Cultivating STEMxx
APPRECIATING THE FEMALE FACTOR IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS
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18 55 Things We Love About Florida Tech
As we reflect upon the university’s 55th anniversary, we celebrate 55 things we love about Florida Tech.

20 Expert Advice: Plant Wise
Florida Tech horticulturist Holly Chichester explains a few things to consider when landscaping your home this spring.

22 Mini Golf at Panther Links
First-year engineering students put their skills to the test in designing a mini golf course on campus last fall.

24 Cultivating STEM
As the urgency to prepare the next generation of STEM professionals heightens, Florida Tech Today explores women's roles in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
Invincibility abounded on the Crawford Green during the culmination of the Campus Activities Board’s (CAB) Super Hero Week—an afternoon of racing Zorb balls. “What’s more super hero-esque than invulnerability?” said Bradley Bunk, a junior software engineering major and webmaster for CAB.

Alumni News

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COVER PHOTO: Wei Tan is a research assistant and Ph.D. student working to design, develop and test new onboard information systems on Airbus 320 and Boeing 737 cockpit simulators to enhance safety and reduce human error. Photo by Dominic Agostini.
Dear Florida Tech Alumni and Friends,

Your university is starting 2014 with a bang!

On Jan. 25, we announced the largest fundraising drive in university history—and in the history of this area—as the Create the Future campaign seeks to raise $100 million for endowments, programs and new projects. This campaign is critical to the future of Florida Tech, and we hope you’ll join us. Check out more information in this issue of the Florida Tech Today, and visit the campaign online at createthefuture.fit.edu.

The academic accolades are never in short supply, but we were particularly humbled to be named one of the top 200 universities in the world by the Times Higher Education of London. This is a first for Florida Tech, and a wonderful accomplishment in 55 short years of university life. The ranking is based heavily on the research expertise of our faculty, giving further credence to our role as a global leader in technological education.

And finally, we are particularly excited about Chopper Dropper 2014 on March 14. Alumni and friends around the world get in their requests early to purchase tickets, which support Panther athletics and give participants a chance at $50,000. You don’t have to be present to win, but we’d love to see you there!

Here’s wishing you a happy and healthy 2014. Thanks for your support of Florida Tech.

Sincerely yours,

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

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

ROCK ON!

DAVID ARNSWALD ’85, former drummer and manager of the band “Hit & Run” (briefly known as “Magnum Force”) sent the following recap:

“Thanks for printing a photo of our band’s very first performance. At the time of the photo, the band consisted of four students [KEITH HOYLE, lead guitar; RICHARD WALTERS, rhythm guitar; JIM VINER, bass; DAVID ARNSWALD, drums] and two local non-students (singers Steve Quinlivan and Wendy Hamner). Toward the end of the band’s time together students BOB HEPLER (vocals) and CLAUDIA SHAW [keyboards] also performed with the group. Also I can’t forget student BILL MENDELL operating the sound and lights for us.

We were a “cover band,” playing fairly decent versions of hits by groups such as the Stones, the Who, Pat Benatar, Joan Jett, Aerosmith, ZZ Top, Judas Priest, Ted Nugent, Lynyrd Skynyrd and Van Halen, among others. I signed up the group as a “student club” in order to use school facilities as rehearsal space on the weekends. Depending on availability, we would rehearse in Gleason auditorium, in the all-purpose room of the Student Union building or, as a last resort, in one of the portable classroom buildings. Also, the access to school vehicles was very helpful in hauling equipment around!

I also joined the SGA and volunteered to manage the school’s PA system, which entailed signing out the equipment to student groups as needed ... of course, our group needed it as much as any other did!

We performed a number of times in the Rathskeller on campus during the three years the group was together. It was great fun! Even though we may have had differing musical tastes, we worked hard and learned to compromise in order to put together a collection of songs to entertain people.

Nice memories!”

“Do you know who the two far right fellows are?”

NAMING THE UNIDENTIFIED HIGH KICKERS

More names were submitted for the far right High Kickers in question, including Eugene Ferraro ’75 and Chuck Hildebrand ’75. However, Bruce Schwab ’83, pictured fourth from right, assures us the mystery men are Dave Hill ’83 and Tom Terry.

The varsity crew “cheerleaders” pictured here were: Juan Hinestrosa ’84, Al Shawcross ’83, Steve Fluhr ’83, Greg Hogan ’84, Steve Somasky ’85, Dave Forcucci ’83, John Sodano ’83, Bruce Schwab ’83, Mike McDevitt ’84, Dave Hill ’83, and Tom Terry.

MORE CELEBRITY MEMORIES

Other big acts readers remember on campus include Ozark Mountain Daredevils, the Amazing Kreskin, General Jimmy Dolittle, Cyndi Lauper, the Bangles, Cheech and Chong and Jimmy Buffett.

Ken Monroe ’89 MBA wrote: “I remember seeing Jimmy Buffett and the Coral Reefer Band circa 1984 or 1985. I think it was a free concert too. A decade later, Buffett was a huge celebrity, commanding top billing, so I was fortunate to see him at FIT’s softball field. Thanks FIT!”

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Florida Tech Announces
Record-Setting
$100 Million Campaign

‘Create the Future’ effort
largest fundraising drive in
university’s 55-year history.

Creating The Future Requires Commitment Today

That was the message as Florida Institute of Technology launched a $100 million campaign during a black tie President’s Ball on the Melbourne campus. On Jan. 25, more than 300 university supporters, alumni and community leaders filled the Clemente Center to celebrate the launch of the Create the Future campaign—Florida Tech’s most ambitious fundraising effort, and the largest effort of its kind ever launched in Brevard County.

Florida Tech’s last campaign, The Golden Anniversary Campaign, concluded in 2009 and raised $60 million.

For more information on the campaign, visit: http://createthefuture.fit.edu.
ON CAMPUS

TOP-FLIGHT AVIATION PROGRAM SOARS

FIT Aviation is a world premier university flight training provider, with FAA pilot certificate authority, European pilot certificate authority pending and partnerships that can provide Boeing and Airbus airline type ratings, and its worldwide reputation for aviation excellence is continuing to grow. FIT Aviation has an all glass cockpit fleet of airplanes, the latest flight simulation training devices and access to high altitude chamber training and upset (aerobatics) training.

"FIT’s worldwide reputation is the prime reason that international airlines and universities wish to partner with us," said KEN STACKPOOLE, vice president for aviation programs and executive director of FIT Aviation.

—Christena Callahan

A TOP 200 WORLD UNIVERSITY

Florida Tech has risen to the top 200 in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2013–2014. The rankings, which include the top 400 universities, worldwide, are based on scores in five categories: teaching, research, citations, industry income and international outlook. Florida Tech scored 99 out of a possible 100 in the citations category, making it #10 in the world for citations.

FUN WITH WORDS AND IDEAS

The 6th Annual Creative Writing Institute, hosted by the School of Arts and Communication, will take place March 16–20 at the Foosaner Art Museum. Classes span novel writing and creative non-fiction to poetry and short stories. For more information or to register, visit http://411.fit.edu/cwi.

