IN THIS ISSUE:
2010–2011 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS
Q&A WITH MATT KILCULLEN
SLUMDOG SOCIAL WORKER
SMART USE OF SMART PHONES
Dear Florida Tech Alumni and Friends,

Welcome to 2012! All of us at your university are excited about the year ahead.

First, we have some important alumni news… the Florida Tech Alumni Association is waiving future membership duties for all alumni! Now, the only requirement for alumni to become official FFAA members is to register at http://alumni.fit.edu/pantherconnect. It’s that simple.

I applaud the Alumni Association for taking this important step. You can read more in FTAA President John Valent’s column in this edition.

Meanwhile, this year we not only stand firm in the U.S. News & World Report top tier, but U.S. News has also named us in the national Top 10 for student internships. This January, U.S. News is lauding us in the “Top 5 Great College Towns to Avoid Winter,” and named our online programs to its Top 4 Honor Roll! We’ve all known for years that the world is acknowledging it, too.

I hope that you’ll let us hear from you in the coming year. We’d love to receive an alumni note from you for the magazine—your career news, family update—whatever the news may be, Florida Tech takes pride in having you.

Take care and have a great year.

Sincerely yours,

A.J. Catanese, Ph.D., FAICP
President
that participated in the rally. Winston Scott, president of marketing, was one of 35 teams and of Aeronautics, and Jennifer Neuhard, assistant vice president of marketing, was one of 35 teams that participated in the rally.

Fireball Run Success

Missing since December 2010, siblings of missing and abducted children. Team Florida Tech of Winston Scott, dean, College of Aeronautics, and Jennifer Neuhard, assistant vice president of marketing, was one of 35 teams that participated in the rally.

Free-Falling

Dean of the College of Psychology and Liberal Arts Mary Beth Kenkel joined the Army’s Golden Knights for a day when she participated in a tandem parachute jump, with instructor Jared Zell, from 13,500 feet over the Homestead Air Force Base in Florida. She plummeted at 120 mph in a freefall until the major chute opened at 5,000 feet. “It was fantastic,” enthused Kenkel. “This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.” Florida Tech’s ROTC Panther Battalion arranged the jump.

Year of the Rabbit

William Bloxsom-Carter, air commerce alumnus from the early-90s, is the executive chef/director of food and beverage at the Playboy Mansion in Los Angeles, Calif. As an Florida Tech student, Carter was a volunteer firefighter who once answered a call at the home of founding president Jerome P. Keuper.

Fate or coincidence? At the November 1968 commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the college’s founding, Dr. Keuper was presented with a lifetime subscription to Playboy Magazine. Visit http://today.fit.edu for Carter’s Grilled Beef Sliders recipe. “Sliders are always popular,” he says. “This is one of our more requested pass hors d’oeuvres.”

Making History at Florida Tech

Ignited during the Golden Anniversary celebration and continuing today, Florida Tech’s professors emeriti group has spearheaded a comprehensive campus history initiative—preserving our treasured past while our early pioneers are still alive to share it. The History Committee, formed in 2005, assists the university in identifying and preserving this material as well as providing recommendations for archiving and sharing it. Key projects include:

- The Harry Weber Archives
- Florida Tech Pioneer Series Video Archive
- The Keuper Scrapbooks
- The Harry Weber Archives historic documents and artifacts
- The Keuper Scrapbooks
- 81 of founding president Jerome P. Keuper’s personal scrapbooks
- Florida Tech Pioneer Series Video Archive
- 35 pioneer interviews, ranging from 30 minutes to an hour each

Volunteers have scanned 81 of founding president Jerome P. Keuper’s personal scrapbooks for the collection—covering 40 years from May 1958 to June 1998 and preserving more than 20,000 newspaper clippings.

Florida Tech Pioneer Series Video Archive

Florida Tech Pioneer Series Video Archive
- Florida Tech Pioneer Series Video Archive
- 35 pioneer interviews, ranging from 30 minutes to an hour each

The Evans Library continues to catalogue information, scan important documents and photos, and apply keywords so people can search the historical archives. “We provide expertise to do these things—to build, preserve and display collections,” said Celine Lang, dean of libraries.

“An institution’s past is important to help us understand the current status of the university,” said Gordon Patterson, university historian. “We can measure ourselves by our own accomplishments, and we have to preserve the past for the future.”

If you are interested in making a donation toward the preservation of Florida Tech’s history via the Harry Weber Archives, or have important campus documents or artifacts to donate, please contact the Office of Development at (321) 674-8962 or sandersb@fit.edu.

Read more about the work of the History Committee at http://today.fit.edu.

A Gala

Reopening for Foosaner Art Museum

About 300 people attended the late October gala that marked the re-opening of the former Brevard Art Museum, now renamed Foosaner Art Museum, run under the leadership of Florida Tech. Pictured from left are Don Hendrick, Sara and Tony Catanese, Dee Negroni-Hendrick, and Tony Catanese.

KEY HISTORY PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- The Harry Weber Archives
- historic documents and artifacts
- The Keuper Scrapbooks
- 81 of founding president Jerome P. Keuper’s personal scrapbooks
- Florida Tech Pioneer Series Video Archive
- 35 pioneer interviews, ranging from 30 minutes to an hour each

Visit the websites for information on exhibits, lectures, workshops and classes offered.

upcoming arts events

Traditional Textiles of India
Jan. 21–April 28, 2012
co-curators Asian Cultural Association
Ruth Funk Center for Textile Arts
http://textiles.fit.edu

Fare and Folly: The Visionary Prints of Francisco Goya and Federico Castellon
Jan. 14–March 18, 2012
Organized by the Kalamazoo Institute of Art, Kalamazoo, Mich.
Foosaner Art Museum
http://www.foosanerartmuseum.org

Visit the websites for information on exhibits, lectures, workshops and classes offered.

Florida Tech TODAY | 5
Collegiate Men’s Lacrosse 101

Played by: Two teams of 10 players (one goalie, three defenders, three midfielders and three attackmen) on a rectangular field.

History: Lacrosse is known to be the oldest North American sport, played by Native Americans.

Popularity: It is one of the fastest growing team sports in the United States.

Combination of: Basketball, football, hockey and soccer.

Important Skills: Coordination, agility, quickness and speed.

Object: Score by shooting ball into opponent’s goal (cage) and prevent other team from scoring. Each goal is one point.

