classic: 5k and finishing third behind two Division I runners at the Sunshine State Conference Championships in October, edging out her closest competitor by 21 seconds."

"This year has definitely been the biggest influence that she has had on our team. I also believe that this will bode well for the future of our program."

Rebecca Vick
1970

William Willmott, M.S., has been selected for the American Biographical Institute’s Man of the Year 2009 designation. He is a retired technical writer, residing in Merritt Island, FL.

1986

Mike Brisbois and Qun Zhao-Brisbois welcomed Meldrew on July 4, 2009. The family lives in Redmond, WA.

1996

Leonard Hartman, M.B.A., is chief financial officer at Eckerd Youth Alternatives of Clearwater, FL. Prior to joining EYA, he was senior director of finance and operations for the Devereux Foundation. He is a retired lieutenant commander from the United States Navy.

1990

Keesten Hoskin Martinez has been named by Florida Trend magazine as part of the “Florida Legal Elite” for 2009. She has been with the law firm of Fisher, Rushmer, Werrenrath, Dickson, Talley & Dunlap, PA., of Orlando, FL, since 1996, in the area of family law.

1993

Lisa Alonso and husband, Carolina welcomed Daniel in April 2009. They are currently living in Dubai.

1994

Emilio Perez-Nunez was married to Carmen Perez in October 2000, in Madrid, Spain. Several Florida Tech alumni attended the wedding, from left, Guillermo Vazquez ’96, Robert DeWitt ’94 and his wife, Jennifer DeWitt. Juan Miguel Carreto ’94, Dr. David Tse ’90, Maria Gonzalez-Guirado ’91 and Luis Alonso ’92 with his wife Carolina Aka.

1995

Cornelius DeRamos, M.S., and wife Stacie are proud parents of Nicholas, born November 2008. Cornelius is a consultant for IBM, and the family lives in Bethesda, MD.

1996

Kristen (Guithrie) Barlow and Tom Barlow ’96 MA announce the birth of their son, Keaton Lee in September 2009. Kristen works for the American Red Cross Biomedical Services, and Tom is a special agent with the FBI. The family lives in the Washington, D.C., area.

2000

Jeremy and Tracey (Alken) Rule and sister, Mackenzie Juan, welcomed Rowan, M.S. ’00, born at Nathan in March 2009. Jeremy is a systems engineer with Lockheed Martin, and Tracey is at home with the children. They can be contacted at traceyrowan@yahoo.com.

2009

Tom R. Crawford ‘71 suffered a heart attack at his home in Oliver Springs, Tenn., in October 2009.

James Lon Andrews M.S. ‘74 passed away in February 2009 following a battle with cancer. He had been a teacher in Brevard County, FL, for 39 years, a member of St. Teresa Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus. He was in inspiration to many students through the science research program and marine science field work. His survivors include wife Judy, one daughter, two sons and 10 grandchildren. Donations in his name can be made to Hospice of St. Francis (www.hospiceoffloridacomm.com).

Charles “Bill” Cushion M.S. ’75, a retired Air Force colonel who most recently had worked for the Institute for Defense Analyses, passed away in October 2009, a victim of cancer. Col. Cushion served in the Air Force for 26 years prior to retiring in 1992. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Dorothy, of Fairfax, Va., one daughter, two stepdaughters, a sister and seven grandchildren.

James D. Zapf ’76 passed away in September 2009, a victim of ALS (Lou Gehrig’s Disease). Survivors include his wife of six years, Laurie, of West Chester, Penn., and two children, Jim and Bethann Zapf. Contributions are accepted at Wissahickon Hospice at The Penn Care Center (http://secure.pennhealth.com) or the ALS Association (www.alsassociation.org).

James “Jim” Larry Sargent ’71 passed away in October 2009. He worked as a Brevard County, FL, teacher and obtained a master’s degree just prior to retiring. He is survived by two sons, two sisters, seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Donations in his honor may be made to the Central Brevard Humane Society, 1020 Cox Road, Cocoa, FL, 32926.
ALUMNI RECEPTIONS
Contact the Alumni Office for more information on alumni receptions.
Feb. 2 Washington, D.C. area
Feb. 22 Houston, Texas
Feb. 23 Dallas–Ft. Worth
April 14 Boston
April 16 New York and New Jersey

“SAVE THE DATE” EVENTS | HELD ON-CAMPUS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED
Contact the Alumni Office for more information on alumni events.