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**ON CAMPUS**

**NEW PROGRAM WILL FUND DOCTORAL STUDENTS**
A university priority is to enroll more qualified graduate students. To this end, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer T. DWAYNE MCCAY has approved a proposal to implement the Doctoral Graduate Research Assistant Tuition Scholarship (DGRATS).

To become effective sometime in 2014, DGRATS will provide each full-time doctoral graduate research assistant a fully paid tuition totaling about $50,000. This will be matched by a stipend from university faculty external research funding sources, such as the National Science Foundation and NASA. Through DGRATS, research doctoral student enrollments are projected to increase 60 percent over five years.

“I strongly believe the combination of tuition scholarships and stipend support for qualified graduate students will enhance the quality of our doctoral programs,” said McCay. “Not only will this make our faculty research proposals more competitive, it will also support the university’s Ph.D. student recruitment, training and retention efforts, and offer graduate students better financial support.”

—Maya Oluseyi

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Restoring Research

**NEW INSTITUTE WORKS TO IMPROVE AND SUSTAIN THE HEALTH OF THE INDIAN RIVER LAGOON**

For more than 30 years, Florida Tech researchers have studied the Indian River Lagoon, but the estuary’s declining health in recent years has elicited statewide alarm.

In response, the university has established the Indian River Lagoon Research Institute (IRLRI) as a collaboration of the university’s scientists, engineers, coastal resource managers and educators working independently and with community organizations toward sustainable solutions.

Initial plans call for developing science-based lagoon-scaping projects to return the lagoon to a clean, prosperous and healthy ecosystem. Research activities will focus on developing solutions for existing environmental issues including the chemical and biological impacts of muck sediments and muck removal; internal and external nutrient-loading from muck sediment, tributaries, groundwater, septic tanks and fertilizer; the decline of essential habitats for fish and shellfish populations; and the restoration of those species. Scientists will also conduct numerical forecasting of circulation and water quality and validate the forecasts for use as a management tool.

“The IRL is an important natural resource and economic engine for the area. The lagoon can be brought back, but it will not happen without the community making this a priority,” said ROBERT WEAVER, director of the new institute.

—Karen Rhine

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Enriching Research

**CANARY ISLANDS EYE ON SKY**
Thanks to a successful proposal by DAN BATCHELDOR, physics and space sciences, faculty and students will increase their ability to make astronomical observations via a telescope in the Canary Islands. Starting in January 2015, students may access the remotely operated 1.0-m Jacobus Kapteyn Telescope (JKT) on the Spanish Canary Island of La Palma, off the coast of Morocco.

**NUMERICAL SIMULATION FOR DEFENSE**
JU ZHANG, mechanical and aerospace engineering, is a co-principal investigator on a project selected by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) for a $450,000 award over three years. He and co-researchers will analyze multiscale coupling strategies of the computational tools used in the numerical simulation of chemical reactions and fluid dynamics. The focus will be on predicting the flow dynamics at a macro-scale.

**IMPACTS ON AMAZONIAN BIODIVERSITY**
MARK BUSH, biological sciences, earned over $189,000 in funding from the National Science Foundation for an interdisciplinary collaboration with Duke University and other institutions. The teams will investigate the impact of geological processes—mountain building, erosion, and river and soil formation—on the origins of Amazonian biodiversity.

“We are thrilled to have the Shahs as hosts of our annual fundraiser, An Evening of Hope VI: Night of Wishes. The Shah home will be the perfect location for making the night even more magical with its beautiful views.” —Colleen Middlebrooks

Mike and Rashmi Shah will host The Scott Center’s An Evening of Hope VI: Night of Wishes event at their home on April 5. Visit www.thescottcenter.org for more information.
COMPOSITE CONNECTOR IN THE COSMOS

A NASA Florida Space Grant Consortium award is funding Professor RON REICHARD'S project to improve NASA exploration vehicles. He is designing a multipurpose, quick connect/disconnect composite connector to replace the connectors currently used on NASA exploration vehicles, which are metallic and heavier. The technology can also be used for a composite truss, which could support a 3D printer frame for construction on the moon or Mars.

NEW ‘EYE’ FOR IMAGING

A grant of $239,000 to MICHAEL FENN and LARRY HENCH, biomedical engineering, funds a state-of-the-art Renishaw Raman microscope, which will be the centerpiece of the newly commissioned Center for Medical Materials and Biophotonics. The new system—one of only a few such instruments in the Southeast—will be used for research in cancer diagnostics and treatments, and improving understanding of the tumor micro-environment.

Historical Highlight: The Impact of Dr. Oswald A. Holzer

Over the years, many students have walked into the Holzer Student Health Center, but only a few may know of the man for whom the center is named: DR. OSWALD A. HOLZER. His legacy of leadership and public service spanned four continents before reaching Florida Tech.

Holzer graduated from the Charles University Medical School in Prague in 1937 and served as a medical officer in the Czech Republic army. After the Nazis invaded his country in 1939, he fled to China where he met his wife RUTH LEQUEAR. As warfare escalated, the couple moved to the U.S. and later South America, where Holzer served as a physician on oil production fields in Peru and Ecuador.

The family ultimately settled in Florida. After retiring in 1974, Holzer volunteered as the first medical director and physician at Florida Tech, where he remained for 10 years and played a key role in establishing the Student Health Center in 1975. In 1984, the Holzers created the Holzer-Lequear Endowment to support university medical genetics research.

Holzer’s daughter, author JOANIE SCHIRM, said of her father, “My dad made many fast friendships among the Florida Tech administration and faculty and was a Florida Tech fan until his passing in 2000. I know he would be thrilled to see the fine progress that this world-class university continues to make!”

She added, “At 16, I worked in his office and witnessed his generosity as he left his legendary ‘No Charge’ mark on innumerable charge tickets.”

Schirm’s book, My Dear Boy: The Discovery of a Lifetime, to be published soon, features her father’s WWII experience and the discovery of letters written to and from him during 1939–46.

—Maya Oluseyi

FOLLIARD, WAKEFIELD JOIN BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Alumni TOM FOLLIARD and TIM WAKEFIELD are the newest members of Florida Tech’s leadership body.

Folliard, president/CEO of CarMax Inc., was inducted into the Florida Tech Sports Hall of Fame in 1996 and, in 2012, was honored with the Jerome P. Keuper Distinguished Alumni Award.

“Rising to lead one of America’s most admired companies, Tom represents what’s best about American entrepreneurship,” said President/CEO ANTHONY J. CATANESE. “He’s a great role model for professional success and an inspiration to the current generation of Florida Tech students.”

Wakefield retired from a distinguished career with the Boston Red Sox in 2012. As a Panther baseball standout, he was team Most Valuable Player in 1987 and 1988. He was inducted into the Florida Tech Sports Hall of Fame in 1993 and was honored with the Alumni Association’s Humanitarian Award and the President’s Medal.

“Tim’s had an outstanding career as a world-class athlete and also become a well-respected philanthropist,” Catanese said. “His leadership is welcomed by Florida Tech. It’s an honor to have him join our board.”