Equipment: Stick (crosse), helmet, shoulder pads, elbow pads, gloves and cleats.

Sticks consist of a shaft, head and pocket. Pocket is the net from where ball is caught and thrown. Stick size varies by position.

Strategy: Each team must keep at least four players, including goalie in its defensive half of field and three in its offensive half. Midfielders may roam entire field.

Play: Faceoffs start each quarter and start play after a goal is scored. Field players must use their stick to pass, catch and run. Only goalies may touch ball with hands.

“FIT” Comes Back to Athletics

If you’re cheering for your favorite Panther team, the new ones—lacrosse and swimming—or in 2013, football, you will be totally in sync when you yell, “Go F-I-T!” While visual identity marks throughout the university do not change, the “FIT” logo is approved for use by all the university sports teams and joins the Panther logo that currently adorns athletics activities and merchandise.

Ryan Bailey
Year: Freshman
Major: Marine biology
Hometown: Hempfield, Pa.
Position: Attackman

University Online Brings Home Higher Education

A Nov. 4, 2011, New York Times story about online education included Florida Tech, noting its flexibility. The paper reported Tamika Ahfeld, who in 2009 enrolled online for a Florida Tech bachelor’s degree in computer information systems, found the course she registered in was too advanced. She called her adviser and dropped the course. “Next term I was in another programming course that was more for me,” she says, and added that her adviser calls every Thursday to check in.

For some, online learning is the only way to go, as the following two examples show.

Teressa Hines ‘11 lives in a rural area and would have needed to travel an hour each way to learn in a traditional classroom. She said, “I didn’t expect online classes to be up to date with technology—the use of chat, message board and videos made online classes enjoyable and more personable … My degree (B.S. information technology) allowed me to obtain a new position along with a promotion in a field I never dreamed of.”

Tracey Thomas ’11 worked as a controller and knew her career demanded that she earn a bachelor’s degree in accounting. With a fireman husband and a four-year-old, traditional higher education was out of the question. She said, “The best part of the online program is that the program is adapted to your schedule, not vice versa … The big surprise was that I received as good of an education as I would have attending brick and mortar (traditional) college classes.”

New Online Programs Address Fast-growing Fields

Florida Tech University Online continues to offer new programs to meet the career needs of students in up-and-coming areas. For example, new offerings include the recently launched seven new mini M.B.A. graduate certificate programs. They are in accounting, finance, healthcare management, information technology management, Internet marketing, management and marketing. Certificate credits may also apply toward a full M.B.A. degree after students complete the course.

Also new is the associate of arts in applied psychology degree, offering the opportunity to earn a degree online in 24 months or less. The course work exposes students to the principles of effective research, critical thinking and personal development and is a bridge to work in the fields of psychology, sociology, business, legal studies or counseling. For more information on these programs, visit: http://online.fit.edu.

noteworthy

Science and Math Education Become More

The department of science and mathematics education had been renamed the department of education and interdisciplinary studies—bringing together programs in education, interdisciplinary science, general science and sustainability, as well as the new coaching minor.

The department head is Laszlo Bakacs.

Florida Tech #6 in Nation for Student Internships

U.S. News & World Report’s list, “10 Universities Producing the Most Interns,” ranked Florida Tech #6 among the top 10 in the nation. The report identified the schools that produced the highest percentage of graduating seniors with internship experience. At 60 percent, Florida Tech was just below George Washington University’s 66 percent.

PayScale.com Ranks Florida Tech Top 20 University in South

A recent survey, the 2011–2012 College Salary Report published by PayScale.com, ranks Florida Tech graduates’ mid-career median salaries in first place among Florida’s universities. Nationally, Florida Tech rose 17 spots compared to 2010–2011, from #56 to #39 among private universities.

Center for Space Commercialization Launched

At Florida Tech, the end of the space shuttle era marks the start of another era with the announcement of the Center of Engineering’s Center for Space Commercialization. Marshaling the expertise of faculty and relationships with NASA, industry and other universities, the center’s mission is to expand space commercialization efforts.

“The center will identify promising areas of research and relevant technologies, and develop strategic roadmaps for space commercialization,” said College of Engineering Dean and Harris Professor Fredric Ham.

Several projects are already under way—faculty members Daniel Kirk and Hector Gutierrez are studying the liquid behavior of fuels in zero gravity with NASA, MIT and Aurora Aerospace. They also are conducting work on a contract with NASA on fiber-optic instrumentation for rocket vehicles and in-space applications.
Development

On Campus

RESEARCH NEWS

Jachec Earns $495,000 Security-related Naval Research Grant

Steven Jachec, assistant professor of ocean engineering, received a grant of $495,000 over five years from the Office of Naval Research through the Department of Defense Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative. This fund’s work on the multimillion-dollar Integrated Ocean Dynamics and Acoustics (IODA) project, which is led by Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and involves other universities.

The IODA project is an integrated ocean fluid dynamics and acoustics study for defense and national security. It encompasses basic research related to the waves and eddies in the continental shelf areas of the world’s continents. Jachec is responsible for performing high-resolution numerical modeling of the coastal ocean hydrodynamics. See http://acoustics.whoi.edu/ioda for more information about the project.

"The overall goal is to improve the understanding and predictability of underwater acoustic propagation under the influence of a constantly changing ocean," said Jachec.

$368K DOI Grant Funds Human Impact in Arctic Studies

Oceanography Professor John Trefry earned a $368,000 grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) to study the Hanna Shoal ecosystem in Alaska’s Chukchi Sea. Trefry joins colleagues from the University of Texas, Old Dominion University, University of Alaska Fairbanks, University of Maryland, University of Rhode Island, and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

More than $5.6 million, including ship time, has been awarded for the study, which is ongoing until 2014.

"A goal of our Arctic studies is to improve our understanding of natural biological and chemical processes so that we can identify impacts from local human activities," said Trefry. "This includes oil exploration as well as impacts from global climate change."

The DOI funding complements $417,000 in recent funding to Trefry from Shell Exploration and Production Company Alaska for environmental studies in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas.

Faculty Kudos

Oswalt Appointed to NASA Subcommittee

Terry Oswalt, professor and head of the department of physics and space sciences, has been appointed to the Astrophysics Science Subcommittee of the NASA Advisory Council. His appointment continues until March 1, 2014.

The subcommittee evaluates the performance of ongoing NASA astronomy and astrophysics missions and makes recommendations regarding which new missions should be developed and funded.