January
Jan. 30–April 24 Ruth Funk Center for Textile Arts exhibit:
Speaking with Thread: The Narrative of Textiles

February
Feb. 9 Humanities Lecture Series
Panel of authors discuss “Gold in Prose”
7 p.m., Hartley Room
Feb. 10 Uncommon Threads Symposium 2010: English Embroidery
Free lecture on Feb. 18 at 7 p.m., Gleason Performing Arts Center
Lunchen Symposium on Feb. 19, 10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., $60
Hartley Room
Feb. 20 Annual International Festival, noon–5 p.m.
Sample of sakes, wine, dance and song
Panther Plaza and the Panteum
Feb. 28 Twilight Jazz at the Panteum, 3–6 p.m., free

March
March 6 Botanical Fee Plant and Garden Sale
Events, patnes, accessories, door prizes and garden tours
March 13 Sporting Affair XVIII and Chopper Dropper
Suntee Country Club
March 22 and 23 French Film Festival
7 p.m., Gleason Performing Arts Center
March 28 Twilight Jazz at the Panteum, 3–6 p.m., free

April
April 9 An Evening of Hope II
Scott Center for Autism Treatment
Cocktail reception and live auction
April 9 Northrop Grumman Student Design Showcase
Students show off their science and engineering projects
Clemente Center for Sports and Recreation
April 21 and 14 French Film Festival
7 p.m., Gleason Performing Arts Center
April 28 Twilight Jazz at the Panteum, 3–6 p.m., free

ONGOING EVENTS | HELD ON-CAMPUS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED
WFIT concerts and special events—Visit www.wfit.org
Women’s Business Center—Visit http://wbc.fit.edu
The WBC provides training, counseling, mentoring and technical assistance targeting women entrepreneurs and women-owned small businesses in Brevard, Indian River and St. Lucie counties.

Florida Tech's 7th Annual CHOPPER DROPPER
Friday, March 19, 2010
Suntee Country Club
at 5 p.m.

For a donation of $50* you can have a BALL
and a chance to win $25,000!
We’ll be flying high when we drop 2,000 numbered balls from a helicopter. The closest ball to the pin wins $25,000! 2nd closest to pin wins $10,000, 3rd closest wins $5,000 and 10 lucky people win $1,000 each!
* Suggested donation

Available FREE to all alumni!

Florida Tech Brick Terrace
A permanent recognition program for graduates, students, parents and friends of the university.
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_terrace to see the bricks already inscribed and to www.fit.edu/development/documents/bricks_terrace.pdf to download the appropriate form for submission.

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SPORTING AFFAIR
XVIII
SUNTEE COUNTRY CLUB
March 19, 2010
at 5 p.m.

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For questions or more information, please contact ideaton@fit.edu.
Kindness Solidifies Keuper Statue Success

It took Founding President Jerome P. Keuper just a matter of months to begin the university 51 years ago. A no-less dedicated committee of five devoted three years raising funds for a life-size bronze statue of Keuper, which was unveiled at the university’s 2009 homecoming celebration (see additional photos on page 20).

The committee just this fall reached its goal of $71,500 for the statue, which was created by renowned sculptor Ed Jonas. Although working now in his studio in Tallahassee, Jonas has a hometown connection. He’s originally from Merritt Island and his parents today reside in Viera. This is his first statue in Brevard County.

A nice touch was the unveiling by daughter of the founding president, Melanie Keuper, a committee member and Malabar resident. She was just a tot when her father conceived and began Florida Tech, originally known as Brevard Engineering College.

Other committee members included Denton Clark, Manager of the RCA missile test project in the late 50s and Keuper’s boss, Clark was also one of the university’s first trustees. Also fundraising were Gene Buzzi, a 1965 graduate; Joe Brett, former owner of Gator Chrysler and a good friend of Jerry Keuper’s; and Gene Fetner, who knew Keuper since at least 1957.

“The committee worked tirelessly to fund this commemorative of Jerry,” said Ken Droscher, executive director of the Florida Tech Alumni Association. “I know it’s very gratifying for them to finally see it standing now behind the current Florida Tech president’s office. We all appreciate the generosity of the contributors.”

Sculptor Ed Jonas and Melanie Keuper take a close look at the newly unveiled statue.

Thank You!

After a successful fundraising campaign, founder and first president Jerome P. Keuper stands in perpetuity overlooking the Florida Tech campus. Thank you to all who supported this historic project.