Holzer with patient and Nurse Sue Barge at FIT in 1975.

ON CAMPUS
In Your Best Interest: Annuity Ingenuity

Florida Institute of Technology’s return on investment (ROI) for students has been rated one of the best in the country. You too can make an investment in Florida Tech with a charitable gift annuity and we will provide you—and a beneficiary if you choose—with a fixed-rate income guaranteed for life.

If you've always wanted to make a gift to Florida Tech but found that living life got in the way all these years, consider a charitable gift annuity. You'll get a tax break and you will be assured of income from your gifted asset for your lifetime. Your money is not gone—it is working for you, which is what every good investment should do. Use our online gift calculator to see exactly what your ROI will be based on your age.

Go to givetofit.org/calculator and design the FIT charitable gift annuity that is a “perfect FIT” with your retirement and financial plans.

The information listed in these tables covers a broad range of ages. If you would like to discuss rates based on your exact age, please call JEFF SPOERI at (321) 674-6162 or email jsSpoeri@fit.edu.

—Sara Smith

<p>| Income for one life: |</p>
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"Ultimately, individuals and organizations that learn to leverage cultural understanding will lead, and those that ignore culture will struggle."

—Richard Griffith, executive director of Florida Tech’s Institute for Cross Cultural Management

The institute is hosting a Cross Cultural Management Summit March 6–8, 2014, aimed at uniting business leaders and scholars in discussion on cross cultural management challenges and solutions. Learn more at http://research.fit.edu/iccum/summit.

Behind the Scenes

1. The Panther logo is positioned as the centerpiece in the football locker room. The Panthers walk by it each time they take the practice field at the Varsity Training Center. There is one rule. No one is allowed to step on it!

2. Depth is one of the characteristics valued in football. To accommodate the team’s large roster are 118 lockers. Each player has his own personal storage cabinet, which is housed inside the door with the Panthers’ logo on it. There are also 12 coaches’ lockers for head coach Steve Englehart and his coaching staff.

3. A new development for football lockers are racks to hold a player’s helmet and shoulder pads. These racks allow for ventilation of the equipment.

4. At the bottom of each locker is a ventilated shoes cabinet to store cleats.

5. The dry erase board outside of the coaches’ area is used to post information, such as the practice schedule, travel itinerary and depth chart.

6. Showers are available adjacent to the locker room.

7. In an effort to reduce costs, motion sensor lights are powered on when the Panthers enter the locker room and are powered down when the sensor does not detect activity.

8. Air vents were installed above the lockers to help circulate the air flow.

9. A football team goes through a lot of laundry. After practices and games, each player slides his shirt, shorts and socks in what is known as a “loop.” This loop of clothing is thrown into a bin for washing. The loops, marked with each player’s jersey number, are then returned to each locker upon drying.

10. Student-athletes drink a lot of fluids to stay hydrated. The football players are encouraged to recycle their bottles in one of the recycling bins.
The recently opened 12,600-square-foot Varsity Training Center is a new resource for Panther Athletics. Located on the south side of campus in the F.W. Olin Sports Complex, the facility is home to an athletic training room and a large weight training room along with offices for the football coaching staff, a large meeting room, locker room, laundry and equipment facilities.
STUDENT ORG SPOTLIGHT: Baseball Club

IN ADDITION TO THE VARSITY SPORT, FLORIDA TECH ALSO OFFERS A CLUB TEAM FOR FANS OF THE GREAT AMERICAN PASTIME.

The Florida Tech Baseball Club plays against local Brevard County adult baseball league teams in the fall and club teams from other Florida universities, including the University of Florida, Florida State and the University of Central Florida, in the spring.

At just over five years old, the team has enjoyed tremendous growth and success. “In the span of two school years, the team went from being lucky to field a full team of nine players on any given day in the local fall league, to consistently carrying a roster of 15-20 players and playing in the National Club Baseball Association,” explains head coach MATTHEW KATONA ’10, a founding member of the club.

While the team’s practice schedule is highly variable, depending upon the members’ availability and that of field space, the players are dedicated and united by a deep love for the game.

“Players join because they love to play baseball,” says Katona. “Chances are that plenty of our players would no longer be playing baseball if it weren’t for the Baseball Club. The memories and friends made will surely last a lifetime.”

To learn more or see the game schedule, visit http://activities.fit.edu/ftbc.

—Christena Callahan

MILLION—DOLLAR RESEARCHERS

Ten faculty researchers are in what might be called “The Million Dollar Club.” Each has active contracts totaling from $1 million to $2.5 million. They teach, conduct research and excel at earning funding. These major grant-getters are MARCO CARVALHO, JOHN WINDSOR, GEOFFREY SWAIN, MARK BUSH, ALAN LEONARD, LAZSLO BAKSAY, MING ZHANG, JOSEPH DWYER, BRIAN LAIL and GUY BOY.

CONNECTED TO THE WORLD

Last November, Florida Tech celebrated 25 years of connectivity, marking the day in 1988 when the university was issued a Class C IP address. This established Florida Tech as a node on what was then known as the NSFNET, connecting to the Internet through the University of Florida via a dial-up modem. Communication technology on campus has come a long way!
Panthers Protect Manatee

Eight months after a distressed manatee was found in the Indian River Lagoon by head volleyball coach AMY O’BRIEN ’09, she joined three football coaches, SeaWorld Rescue and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in releasing it back into the lagoon after it was treated for watercraft injuries.

Pole to Pole Science

The team, from left, Cecilia J. Brothers (UAB), Katie Smith, Steph Vos and Dan Ellis, in their survival suits.

Follow the expedition of Professor RICH ARONSON and his graduate colleagues who studied the ecology of Antarctic king crabs this winter. The team used an underwater camera to collect images of the ocean floor at depths between 400 and 1500 meters and blogged daily about the activities aboard their research ship: poletopolescience.blogspot.com

Celebrity Connection

Alex & Sierra, the winning duo on season 3 of “The X Factor,” inspired plenty of Panther pride and support. Sierra is the daughter of JOHN DEATON, professor in the College of Aeronautics. As the winning contestants in the singing competition, the duo won a $1 million recording contract with Sony Records and will release an album this spring. Follow them on Facebook at Alex and Sierra Music or on Twitter @AlexandSierra3.

Worldwide Startup Buzz

Florida Tech’s inaugural Startup Weekend Space Coast, sponsored in partnership with local business incubator TrepHub, nearly topped the Twitterverse on the topic. Part of a global grassroots movement focused on founding startups and launching successful ventures, local participants had the opportunity to pitch their ideas, break into groups, build a prototype within 54 hours and present it to judges, investors and the community.
A HISTORIC INDUCTION CLASS

This year’s Florida Tech Sports Hall of Fame class stands out for one simple reason: Every inductee made history.

From winning championships to changing the entire scope of the Panthers’ athletic program, the honorees helped bring national recognition to Florida Tech.