Taylor Serves on Humanities Council Board

Robert Taylor, head of the department of humanities and communication, was elected to serve on the board of directors of the Florida Humanities Council (FHC) for a three-year term. Taylor is one of the nation’s premier authorities on Florida military and Civil War history. He is also president emeritus of the Florida Historical Society, an advisory board member for H-Florida and serves as a board official in the Selective Service System.

Fleming Earns National Adviser Award

Associate Professor of Aerospace Engineering David C. Fleming received the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) 2012 Faculty Adviser Award for his leadership of the Florida Tech AIAA chapter.

The award citation reads “For tireless efforts, calm personality and dedication to the profession,” Fleming received the award in January at the 50th AIAA Aerospace Sciences Meeting, held in Nashville, Tenn.

Spirit of Giving Energizes Electrical and Computer Engineering Department

It’s been said that the gifts of time, talent and treasure are the cornerstones of a true culture of philanthropy. A group of alumni and corporate partners recently embodied that tenet in support of the College of Engineering’s electrical and computer engineering (ECE) department.

In December, nine men and women volunteered to spend the better part of a day serving as judges in a “mini-showcase” presented by 11 senior design project teams from the ECE department. Already, each of the judges had been financial contributors to Florida Tech, either individually, as corporate representatives, or both. Now, they divided into three teams and listened as the seniors described their projects.

The judges saw a wide variety of electrical and computer engineering applications, including an auto-adjusting window blind, an autonomous crash-avoidance system and a companion for diabetes patients. Afterward, they convened for more than an hour to discuss each project and provide detailed constructive criticism for the students.

Philanthropic support is enhanced tremendously when the donor is able to have direct contact with the recipient. In this instance, the donors and the students really connected. The feedback received from the judges was a gift to the students, who got a chance to hear from industry leaders at some highly respected engineering companies. The judges asked the students very thought-provoking questions, not only about their engineering concepts, but also about their scheduling, budgeting and teamwork. These are the skills the students will bring to today’s competitive work environment.

The judges, all Florida Tech donors, were able to see in action the value of their philanthropic commitments to the program. “These community leaders told me this was an incredible opportunity for them to touch the lives of exceptional students and see their creative energy come alive,” said Gretchen Sauerman, director of corporate giving. “We, in turn, sincerely thank them for this tremendous gift.”

For more information on how you may provide support for such programs, please contact Sauerman at gsauerman@fit.edu.

Jachec Earns $495,000 Security-related Naval Research Grant

Oswalt Appointed to NASA Subcommittee

Taylor Serves on Humanities Council Board

Fleming Earns National Adviser Award

Spirit of Giving Energizes Electrical and Computer Engineering Department
Home Again … DRS Gifts-in-Kind Find a Place at Florida Tech
From office supplies to high-tech equipment and presentations, impact of gifts far-reaching

When DRS consolidated its four facilities in 2010, the company found itself with a large surplus of equipment and supplies.

The thought of disposing of the items “tore through the heart” of DRS’ Tom Reid, senior manufacturing engineer, so he reached out to the Office of Development who then connected him with the College of Engineering.

Among the cache of office supplies, furniture and industrial equipment was a 5-by-8-foot optics bench. The optics bench went to the department of chemical engineering, where James Brenner and his students mounted two scanning tunneling and three atomic force microscopes. The bench provides a vibration-resistant and extremely level work area. Brenner said the optics bench has made the acquisition of research-quality images a reality, which has been a key component in rounding out the new nanotechnology program. Nanotechnology is the science and engineering of features at a very small scale—1 billionth of a meter—and is at the interface between biology, chemistry, physics, chemical engineering, materials science, electrical engineering and mechanical aerospace engineering. Another item FIT received was a triaxial environmental controlled shaker table and chamber. “The thermal, vibration test equipment that DRS donated to the College of Engineering will be most useful for some of the spacecraft-related research currently being carried out in the college,” said Fredric Ham, dean of the College of Engineering. “Gifts like this can make a significant difference in our faculty’s research.”

In addition to the equipment, one employee at DRS is generously donating his time to the university. Mike Scott is an instructor at DRS who has been with the company for 16 years. He recently kicked off a series of free presentations at FIT—one on the good and bad conditions of soldering and another on manufacturing standards. Scott said he feels it’s important to expose students to the industry environment they will soon be working in. “Students have no idea of the kinds of standards that rule their world,” he said. “And I really love teaching.”

“Our company has a culture of philanthropy,” said Reid. “It really spreads out among our employees.”

When DRS consolidated its four facilities in 2010, the company found itself with a large surplus of equipment and supplies.

The thought of disposing of the items “tore through the heart” of DRS’ Tom Reid, senior manufacturing engineer, so he reached out to the Office of Development who then connected him with the College of Engineering.

Among the cache of office supplies, furniture and industrial equipment was a 5-by-8-foot optics bench. The optics bench went to the department of chemical engineering, where James Brenner and his students mounted two scanning tunneling and three atomic force microscopes. The bench provides a vibration-resistant and extremely level work area. Brenner said the optics bench has made the acquisition of research-quality images a reality, which has been a key component in rounding out the new nanotechnology program. Nanotechnology is the science and engineering of features at a very small scale—1 billionth of a meter—and is at the interface between biology, chemistry, physics, chemical engineering, materials science, electrical engineering and mechanical aerospace engineering. Another item FIT received was a triaxial environmental controlled shaker table and chamber. “The thermal, vibration test equipment that DRS donated to the College of Engineering will be most useful for some of the spacecraft-related research currently being carried out in the college,” said Fredric Ham, dean of the College of Engineering. “Gifts like this can make a significant difference in our faculty’s research.”

In addition to the equipment, one employee at DRS is generously donating his time to the university. Mike Scott is an instructor at DRS who has been with the company for 16 years. He recently kicked off a series of free presentations at FIT—one on the good and bad conditions of soldering and another on manufacturing standards. Scott said he feels it’s important to expose students to the industry environment they will soon be working in. “Students have no idea of the kinds of standards that rule their world,” he said. “And I really love teaching.”

“Our company has a culture of philanthropy,” said Reid. “It really spreads out among our employees.”

Lisa M. Omerato

Do you know an autistic child? Probably.

“I attended a political lunch about two years ago with roughly 100 people in attendance. The audience was asked if they had a family member, friend or knew someone who had an autistic child. Virtually everyone in the audience raised their hands,” said John Hopkins, grandparent of an autistic child and supporter of The Scott Center for Autism Treatment. The Scott Center, located on the Melbourne campus, is dedicated to providing the highest quality treatment, training and applied research to enhance the functioning and improve the quality of life of children with autism and related disabilities in Central Florida. Once the diagnosis of autism or related disability is given, hope is what the family searches for.

Hopkins understands this search. If you have ever spoken to him, after the latest golf hole-by-hole replay, he speaks about something else close to his heart—his granddaughter. The stories are peppered with the typical adventures of grandparenthood and the challenges facing families with autistic children. His granddaughter benefitted from The Scott Center facilities and staff, and Hopkins refers to the center as “world class.” Even though he is not an alumnus, he is one of the original committee members on An Evening of Hope, a fundraiser supporting The Scott Center.

“I encourage people to attend the Evening of Hope. Florida Tech has done an outstanding job developing a great facility,” he said.

The next Evening of Hope is April 21, 2012, at the home of Joe Flammio, trustee. The event features a cocktail reception, live auction and the chance to win a Rolex donated by Kempf’s Jewelers in Indialantic. Tickets are on sale now until the day of the event for $25 each and are available at Kempf’s Jewelers, The Scott Center and online at www.thescottcenter.org/raffle. The drawing will be April 28, 2012, at 1 p.m. at Kempf’s Jewelers. Sponsorships are also available.

For more information, call Colleen Middlebrooks at (321) 674-8106 x1 or email cmiddlebrooks@fit.edu.

Stephanie Bacon

Loved Ones Live On Through Memorial Funds

Daniel C. DeRosa, a doctoral student of the College of Psychology and Liberal Arts who passed away in September, reminded us that whether death is expected or unexpected, it creates a void. Many of us seek something to fill that void.

In the case of Dan’s family, a book of his poetry, titled Love Like Water, was shared and a memorial fund was created in his name. His words provide a sense of comfort to family and friends, reminding them of who he was and how he touched their lives. For so many people, the ability to donate to the fund has offered a way to keep his memory alive. Dan made an impact on everyone he met, and his work with the children at The Scott Center for Autism Treatment will never be forgotten. A memorial is a perpetual reminder and the Office of Development is here to work with families to create this special way of acknowledging the memory of a passed loved one, like Dan. Visit http://today.fit.edu to read Dan’s poem The Fish, The Worm, The Fisherman.
Alumni News

Gleason Name Your Seat Campaign. The goal of this campaign is to receive the degree for which you worked so hard. You gather here with your classmates and friends, before they walk across the stage at commencement. Of graduates in the Gleason Performing Arts Center have our share of traditions, but one in particular goes virtually unnoticed year after year—the gathering that illuminated the achievements of our outstanding alumni and showcased the tremendous successes of Florida Tech. The transformation of the Clemente Center into a Hollywood venue—from the red carpet to the magnificent Oscar statute—was truly fantastic. The addition of live music from TWITCHY after the awards program was enjoyed by all. The executive director and staff of the Office of Alumni Affairs are to be commended for their efforts in transforming the facility and for their enormous contribution to the success of the entire weekend. The staff was able to pull off a first-class event of the magnitude that has rarely been seen on campus.

Florida Tech is on the rise and our alumni are achieving great things. We can all be proud of our great university and our alumni association. Remember to visit our website www.fit.edu/alumni and become a fan of the FTAA President!

Happy 2012 to all our alumni around the world! The FTAA is continually working to engage and connect with our alumni. To this end, the FTAA board of directors unanimously voted to eliminate membership dues and make the FTAA a non-dues-paying association. Moving forward, the only requirement for alumni to become official members of the FTAA is to register at http://alumni.fit.edu/pantherconnect. I encourage every alumnus/alumna to take the short time to register and help us build a strong and vibrant alumni association. All we are asking is that you establish your desire to be kept informed by registering with the Alumni Office.

We thank all of the proud alumni who have shown their support with their paid memberships in the past, and of course, we encourage all alumni to consider becoming a lifetime supporter (Panther 4 Life) or to make annual contributions to the FTAA. Our progress with alumni and student-based programs depends on it. However, all benefits the association offers (www.alumni.fit.edu/alumni_benefits) are available to all alumni. We offer as many or more benefits as most large universities, so take advantage of what is currently available and stay tuned as more benefits are on the way.

Our alumni are vital to the continued growth of Florida Tech. We are now a tier one university and maintaining that position will require the continued hard work and commitment of Florida Tech’s administration, faculty, staff, students and our ever-growing alumni. We need your support and involvement. Register today and welcome to the Florida Tech (FIT) Alumni Association!

Homecoming 2011 was a stunning success with participation levels up at nearly all the events and activities. The FTAA organized and sponsored several activities including the Homecoming 5K, which saw 500 participants from students and alumni with Greg Reverdian ’94 the first alumnus to cross the finish line. An all-alumni happy hour was held at the Crowne Plaza Resort and featured a strong turnout from FIT crew alumni. A special reception, sponsored by the FTAA board of directors, to honor those alumni and faculty from the 1960s as well as the Jerome P. Keuper Distinguished Award winner, Dale Detmpter ’71, was held on the deck of The Chart House and was attended by President Catanese, senior staff and faculty, board members and trustees of the university.

The highlight of the weekend was the best ever attended Homecoming Awards Gala. More than 420 guests walked the red carpet and many were interviewed live on streaming TV. All were treated to a wonderful evening that illuminated the achievements of our outstanding alumni and showcased the tremendous successes of Florida Tech. The transformation of the Clemente Center into a Hollywood venue—from the red carpet to the magnificent Oscar statue—was truly fantastic. The addition of live music from TWITCHY after the awards program was enjoyed by all. The executive director and staff of the Office of Alumni Affairs are to be commended for their efforts in transforming the facility and for their enormous contribution to the success of the entire weekend. The staff was able to pull off a first-class event of the magnitude that has rarely been seen on campus.

Florida Tech is on the rise and our alumni are achieving great things. We can all be proud of our great university and our alumni association. Remember to visit our website www.fit.edu/alumni and become a fan of our Facebook page. And, of course, register and join your alumni association.