For those accomplishments, they will be inducted on Feb. 28. Here’s a closer look at this year’s class:

ANTHONY J. CATANESE
Since arriving on campus in July 2002, Catanese has increased the number of sports programs at Florida Tech from 10 to 22. He has also increased the number of student-athletes from 240 to 600.

The debut of the Panthers’ football team this past season was the crowning achievement.

“I just love sports,” Catanese said. “I think it’s such an intrinsic part of the college experience.”

Florida Tech’s success both on the field and in the classroom has helped fulfill the president’s vision that a technological college can have smart students, who can still be outstanding athletes.

To Catanese, being a Florida Tech Panther is all about pride—in your school, in where you work and in the community in which you live.

“I think it’s really a terrific mascot,” he said. “It really does convey an image of strength and elegance and grace. I love being a Panther.”

DANIELA IACOBELLI ’09
The 2007 NCAA Division II Individual National Golf Champion and Sunshine State Conference Champion will never forget her time at Florida Tech.

“I wouldn’t trade it for the world,” Iacobelli said. “It was so awesome to have professors and staff rooting for me while I was at tournaments. I don’t think I would have had that at a different school.”

Iacobelli, the first national golf champion in Florida Tech history, is now continuing to chase her dream of being a professional golfer.

 Winning the national title wasn’t where that goal began, but it certainly helped give her the confidence that anything is possible if you work hard enough.

“It’s always been a lifelong dream,” she said. “That week was validation that if I work hard enough, I will be good enough.”

1981–82 WOMEN’S VARSITY FOUR

LAURIE KUESTNER ’83 didn’t plan on rowing when she first came to Florida Tech.

“It was just something interesting to me (so) I thought I would try it out, and I fell in love with it,” she said.

Not only that, Kuestner was the team captain for what became the first Florida Tech women’s crew to win a national championship at the Dad Vail Regatta and win gold at the Head of the Charles.

The crew, coached by MIKE DAVENPORT, consisted of Kuestner, CHRISTINE BREDENKAMP ’85 and SUE (BROWN) WASIK ’84 with SHARON GALLAGHER ’84 and SHARON TREPICCIONE ’85 always challenging to be the fourth rower. JOANN (ALDEN) MICHALSKY ’84 was the coxswain.

Among the many things Kuestner said she took from her Florida Tech rowing experience was the realization that hard work and dedication can have a very successful outcome.

It certainly did for Kuestner. She’s now a vascular surgeon.

2001–02 WOMEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM

DELICIA (PHILLIPS) LEWIS ’03 was both surprised and honored to find out she and her teammates were going to be Hall of Famers.

“It’s a great, great feeling,” the former Panthers center said. “It’s overwhelming and humbling.”

The Panthers went 26-6, winning the Sunshine State Conference Tournament in the Clemente Center, then going on to win the NCAA Division II South Region, becoming the first Florida Tech women’s team to advance to the Elite Eight.

Among the many memories Lewis holds from that historic season was when the team gathered in head coach JOHN REYNOLDS’ hotel room at the Elite Eight for their usual film session.

“He showed the first practice that we had (as freshmen),” Lewis said. “He recorded it. I remember sitting there in tears because we saw (how much we’d grown).”

—Carl Kotala
FOOTBALL WINS FIRST-EVER BOWL GAME
Up against fellow first-year program Alderson Broaddus University in Philippi, W. Va., the football team won the first-ever Eastern College Athletic Conference Division II Futures Bowl 32-20.

MISS EARTH
TOP 16 FINALIST
EZGI AVCI, a junior business administration major and member of the volleyball team, from Istanbul, Turkey, placed in the top 16 at the Miss Earth Pageant in Manila, Philippines. The event’s candidates and winners actively promote and get involved in the preservation of the environment and the protection of Mother Earth. The competition was her first-ever beauty pageant.

PANTHER BASKETBALL ON ESPN SPORTSCENTER ... AGAIN
CORBIN JACKSON, a sophomore business administration major, wowed the crowd with a ferocious dunk against Lynn University. The highlight ranked as high as No. 3 on SportsCenter’s Top 10 Plays. A men’s basketball player has now been on ESPN in each of the last three years.

RECORD YEAR FOR SWIMMING
The men’s and women’s swimming teams continued their development this season. The men posted their first winning record at 6-4 overall and the women doubled last year’s wins total with four victories. Both programs are only in their third year of competition.

WOMEN’S SOCCER COMPETES IN NCAA TOURNAMENT
The women’s soccer team advanced to the NCAA Division II Tournament for the fifth time in its 12-year history last fall and won its first-round game over Valdosta State, 1-0.

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CORINNE DESROSIERS, head women’s basketball coach, announced the addition of a seven-member signing class in early December. The team will begin practicing this fall and play its first official season in spring 2015.

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PANTHER BASKETBALL ON ESPN SPORTSCENTER ... AGAIN
CORBIN JACKSON, a sophomore business administration major, wowed the crowd with a ferocious dunk against Lynn University. The highlight ranked as high as No. 3 on SportsCenter’s Top 10 Plays. A men’s basketball player has now been on ESPN in each of the last three years.

RECORD YEAR FOR SWIMMING
The men’s and women’s swimming teams continued their development this season. The men posted their first winning record at 6-4 overall and the women doubled last year’s wins total with four victories. Both programs are only in their third year of competition.

WOMEN’S SOCCER COMPETES IN NCAA TOURNAMENT
The women’s soccer team advanced to the NCAA Division II Tournament for the fifth time in its 12-year history last fall and won its first-round game over Valdosta State, 1-0.

PANTHER BASKETBALL ON ESPN SPORTSCENTER ... AGAIN
CORINNE DESROSIERS, head women’s basketball coach, announced the addition of a seven-member signing class in early December. The team will begin practicing this fall and play its first official season in spring 2015.
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Florida Institute of Technology
High Tech with a Human Touch™
Q. HOW ARE LIBRARIES EVOLVING IN THE 21ST CENTURY?

Today, in the age of technology, libraries are assuming new roles that differ from their traditional past as knowledge repositories; they are becoming more inclusive, hybrid learning organizations.

When we speak of the future of the academic library, we cannot consider it apart from its parent organization, the university. In this digital world, universities are becoming more global entities. Today, we are engaged in conversations about online learning, eScience, digital humanities, geospatial thinking, interdisciplinary research and big data, just to mention a few. This is not only challenging the academy but also challenging and changing the library profoundly.

There is no doubt that libraries will continue to provide new resources to their users, but I believe that library services will change and evolve like the academy. Librarians will be offering deeper research assistance and becoming faculty research partners; they will interact with students at progressive levels of value-added functionality ranging from metadata harvesting to using visualization tools to deepen experience and understanding. They will provide assurance of authenticity and persistence of digital data and preserve the scholarship heritage of print and its digital surrogates.

The 21st century library space will undergo a radical change. Students no longer need just a table and chair to do their work. Collaborative workspaces, interactive technologies and artistic exhibits are all parts of the learning process and the evolution of libraries.