Gleason “Name Your Seat” Campaign Underway

Traditions on a college campus are as common as students in a classroom. Here at Florida Tech, we have our share of traditions, but one in particular goes virtually unnoticed year after year—the gathering of graduates in the Gleason Performing Arts Center before they walk across the stage at commencement. You gather here with your classmates and friends, sitting in the same seats that generations of alumni sat in before you, preparing to walk together—as a class—to receive the degree for which you worked so hard.

This year, the Alumni Association is launching the Gleason Name Your Seat Campaign. The goal of this fundraising effort is to replace the 500 existing seats in Gleason for $500 each. With your $500 gift, you will cover the cost of the new seat and a plaque will be placed on the back of one seat in the auditorium with the short inscription of your choice. A small portion of your contribution will also support the FIT Alumni Association. This is a great opportunity to leave your legacy in Gleason for future generations of Panthers, support your alumni association and keep Florida Tech traditions alive.

For more information on how you can Name Your Seat, visit www.alumni.fit.edu/gleasonseats.
Ft. Lauderdale

1) President Anthony J. Catanese with FIT alumni at the office of Headhunter, Inc. 2) Winston Caroncle '85 and Bino Campanini 3) Leida Alicea '85, Prospective Parent, Margaret Evelyn '88, Prospective Student 4) Director of Football Operations John Thomas, Head Football Coach Steve Englehart, Mark Kernay, President Anthony J. Catanese 5) Jeff Story '79 and Mark Mellinger '90 6) Stuart Adler '82 and Chris Pelletier '88 7) Matt Dumler and Scott Mulligan

UAE

Members of the UAE Alumni Chapter gather in Abu Dhabi for their annual meeting.

New York

A few members of the New York Tri-State Alumni Chapter at a recent get-together in NYC.

Seattle

1) Chris Kuntz '89, Bino Campanini '90, '92 M.B.A.; Alli Coffin '96; Prospective Student 2) Andrew Sweeney '09, Katherine Sachs '08 3) Lisa Schewer '08 and Jennifer Villalba '11

You can’t wear your diploma. Let your Official Ring work for you.

For more information, please visit us online or call 1-866-BALFOUR (866-225-3687).
Outstanding Alumni Award Winners

1) 2011 COS Outstanding Alumnus - Michael W. Sole ’86
2) 2011 COPLA Outstanding Alumna - Kathy Meehan ’92
3) 2011 COE Outstanding Alumnus - Amvrossios Bagtzoglou ’87
4) 2011 NMB COB Outstanding Alumnus - William G. Roy ’70
5) 2011 Skurla Award - David Allen Cruciger ’84

2011 Jerome P. Keuper Award winner
Dale Dettmer

26 guests attended the homecoming gala dinner

1) Member of the Florida Tech Football Founders Club Carol Craig with Bino Campanini
2) Surf Team arrives on red carpet
3) Dale and Pamela Dettmer with Steve and Carri Englehart

Chad and Michelle Schultz
Jerome P. Keuper Award/60s Reunion Reception at the Chart House

2) Mary Beth Kenkel, Deborah and Rob Phebus, Mary Banhomme, Arnie Becker
3) Joe Flamminio, Sue Kahn, Dick Baeye
4) Katie Prestwood, Deborah Phebus, Pamela and John Valente
5) Teresa and Travis Proctor

Terence Murdock receives his Pioneer Award from President Catanese

Homecoming 5K Run and Parade

1) Bino Campanini with Homecoming 5K alumni winner Greg Reverdiau ’04
2) Richard and Dianne Barnard and Terence Murdock (60s reunion)
3) Homecoming King and Queen
4) The Cataneses and Dettmers

Showing Our School Spirit!

The Florida Tech Alumni Association would like to thank our 2011 Homecoming Awards Gala Sponsors

Florida Institute of Technology ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Communications Concepts, Inc.
Alumni Profile

Jim Herdt

Sharon

enlisted member of the u.s. Navy. Commonly titles, that means Herdt was the highest-ranking of the Navy. For those unfamiliar with military appointed as the ninth Master Chief Petty Officer that open with a college education. In 1998, he was their future employment opportunities will be remarkable men and women, and with a diploma, warrior will leave the military armed with a college education, and if he gets his way, every enlisted Master of Sea and Service

Since leaving the military, Herdt has been involved in several consulting ventures, but one that is close to his heart is Pinnacle Five, which he started in 2007 along with four of his peers who held the highest-ranking enlisted positions in the U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Air Force and U.S. Coast Guard. This powerful team has devoted themselves to both educating the enlisted soldiers and helping employers understand how valuable veterans can be to their workforce.

While serving as the MCPON, Herdt led the charge to encourage more enlisted personnel to pursue their college degree by removing some of the red tape and making it easier to get credit for work experience. “Every military job should have a career path that includes a college degree,” he said. Herdt hopes Florida Tech will be a leader in this process, and with the university’s latest designation once again as a Military Friendly School—one of the top 20 percent of more than 8,000 schools as determined by G.I. Jobs—the forecast is clear skies and smooth sailing.

To learn more about Pinnacle Five, visit www.pinnaclefive.com.

Gretchen Sauerman

Master of Sea and Service

Jim Herdt ’92 M.B.A. knows the value of higher education, and if he gets his way, every enlisted warrior will leave the military armed with a college degree. “The military serving today is filled with remarkable men and women, and with a diploma, their future employment opportunities will be unlimited.”

Herdt has first-hand knowledge of the doors that open with a college education. In 1998, he was appointed as the ninth Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy. For those unfamiliar with military titles, that means Herdt was the highest-ranking enlisted member of the U.S. Navy. Commonly known as MCPON (pronounced MIK-PON), the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy addresses all issues of enlisted personnel and their families, and reports directly to the top leadership of both the Navy and the U.S. government.

“My job was to take the pulse of the fleet and know the issues affecting the sailors,” said Herdt. “I then worked to address those issues through effective policy changes.”

In his four years as MCPON, Herdt saw many challenges, including the intense pressure brought on by the tragedy of 9-11, but one mission endured: educating the enlisted force. Members of the non-commissioned military are a truly unique group, he said. “Veterans from today’s military possess all the attributes employers need: discipline, loyalty, innovation, teamwork, leadership and commitment. Add a college degree to that, and the possibilities are endless.”

Herdt enlisted in the Navy in 1966, at a time when few enlisted sailors sought a higher-ed degree. A quarter-century later, he received his M.B.A. with a specialization in Human Resources from Florida Tech’s Orlando campus. His accolades accumulated in the interim are too many to enumerate here, but some of the highlights include becoming “triple warfare qualified,” which means he is authorized to wear three different warfare breast insignias: the Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist, Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist and Enlisted Submarine Warfare Specialist. It’s not hard to see the positive impact education has had on Herdt’s success, and he wants all enlisted military members and their families to feel that same passion. “My tenure at FIT helped me so much. It was incredibly hard work, it took a lot of time, but it was certainly worth it.”

Since leaving the military, Herdt has been involved in several consulting ventures, but one that is close to his heart is Pinnacle Five, which he started in 2007 along with four of his peers who held the highest-ranking enlisted positions in the U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Air Force and U.S. Coast Guard. This powerful team has devoted themselves to both educating the enlisted soldiers and helping employers understand how valuable veterans can be to their workforce.

While serving as the MCPON, Herdt led the charge to encourage more enlisted personnel to pursue their college degree by removing some of the red tape and making it easier to get credit for work experience. “Every military job should have a career path that includes a college degree,” he said. Herdt hopes Florida Tech will be a leader in this process, and with the university’s latest designation once again as a Military Friendly School—one of the top 20 percent of more than 8,000 schools as determined by G.I. Jobs—the forecast is clear skies and smooth sailing.

To learn more about Pinnacle Five, visit www.pinnaclefive.com.

Gretchen Sauerman

Florida Tech TODAY | 21
Faulty processes, watch out. Bad systems, beware. With task analysis and usability expert Deborah Carstens on the lookout, you don’t stand a chance.

“I just don’t like inefficiencies,” says Carstens, chair of the project management track in the online M.B.A. and associate professor of information systems in the Nathan M. Bisk College of Business. “When I notice them, I want to fix them.”

Born and raised in Brevard County, Carstens began her career in 1993 at NASA Kennedy Space Center, where she worked as a project manager, engineer and researcher tasked with improving systems related to safety, ergonomics and human factors. She also studied. While at NASA, Carstens completed a Ph.D. in industrial engineering from Florida Tech. By 2000, she earned an M.B.A. from Florida Tech. and associate professor of information systems in the Nathan M. Bisk College of Business.

“My mentor at NASA always called me a ‘closet engineer’ because my background was in business but my work always revolved around processes,” says Carstens. “That led me to industrial engineering, or ‘business engineering,’ which is the common thread in all of my research.”

Carstens’ research is extensive. In 2008, supported by funds from the Florida Department of Education, she established the Activity Based Total Accountability (ABTA) Institute, which develops reports identifying the true costs of government services throughout the U.S.

“It’s very difficult to measure one state agency’s spending against another state’s because nothing is comparable. It’s like apples to oranges,” explains Carstens. “ABTA is based on this idea that you can break down spending into ‘cost per measure,’ or the per-unit cost of specific items.”

Analyzing agency budgets in this way makes it possible to compare spending across state lines. “You’re no longer looking at the budget of the Florida Department of Corrections versus the Alabama Department of Corrections,” says Carstens. “You’re comparing the cost of one inmate meal in Florida to the cost of an inmate meal in Alabama. Apples to apples.”

Carstens received federal funding from the Small Business Administration to expand the ABTA Institute in 2011. She is currently involving students in a study aimed at helping state governments optimize the “transparency” websites that governments and agencies are using to publicly disclose financial information.

“One, we assessed the sites that are out there and conducted usability tests on them to determine if they met certain needs,” she says. Now, Carstens and her student researchers are developing standardization criteria that organizations and Web developers can use to enhance and build these sites.

Always on the hunt for inefficiency and ways to combat it, Carstens is also conducting research on the usability of privacy settings dashboards on social media platforms like Facebook and Google+. The effectiveness of podcasts as educational media, and error analysis across various industries.

“When you publish, people hear about it, it becomes part of the body of knowledge that drives change. That helps organizations and it helps people,” she says. Her enthusiasm for affecting positive change through scholarship is matched only by Carstens’ passion for teaching. She makes it a matter of policy, she says, to engage students in worthwhile hands-on projects that prepare them for the future.

“In my human-computer interaction class, I have my students do usability tests and submit papers for publication in a local, peer-reviewed conference. Their name goes on it, not mine, and they get that research and professional experience,” she says.

Carstens also teaches project management. In that class, her students are responsible for planning a project or event from start to finish. “Their project plan has to outline all the processes—including all the sub-sub-sub-sub-processes—and the costs,” she says. “In a way, I ask them to think of everything through the eyes of a project manager.”

A tall order, perhaps, but not without good reason. “We’re training students to go out there in the real world,” says Carstens. “So I like to give them real-world expectations. It’s that whole efficiency thing, you know?”

---

Dean Spotlight: Getting to know Florida Tech’s three new deans

S. Annie Becker, Dean, Nathan M. Bisk College of Business

Years at Florida Tech: 11 (nonconsecutive) years
Research interests: Entrepreneurship and managing innovation, women-owned small businesses in the procurement market, Web and database technologies

Hubbio: Most recently, blogging for the Nathan M. Bisk College of Business

What has been the most fulfilling and most difficult part of your new role?

A fulfilling part is working with administration, faculty, students, alumni and community members in building upon the strengths of the COB to achieve its goals. A challenging part is staying abreast of technologies that promote student learning in the global marketplace.

Fredric Ham, Dean, College of Engineering

Years at Florida Tech: 23 years
Research interests: Neural Networks, acoustics, tactical insonification, and biosensors (especially for non-invasive glucose monitoring)

Hubbio: I am a novelist, published my first novel, DEAD RIVER, and working on my second one, THE FACULTY CLUB. I play guitar in TWITCHY and record music at home.

What are your goals for the College of Engineering?

To be one of the top engineering colleges in the United States.

Hamid Rassoul, Dean, College of Science

Years at Florida Tech: 25 years
Research interests: I am a veteran space scientist interested in transient astrophysical changes. In a sense, I am a "storm chaser."

Hubbio: Poetry, music and studying the history of science!

What are your goals for the College of Science?

To advance the well-being of the people of Florida Tech and the global community through the creation and dissemination of knowledge. We share the vision of the university to be one of the nation’s best private research universities and one of the great universities of the world. Our mission is to be both a world leader in research-intensive basic and applied sciences and mathematics, and a student-centered, community-engaged college.