At Florida Tech, the library is deeply woven into the fabric of learning and discovery and has been moving toward becoming the digital scholarship lab and the scholar’s partner in research. Working at the nexus of disciplines and across boundaries, the Evans Library will have the flexibility, expertise and organizational capacity needed to support our students and faculty and will play a central role in the university’s quest for distinction and drive for excellence.

Sohair Wastawy joined Florida Tech as dean of libraries in October 2013. She leads Evans Library in its mission of supporting the needs of Florida Tech, including providing vision and direction as the library evolves to support research, learning and teaching in the 21st century. Her previous posts include professor and dean of university libraries at Illinois State University and chief librarian for the New Library of Alexandria, Egypt. She earned her doctoral degree in library and information management from Simmons College in Boston, Mass.
Florida Tech is celebrating 55 years this academic year. In 55 short years, still considered adolescence in the life of the academy, the university has grown and excelled in remarkable ways—steadily gaining in prestige and recognition, and we couldn’t be more proud. So to celebrate, we’ve named 55 things we love about the university, compiled from alumni-, student-, faculty- and staff-submitted feedback over the last six months.
Florida Tech!

learning to fly

The Bork
In the late 1960s, the legendary BORK roamed the FIT campus—causing mayhem in The Jungle and captivating the student body’s collective funny bone. The BORK was an unofficial brother of the DDT fraternity, and its footprint even adorned merchandise in the campus bookstore for a time. The last reported BORK encounter occurred in 1970.

Friday Night Movies at Gleason
“It was usually a relatively current movie with two showings, one early, one late. Everybody was there. It was a great night out. I remember seeing my first Dirty Harry movie there.”
—George Poidimani ’73

Casual Chic
Current students may take Florida Tech’s casual style and year-round acceptance of flip flops for granted, but in the early days, rigorous study meant rigorous attire too. By the early ‘70s, students rejected the rigid dress code...in their birthday suits! In March 1974, more than 500 students streaked across campus in a tradition that was sweeping college campuses at the time.

Ice Hockey
“I love that we have an Ice Hockey Team at Florida Tech. You would never expect that we have one, or that anybody cares—but the fans are great and the homecoming games are the best events at school!”
—Mark Stroik ’06

Celebrities on Campus
We love spotting celebrities on campus, and over the years, we’ve hosted many big names including Bill Nye (pictured), Cyndi Lauper, Jimmy Buffett, President Barack Obama, Vice President Al Gore and more.

Study Abroad
“Studying abroad is, to this day, the single most important decision I’ve ever made.”
—Jenny McCoy ’06

Alumni Receptions
Night Life
College Players
Gleason
Greek Life
ROTC
Homecoming
Panther Statue
Chao Tsu-Yu Clock
JPK Statue
WFIT
Our Founder
Classes Outside
Buffalo Chicken Wrap
Graduation
Trolley
Bill Jurgens
Student Design
Skateboarding
Beach
Panther Pride
Orlando Attractions
International Festival
Florida Tech “All Hail”—Our Alma Mater
High Tech with a Human Touch
The People
Jensen Beach
Community Service
Midnight Madness
Hedgecock Gym
All Faiths Center
Crew
The Crimson
EXPERT ADVICE:

Plant Wise

Spring is approaching, which means more time for outdoor fun and gardening. In preparation, Florida Tech Today asked our resident horticulturist Holly Chichester, who manages the Florida Tech botanical garden among other campus grounds projects, about things to consider when choosing landscaping for your home.

“Properly placed and maintained landscape plants can increase the value of your home or business,” Chichester says. “Poor plant choices, however, can become a maintenance issue and create an unsightly landscape and are what my dad calls a ‘make work project.’ A little homework before planting will pay off down the line.”

What are the space considerations? How big does the plant get and how fast does it grow?

That perky three-gallon variegated ginger is super cute right next to your front door today, but next year, you could be struggling to enter and exit your own home. And remember, “dwarf” doesn’t always mean “small.” It generally just means “slower growing.” Be sure to always check the maximum height and width of the mature plant.

Does the plant have showy flowers and fruit?

We all love flowers and fruit (even if those berries are meant for wildlife), but consider things like how both attract bees and insects as well as the litter of spent blooms and dropped fruit when placing the plant in your landscape.

What type of landscape maintenance am I willing to provide?

Quite simply, there are some seriously “high maintenance” plants out there. Unless you are or employ a horticulturist, choose wisely when it comes to what kind of effort and expense you’re willing to put into the plant beyond installation.

Are there any regulations or local ordinances preventing me from planting?

This is a big one, especially with homeowner’s associations or municipalities. Both of these entities have landscape ordinances and lists of acceptable trees and shrubs, as well as plants they do not allow. And they rarely subscribe to the theory of asking forgiveness instead of permission.

Does the plant have interesting bark or branches?

Plants have so many wonderful characteristics beyond pretty flowers and fall foliage. Once the leaves fall, having interesting architectural branch structure or exfoliating bark still gives your landscape some winter appeal ... even in Florida!

“Marginal and emergent plant species offer food and habitat to a variety of wildlife species. They play an integral role in bank stabilization and nutrient filtration. Olin Pond had seen some erosion along the edges over the years and, quite frankly, it was a pretty uninspiring space, serving only water retention and minor aesthetic functions. Now, we’ve added ‘wildlife habitat’ to the pond’s sense of purpose. Plus, it looks much softer and inviting. At least, the dragonflies think so.”

Holly Chichester is the university horticulturist and manager of grounds operations for Florida Tech. She was the project manager of the Olin Pond emergent plants project, which was sponsored by the Quality of Life committee and installed by Beeman Nursery. A native of Virginia, she moved to Florida in 2005 to enjoy warmer weather and tropical plants. She is a graduate of George Mason University and Virginia Tech. Prior to joining Florida Tech, she was the city horticulturist for Staunton, Va., and a landscape account and project manager for several firms in south Florida.
In 2014, the Arbor Day Foundation recognized Florida Tech as a **Tree Campus USA** for the university’s dedication to campus forestry management and environmental stewardship. “It’s more than just planting trees and palms. Being a Tree Campus USA keeps us accountable for the university’s urban forest and allows us to illustrate how we will be using and caring for the trees on campus in the future,” said Chichester.

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**Marginal and Emergent Plants**

These plants are found along the edge of ponds and are typically found in shallow water, with their roots attached to the muddy bottom. They are often used in wetland plantings to provide habitat for wildlife and help control water flow and nutrient levels. Some common marginal and emergent plants include:

- **Cattails (Typha spp.)**
- **Pickerelweed (Pontederia ratingis)**
- **Salterwort (Hydrilla verticillata)**
- **Waterlily (Nymphaea spp.)**

These plants help improve water quality by removing excess nutrients and providing habitat for fish and other wildlife. They are also used in landscaping to create visually appealing water gardens.
MiniGolf at Panther Links was a semester-long design project that challenged first-year engineering students to design and build a mini golf hole. Working in teams, the students tackled problem solving, construction skills and engineering principles, while accounting for aesthetics, build quality and difficulty (each team determined their hole’s par).