Read more about Deans Becker, Ham and Rassoul at http://today.fit.edu

---

Accreditation Achieved

The Nathan M. Bisk College of Business was the first online graduate program, Master of Business Administration with a Specialization in Project Management (MBA/PM), received accreditation by the Project Management Institute Global Accreditation Center for Project Management Education Programs (GAC).

With GAC accreditation comes prestige and confidence that governments and agencies are using to publicly disclose financial information. The effectiveness of podcasts as educational media, and error analysis across various industries.

“When you publish, people hear about it, it becomes part of the body of knowledge that drives change.”

Deborah Carstens

"What are your goals for the College of Engineering?"

Fredric Ham, Dean, College of Engineering

Years at Florida Tech: 23 years
Research interests: Neural Networks, acoustics, tactical insonification, and biosensors (especially for non-invasive glucose monitoring)

Hubbio: I am a novelist, published my first novel, DEAD RIVER, and working on my second one, THE FACULTY CLUB. I play guitar in TWITCHY and record music at home.

What are your goals for the College of Engineering?

To be one of the top engineering colleges in the United States.

Hamid Rassoul, Dean, College of Science

Years at Florida Tech: 25 years
Research interests: I am a veteran space scientist interested in transient astrophysical changes. In a sense, I am a "storm chaser."

Hubbio: Poetry, music and studying the history of science!

What are your goals for the College of Science?

To advance the well-being of the people of Florida Tech and the global community through the creation and dissemination of knowledge. We share the vision of the university to be one of the nation’s best private research universities and one of the great universities of the world. Our mission is to be both a world leader in research-intensive basic and applied sciences and mathematics, and a student-centered, community-engaged college.

Read more about Deans Becker, Ham and Rassoul at http://today.fit.edu

---
This may seem like an improbable scenario for most of us to comprehend. However, it is a reality for many people around the world, including those in the large city of Kolkata (Calcutta), India. I never thought my IT job with IBM would give me the opportunity to perform service work around the globe. However, in September 2010, I had the opportunity through IBM’s Corporate Service Corps to travel to Kolkata and work with a small, but dedicated NGO (Non-Governmental Organization or Non-Profit) to help these mentally ill homeless. It was an amazing opportunity and one I will never forget.

The IBM Corporate Service Corps (CSC) is a highly competitive leadership development program that sends IBM employees to cities and countries around the world in a private-sector version of the Peace Corps. To date over 1,000 IBM employees from more than 50 countries have participated in this philanthropic initiative, which enables them to share their business expertise with not-for-profit organizations, entrepreneurs, small business owners and governmental agencies in markets globally.

CSC was launched in 2008 as a means to develop IBM leaders who have the skills needed for a globally integrated enterprise, while also serving the communities in which IBM employees live and work. Participants are among IBM’s top performers who spend three months preparing for their four-week assignments. In 2010, I was proud to be one of 500 participants selected out of 5,000 applicants worldwide. Being assigned to a 10-person team, we were the eighth team to India and the first to Kolkata.

My team consisted of IBMers from seven different countries including the United States, Argentina, Australia, Canada, France, Germany and the Netherlands. Prior to being assigned to the team, none of our paths had crossed before, but by the end of our month-long assignment in India, we were great friends.

Based on our résumés, which we provided during the application process, we were divided into two-person teams and assigned to different NGOs. My teammate was Minke from the Netherlands. She was a change manager at IBM. With my position as an IT specialist focused on UNIX/AIX and Storage, we balanced each other well between the technical and non-technical requirements.

We were assigned to an NGO called Iswar Sankalpa (www.isankalpa.org) whose mission is to help the mentally ill homeless on the streets of Kolkata. With the overpopulation of Kolkata and the large number of homeless, this is no easy task, but the small and dedicated team we worked with was relentless in their pursuits. Iswar Sankalpa works very hard to help the mental state of these people. It offers the women a place to spend the night or many nights, if they are willing, while the team tries to locate their families so they may go home. The men can go to a day shelter located next to a local police station. Iswar Sankalpa doesn’t force anyone to do anything they don’t want to do. They spend weeks and months visiting the patients and offer them choices of going to the shelter, or letting the doctor examine them, even where they live on the streets. In the shelter, they participate in fun group therapy sessions as well as make greeting cards and paper bags among other things; anything to stay busy and help jog their memory to locate their family and find their way home.

After only the second day of being in India, Minke and I found ourselves walking along the slums of the Sealdah Railway Station with a volunteer doctor and two minimally paid social workers. We visited and treated homeless people who were identified to have schizophrenia, provided them food, and tried to coax them to go to the shelter. For some, being taken to a shelter is akin to losing their freedom, and they would prefer to stay where they feel most comfortable.

Imagine, if you could, waking up one day and not knowing where you were, or more importantly, who you were? Maybe you remember your name, but have no idea where you came from or how you got to the place you were found? After being in this state for a period of time, you may feel a loss of dignity, self and even part of the larger society that keeps moving all around you. Without any identification, it is hard to get help and in a sense you are no longer regarded as a citizen in your own country.

This is the reality for the men and women that Iswar Sankalpa treats. Most of these patients were lost for years, and some had no contact with their families. These patients don’t have a home, and in a sense you are no longer regarded as a citizen in your own country.

Dr. Mukherjee tending to a patient near the Sealdah Railway Station

For more details on my journey, visit my blog at http://jgontkof-csc.blogspot.com or contact me at jgontkof@gmail.com.

For more details on IBM’s Corporate Service Corps program, visit www.ibm.com/ibm/responsibility/corporateservicecorps

Our requirements for Iswar Sankalpa were two-fold: to create an online database system through which the social workers could track a patient’s progress over time, and to create a five-year strategic plan for the organization. Within the four short weeks, Minke and I were able to accomplish both tasks, and I continue to provide any technical support I can for this worthwhile cause. To date, Iswar Sankalpa has found families and repatriated over 60 people from the streets of Kolkata.

Being immersed in such a different culture and working with IBMers from all over the world made this a once-in-a-lifetime global experience.

For more details on my journey, visit my blog at http://jgontkof-csc.blogspot.com or contact me at jgontkof@gmail.com.