The experience helped students demonstrate:

- Interdisciplinary teamwork
- Verbal and written communication skills
- Design-related problem solving skills
- Knowledge of their chosen major and other engineering majors
- Construction skills

Nearly 200 golfers enjoyed the nine-hole course—they combined chance, putting skill and geometric analysis, while seeing fundamental engineering principles at work.

“Ultimately, I wanted the general engineering students to build something fun and interesting that would incorporate multiple engineering disciplines (so they can better select their major) and be able to showcase the projects to campus so everyone could see what a freshman engineering student is capable of.”

—Matthew Jensen, assistant professor

Thanks to our Sponsors: Communications International and SGD Golf

THE CHALLENGE
Each team’s mini golf hole was judged on the following criteria:

- (20%) Construction quality (determined by judges)
- (30%) Aesthetics and fun-ness (as voted on by the participants)
- (20%) Accurate CAD drawing of the design and or major feature(s)
- (30%) Final presentation and write-up

Penalties:

- (10%) If you run over budget (based on receipts submitted for reimbursement)
- (2%) Every half stroke above/below your designated par based on the average score of participants

LESSONS LEARNED:

- Don’t procrastinate
- Responsibility and organization are very important
- Testing is your friend, especially electronics
- Importance of working together as a group
- Everyone has their strengths and weaknesses
- Mistakes have valuable lessons
As a child, Amy Simon ’93 would often look toward the night sky, wide-eyed, and contemplate the infinite worlds that lay beyond her own. She’d never heard of STEM—the modern day acronym for science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

She just knew she wanted to be a space scientist.
“I was always begging my parents to let me stay up and see lunar eclipses, and I remember seeing the nightly news coverage of the Voyager 1 and 2 planetary flybys in the outer solar system and being amazed by the beautiful images of these unknown worlds. Then, when the space shuttle program began and Sally Ride became the first female American astronaut, I was hooked,” Simon said.

Simon, the associate director for strategic science in the Solar System Exploration Division at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland, had few other female role models illuminating her way into the sciences and was often one of a handful of women in her advanced math and science courses.

Today, women’s enrollment in STEM-related studies is increasing; however, their outlook on advancement and retention in such fields is more complex. A recent New York Times article analyzing barriers to entry for women in STEM disciplines cited factors such as fewer peers, lack of mentorship and limited examples of pathways to success in the field as problematic, but noted “the most powerful determinant of whether a woman goes on in science might be whether anyone encourages her to go on.”

Urgency to prepare the next generation of STEM professionals is at a fever pitch in higher education. As the building blocks of innovation, the fields are critical to technological advancement. Yet, the United States is precariously low on producing the number of such graduates needed to maintain the country’s “historic preeminence” in the fields, according to a report by the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.

The number of women obtaining advanced degrees in STEM fields is steadily increasing at Florida Tech. From 1982 to the present, female enrollment in STEM graduate programs has nearly doubled. And, growth in full-time female faculty has also increased—by 67 percent. In fall 2013, the department of computer science—with a master’s program that has graduated an average of 17% female students over the last 13 years—hired its first full-time female faculty member.

Cultivating greater interest in STEM-related studies lies not only in encouraging greater participation, such as attracting more women and minorities to the fields, but also in improving, overall, how students are introduced to the topics.

Hands-on science and engineering tasks are fairly commonplace and have ignited the STEM spark for many women, like LAURA SLOVEY ’04, flight test engineer for NAVAIR, who fondly remembers the traveling Star Lab planetarium that visited her elementary school and building model rockets in middle school.

Mathematics, on the other hand, has long been plagued by unimaginative teaching in the foundational years.

“Not many people know a mathematician or what they do,” said EILEEN CORELLI ’89 M.S. “Everybody knows what a chemist or an engineer does, but not a lot of people know how math is applied in these fields.”

As a doctoral student in operations research, Corelli says she still asks herself such questions despite more than 20 years as an applied mathematician. The future of math, she believes, is in its application—teaching students how to harness the power of math to solve problems in a variety of disciplines, not just toiling over formulas in isolation.
Programs like Florida Tech’s biomathematics degree, introduced in fall 2010, promote this interdisciplinary focus. “The biomathematics program is a natural extension of research collaborations between biology and mathematics at Florida Tech,” said SEMEN KOKSAL, vice president for academic affairs and founder of the program. “While still in its infancy, the program has exposed a significant number of biology students to upper-level math courses and mathematical research and exposed math students to the biological sciences. Just a couple of decades ago, these types of interactions were extremely rare.”

Also, new offerings like the STEM education major seek to prepare expert educators who can continue to inspire young minds. As a university rooted in the study of science and engineering, such progress is intrinsic.

For Florida Tech women in STEM—current students, faculty members and alumnae interviewed for this story—their experiences were remarkably similar.

While each experienced varying challenges in her pursuit of a STEM-focused discipline, none were particularly concerned. Overwhelmingly, the group’s greatest desires were to prove naysayers wrong, make their way on their own merits and make a difference in a discipline they loved.

Many have chosen to mentor younger STEM-inclined students of either gender, both formally and informally.

“Mentoring is essential in encouraging and engaging students in STEM education,” said Koksal, who mentors students through the Association of Women in Mathematics. “In fact, a Lemelson-MIT survey found that a lack of mentorship and networking may be a huge factor in discouraging teenagers from pursuing STEM careers, so it is important that students understand what people in these fields do. As a mentor, I hope that my experience and encouragement will make a difference in young mathematicians’ lives.”

—Christena Callahan
FROM THE FTAA PRESIDENT

DUANE E. DE FREESDE ‘82 M.S., ’88 PH.D.

Dear Florida Tech Alumni,
Students, Parents and Friends:

It is with great pride and a deep sense of humility that I share this first letter as president of the Florida Tech Alumni Association (FTAA) for 2014. The FTAA is your connection to an impressive network of people who represent a collective voice of more than 60,000 alumni from over 120 countries and a growing list of national and international alumni chapters.

Over the next several months and years, the FTAA will strengthen the bond between Florida Tech and you, our alumni. You are all “Panther Family,” and we want to hear from you. We want to invite you and your families back to campus for community events and milestones. We want you to witness a campus in a transformation toward global leadership, innovation and academic excellence. We want to serve as a valuable resource for you when needed.

Recent national surveys have documented the high value that a Florida Tech education contributes to our careers, families and lives. Our alumni are shaping the future of the world with their knowledge, experience and passion.

As alumni, you represent our best ambassadors, loyal supporters, and most valued network connections for recent graduates looking for career opportunities, and exceptional role models for current and future students.

On behalf of the Alumni Association board and the university, we thank you for your strong and continuing support. We want to hear from you! Connect with us at http://alumni.fit.edu.

Duane E. De Freese ‘82 M.S., ’88 Ph.D.

YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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New Jersey

Brian Potter ’09, Lorna Polhemus, Richard Polhemus ’94, Robert Feury Jr. ’96, Patrick Whelan ’09, Kyra Labisi

Garry Miller ’70, Carrie Kanner, President Catanese

Jonathan Zung ’86, Nicholas Wagner ’03
**Chicago**

Chetan Malavia ’93, Arun Shah ’73, Mahendra Shah ’74, Bino Campanini ’90, ’92 MBA

**Megan Bateman ’02 wins a Florida Tech pendant from President Catanese**

**Chicago City Spotlight**

FIT’s GEICO representative, Chris LeMaster, recommends:

**Best Chicago Deep-Dish Pizza**

Lou Malnati’s Pizzeria—The buttery crust, lots of cheese and fresh ingredients give Lou Malnati’s my vote over Giordano’s and Ginos East. www.loumalnatis.com

**Must See in Chicago**

Millennium Park—There are year-round reasons to visit Millennium Park, but the Cloud Gate sculpture (aka “The Bean”) is the park’s centerpiece and a great place for photos.

**Best Sports Venue**

Wrigley Field—You would be hard-pressed to find a ballpark in America with more personality than The Friendly Confines of Wrigley. There is nothing like a sunny summer afternoon game on the North Side, even if the Cubs aren’t winning.

Read more of LeMaster’s Chicago picks at http://today.fit.edu.

**ON THE ROAD — ALUMNI NEWS**

**Raleigh**

Chapter gathered at Brewmasters Bar & Grill

John Valente ’76, Dexter Mallory ’13
There’s no place like HOMECOMING

The biggest single event in FIT history!

― Dr. Catanese

“Bigger and better than last year! Congratulations!”

5K RUN
Homecoming Award Winners

College of Aeronautics—Skurla Award
Nelson Cambata ’78

Nathan M. Bisk College of Business
Teresa Ho ’98

College of Engineering
Tino Alavie, Ph.D. ’92

College of Psychology and Liberal Arts
Gregory Price, Ph.D. ’80

College of Science
Jonathan Zung, Ph.D. ’86

Jerome P. Keuper Distinguished Alumni Award 2013
Robert L. Phebus Jr. ’74 (pictured)

“It was a first class event. The Clemente Center looked spectacular!”
—Teresa Ho ’98

3.1 Miles
202 Runners
1 Irish Pub
62 Bottles of Champagne
6 Awards
524 Attendees
GALA

Florida Tech Today | 31
“A major rock concert, tailgating and a Homecoming football game ... it was awesome!”

—Andy Kirbach ’90
30+ YEARS LATER: REMEMBERING A FRIEND

On Friday night April 9, 1983, I was on my work-study shift in the old Florida Tech Gym. Around 9 p.m. or so my friend and fellow student BRUCE DELETTRE entered the gym. Bruce was a third baseman on the Florida Tech baseball team at the time. The team had just played a game earlier that day. He was stopping by the gym before heading to Cocoa for the weekend.

Bruce and I talked, joked and mulled over an upcoming class we had together the following week. I told him that I’d see him later and watched as he headed toward his customized VW Beetle parked in front of the gym.

Little did I know that this would be the last time I’d see Bruce.

Sometime after leaving campus that evening he died in an accident while driving his prized car. I found out about it the next morning when I opened up the gym. I went into an immediate state of shock and disbelief. How could someone with whom I was chilling out with the very night before be gone so abruptly? Bruce’s sudden passing was surreal and unbelievable. I still harbor these feelings today as I write this piece.

For those of us who knew him, Bruce was without a doubt one of the most likeable people on campus, and he was like that without trying to be that way. I could go on and on about his laugh, upbeat attitude and easy-going personality (not to mention the cool way he stroked his tu-man-chu moustache). In the three-plus years that I knew him, I never perceived him to be in a foul mood.

There are times when I’ve attempted to make sense of this and other tragedies I’ve encountered to no avail. What I take from this and other lessons in life is quite simple. Never take positive fortune in life needs to be cherished. Too many of us get caught up in the day-to-day hectic pace of life and don’t realize how lucky we are to have life itself and all good things that come with it.

When I think about Bruce and that fateful Friday night, I think of what a really decent person he was and how lucky I and many others were to have known him.

May he deservedly rest in peace.

Chris Faulkner ’83
SALLI SETTA ’92 MBA was named president of Red Lobster in July 2013. She leads all aspects of the iconic brand with more than 700 restaurants, 60,000 employees and $2.6 billion in annual sales.

MARK CARTWRIGHT ’98 shows off Isla Rose Cartwright.

FIN BONSET ’96, ’99 M.S., senior project manager for the Louis Berger Group’s global aviation division, was named among Airport Business’ “Top 40 Under 40” in 2013. The list recognizes the industry’s leading up-and-coming individuals who have demonstrated successful careers and are actively involved in their communities. Bonset, based in the firm’s Miami office, has more than 16 years of experience in airport planning and previously ran his own consulting business before starting with Louis Berger last April.

HOSUNG PARK ’97, ’99 M.S., was recently promoted to director of software engineering with Motorola Mobility.

TOM HOAG ’98 is the manager of dry dock support for Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Co. He is an avid recreational pilot and has two children, Ava and Ollie.

STACY ZOLADZ (LAMB) ’99 is the regional shipping manager for BASF in Raleigh, N.C. She has two children, ages 8 and 4, and writes a monthly blog on parenting for her local news site. She is involved in her local rock climbing community and the single parents group.

LAURA (GATZ) DE GEUS ’00 presents her son Maxwell (Max) Leonard, born April 30, 2013. She is taking a break from work as a government policy analyst to be with Max and Levi, age 2. Her husband John is a U.S. Navy doctor. The family lives in China Lake, Calif.

BRANDON BATEMAN ’01 and MEGAN (BODNAR) ’02 were married in 2002 and adopted their first son Evan from South Korea in 2011. Brandon is a captain on the EMB145 for American Eagle; Megan is a stay-at-home mom.

WEYNI (CLACKEN) NAZON ’01, a vice president at Goldman Sachs & Co. in Jersey City, N.J., sends this photo of daughter Nia at six months.

KATHY DEAL ’02, ’04 M.S. and RANDY WELLS ’95 welcomed Adelaide in July 2013. Her grandpa is professor emeritus and former head of the department of biological sciences, GARY WELLS.

ALUMNOTES

Submit your AlumNotes to alumni@fit.edu

Continued on page 36

Gleason

NAME A SEAT

Campaign

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

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

alumni.fit.edu/gleasonseats

Florida Tech Today | 35
Kara and Brandon’s mother is CYNTHIA SCHMITT ’07 M.S., senior director of Florida Tech Continuing Education.

MIKAELA (LUNDAY) ROJAS ’09 is currently a senior airport operations specialist at San Jose International Airport and lives in San Jose. Send her an email message at christstchick@yahoo.com.

PLATT Solutions and in the same owner of Micro Aerospace Solutions. In 2010, she was named Woman of the Year by the Scleroderma Foundation. He was recognized for his 2012 attempt to ride his bike across the U.S. to bring awareness to scleroderma, a rare disease that took his father’s life several years ago. Dauberman is a current Florida Tech graduate student.


STEPHEN WHITAKER ’10 is an associate engineer with Test Coach Corp in Lake Zurich, Ill. In July 2011, he married his high school sweetheart. The couple is expecting their first child in June.
**In Memoriam**

**BRIDYS ABBAZIA** passed away Dec. 6, 2013. As banquet captain for the SUB Café, Abbazia was the “face” of Florida Tech catering. She touched many lives in the campus community and will be remembered for her contagious smile and positive spirit.

**NANCY RUTH BROWN ’74, ’81 M.S.,** passed away Aug. 7, 2013. She worked for Computer Sciences Raytheon (CSR) for 17 years. She is survived by her brother David (and wife Chris) Brown, nephew Cory Brown, niece Dottie Brown and several other family members.

**CHARLES DEAN CORMAN** passed away Oct. 6, 2013. Corman came to Florida Tech in 1977 and was responsible for creating an undergraduate and graduate program in psychology. He served as the School of Psychology’s founding dean from 1980 until 1985. He continued as professor of psychology until his retirement. He is survived by his sons Charles and Steven Corman and by his stepchildren Christina Wolt Dobbs, Douglas Wolt and Eve Wolt Knight, their spouses and seven grandchildren.

**KINGSLEY FORRY ’66 M.S.** passed away Sept. 12, 2013. Kingsley was a resident of The Villages, Fla.

**PHIL GAARDER** passed away Sept. 15, 2013. His volunteer service at Florida Tech included membership on the Florida Tech Advisory Council, founder and chairman of the Florida Tech Spring Festival, and founding member and president of the Panther Athletic Association, all of which resulted in being inducted into the Hall of Fame.

**JOSEPH EDGAR HOLT** ’84 passed away Aug. 27, 2013. He had been living in Overland Park, Kan.

**LEONARD JACOBS’68** passed away Dec. 2, 2013. He worked as an engineering manager and a Range Safety manager. He is survived by his spouse Doris and many other family members.

**RICHARD KEITH ’71** passed away Sept. 6, 2013. He worked at Harris Corp. for many years and then became a financial advisor at several major Wall Street brokerage firms. He is survived by his wife Jackie; daughters Debbie, Heather and Renee; seven grandchildren; and two great grandchildren.

**ALFRED GERALD ROY ’69 M.S.** passed away Sept. 26, 2013. He worked at RCA on the Missile Test Range, Harris Corp., Ameritech and ETS. He is survived by his wife of 52 years Theresa, six children, 15 grandchildren, one great grandson and many other family members.

**PAUL SOMMERVILLE,** a faculty member in the 60s, passed away in fall 2013. This photo shows him (on right) at a Florida Tech reunion.

**RONALD VICTOR TRENSE II ’86** passed away on Oct. 2, 2013, in Stuart, Fla. Born in Elizabeth, N.J., Victor had previously lived in Meutchern, N.J., before moving to Martin County to go to the Jensen Beach campus of Florida Institute of Technology in 1975. He was an engineer technician and worked for Pratt & Whitney for 22 years and was recently hired at EPA Green LED.

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**Evening of Hope VI ROLEX Raffle**

You could win a Rolex Oyster Perpetual GMT-Master II

Suggested retail price: $8,450

40mm, 904L stainless steel, rotatable black ceramic bezel, black dial with 24-hour hand and independently adjustable 12-hour hand, Oysterlock bracelet.

$25 per raffle ticket* Purchased online at: [www.thescottcenter.org/raffle](http://www.thescottcenter.org/raffle)

Drawing to be held SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2014, 1 P.M. at KEMPF’S JEWELERS, 336 Fifth Ave., Indialantic

Proceeds to benefit Florida Institute of Technology

The Scott Center for Autism Treatment

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*Proceeds to benefit Florida Institute of Technology

The Scott Center for Autism Treatment

Florida Institute of Technology

150 W. University Blvd., Melbourne, FL 32901-6975

[www.thescottcenter.org/raffle](http://www.thescottcenter.org/raffle)
The past year was busy for the Office of Alumni Affairs and the Florida Tech Alumni Association. Once again, we traveled the country meeting with alumni on both coasts including a first-time visit to a very chilly Chicago. We also made a return visit to the United Arab Emirates where we once again had a great show of support from our alumni. In fact, attendance at all our alumni receptions has increased and we continue to see a high level of interest. These visits allow President Catanese and me to share news about Florida Tech and the FTAA and this past year we have had a lot of good news to share!

The highlight of the year for the FTAA was homecoming. This year we saw a continuation of the growth from last year with increased numbers and participation. The addition of FIT Homecoming Fest and football has transformed Homecoming at FIT and made it the highlight of the campus year.

Football provided a lot of opportunities for alumni to reconnect with their alma mater and the first game against Stetson will live long in the memory of all the alumni who attended.

The Gleason Seat Campaign continued throughout the year and although there has been tremendous support from alumni, there are still seats that need to be sold in order to move forward with the needed upgrades. If you are interested in leaving a legacy at FIT, then naming a seat is a great way to do it.

Florida Tech paid alumni endorsement grants to 856 students. This FTAA initiative has been a great recruiting tool and a cool way that graduates can help promote Florida Tech to potential students.

FTAA recognized Rob Phebus ’74 with the Jerome P. Keuper Distinguished Alumni Award and Alan Prestwood ’80 with the Julius Montgomery Pioneer Award.

2014 is going to be an exciting year as Florida Tech kicks off its capital campaign and we ask our alumni to be part of the next stage in Florida Tech’s growth and development as one of the finest technological universities in the country. It will also be a year of change for the FTAA as Duane de Freese assumes the leadership role as president. I know Duane has a lot of plans for the FTAA for the upcoming year, so watch this space for updates. I would like to thank outgoing president Alexis Loo for her hard work and dedication to the FTAA as well as all our outgoing board members. The FTAA continues to make a positive impact on university life and it is achieved through the support and work of alumni who want to give back. If you want to be part of a great alumni association, let us know at alumni@fit.edu.

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

Send your news to ALUMNI@FIT.EDU We will share it with the 60,000+ alumni worldwide!
Reserve your tickets now, before they're sold out!

www.chopperdropper.com

For a donation of $100, you can have a BALL and a chance to win $50,000!

We’ll be flying high when we drop 2,000 numbered balls from a helicopter. The closest ball to the pin wins $50,000! 2nd closest to pin wins $10,000, and 15 lucky people win $1,000 each!

Friday, March 14, 2014 • 5:30 p.m. (ball drop 6:30 p.m.) • Suntree Country Club (1 Country Club Dr., Melbourne, FL 32904) Winners will be announced immediately following the Chopper Dropper reception. Need not be present to win. A representative of Florida Tech will conduct the drawing and will contact the winner if not present. All proceeds benefit Panther Athletic Scholarships.

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Suggested donation: no purchase or donation necessary • Fair market value $20
Girl Power! Shown here is an unidentified class meeting in 1960 at the Radiation building. The majority of the students were male and the average age of the student body remained in the mid-30s. With two women students, this class was exceptional.

Are you in this photo or do you recognize this early class? What were the demographics of the student body when you were a student?

Send your comments to fltechtoday@fit.edu.