For more details on IBM’s Corporate Service Corps program, visit www.ibm.com/ibm/responsibility/corporateservicecorps
This fall, Florida Tech welcomed Matt Kilcullen to the Panther family as assistant vice president for athletic fundraising. Kilcullen leads the university’s new Office of Athletic Fundraising. He has 33 years of experience in fundraising and building winning athletic programs. Most recently, he was assistant athletic director at the University of North Florida (UNF) in Jacksonville where he was responsible for restructuring the Osprey Club, the support arm of the university’s athletic department, increasing its memberships and donations. Kilcullen also served as UNF’s head men’s basketball coach from 1999 to 2009, where he recorded the most wins by a men’s basketball coach in the school’s history.

Florida Tech TODAY caught up with Kilcullen to talk about the initiatives and activities of the Office of Athletic Fundraising.

For more information about Florida Tech Athletics and upcoming games, visit www.floridatechsports.com.

For more information about athletic fundraising initiatives, Sporting Affair or the Panther Club, contact Matt Kilcullen at (321) 674-8427 or mkilcullen@fit.edu.

Q: What is the role of the Office of Athletic Fundraising?
A: Our job is to make sure we provide the necessary resources for all our coaches and student-athletes to be successful on and off the playing field. With football coming in the fall of 2013 and 21 sports overall, it’s necessary that we retain and grow the athletic partnerships that are vital to that success. It’s our job to be out in the community and tell people our story, which is a terrific one.

Q: The Panther Club is the booster program of Florida Tech?
A: We want to encourage Panther Club membership among people in the community, but also among alumni. We’re working with each team to get their alumni athletes reconnected with their specific sport. We’ve developed brochures specific to each sport and we’re speaking with alumni as much as possible. Our plan is to have an alumni event for each specific sport, so we can personally meet the past alumni and get them connected with the current coaching staff and team members. Nobody understands a program’s needs better than those individuals who played on the team and remember what they had and didn’t have as a student-athlete.

Also, social media is so important. We’re hoping to have every team form a Facebook page, so we can keep fans abreast of all the activities going on during the season. We also want to expand the Panther Club into an email distribution list to keep fans informed about activities, events and hospitality rooms at home sporting events, specifically men’s and women’s basketball.

Q: One of Florida Tech’s largest and most-anticipated annual events is Sporting Affair to benefit athletic scholarships. What can we expect from Sporting Affair XX?
A: Sporting Affair is scheduled for March 16, 2012. We’re returning to Suntree Country Club again this year. Preparing for the event is a constant day-in, day-out process to make sure we raise the level of support on an annual basis. Chopper Dropper ticket sales began Nov. 1. We’ve increased the number of tickets this year by 500 so now we have 2,500 tickets to sell instead of 2,000. The bottom line is the money we’re raising is going toward our student-athletes.

Visit www.chopperdropper.com to buy a ticket.

Q: Besides supporting Sporting Affair, Chopper Dropper or the Panther Club, are there other ways for alumni to get involved?
A: Come to the games! Be there in person. Supporting the team, especially if you live in the area, is outstanding. We love to have packed crowds at our events. We really appreciate the financial resources, but coming to the games, making it a family affair, is no less important. Plus it is a great way to network with fellow business community members in Brevard County.

Q: What is the role of the Panther Club in the school’s history?
A: Our job is to make sure we provide the necessary resources for all our coaches and student-athletes to be successful on and off the playing field. With football coming in the fall of 2013 and 21 sports overall, it’s necessary that we retain and grow the athletic partnerships that are vital to that success. It’s our job to be out in the community and tell people our story, which is a terrific one.

Q: With Matt Kilcullen, Assistant Vice President for Athletic Fundraising

This fall, Florida Tech welcomed Matt Kilcullen to the Panther family as assistant vice president for athletic fundraising. Kilcullen leads the university’s new Office of Athletic Fundraising. He has 33 years of experience in fundraising and building winning athletic programs. Most recently, he was assistant athletic director at the University of North Florida (UNF) in Jacksonville where he was responsible for restructuring the Osprey Club, the support arm of the university’s athletic department, increasing its memberships and donations. Kilcullen also served as UNF’s head men’s basketball coach from 1999 to 2009, where he recorded the most wins by a men’s basketball coach in the school’s history.

For more information about athletic fundraising initiatives, Sporting Affair or Panther Club, contact Matt Kilcullen at (321) 674-8427 or mkilcullen@fit.edu.
Interactive technology requires users to take more responsibility for their own technological know-how than many other products. For example, “you don’t need to know how a car works to drive it safely or to drive it well,” explains Ford. On the other hand, having a technical grasp of the functions of your smart phone can contribute to its safe and effective operation—helping you understand the implications of the choices you make, says Ford.

Here are some things to consider:

**Downloading apps**
The Apple app store is a closed marketplace, meaning Apple controls and approves the content available for download. Conversely, Google’s Android system has an open marketplace, so any developer can write and offer anything they want via the market. While this encourages creativity, the crux of the open market is the absence of regulation and oversight. “I am leery of what I download from the open market,” laments Ford.

So how can you minimize your risk of downloading, say, a trojanized version of Angry Birds?

**Automatic log-ins**
How many and which accounts are programmed to automatically log in on your smart phone? Your personal email, your corporate email, your social media accounts, bank or credit card accounts, or Amazon one-click shopping?

“If you think about it, your cell phone is you,” says Ford. “It connects to all your real-world contacts. It connects to all your electronic contacts. It probably is preprogrammed to access your corporate mail without entering a password, which means it’s caching your credentials for your corporate accounts. And, it’s much more likely to be left in a bar than your desktop!”

So, should you manually log in to every service you access from your phone? It depends on what you’re comfortable with.

“We always trade convenience for security,” explains Ford.

You may consider forgoing automatic log in to financial services, but accepting the risk for instant access to social media and email accounts.

**Activity over a Wi-Fi connection**
It is very easy for a hacker to infiltrate a Wi-Fi connection, says Ford. And, while we tend to think of a phone connected via 3G or GSM as being more resistant to eavesdropping, that’s not necessarily the case. It’s just a little bit more effort for a hacker, he says.

With this in mind, be cognizant of what kind of activity you conduct over a non-encrypted connection. Online banking is potentially risky; a social media checkin, less so.

**Real-time updates and geo-tagging on social media**
“Cell phones change everything because they are with us all the time,” says Ford. “And we post much more freely from them.”

By posting your real-time movements or geo-tagging photos for upload to Facebook, Google+ or other networks, you are potentially giving away more information about yourself than you intend, or realize. For example, instantly uploading vacation photos also advertises that you are out of town. And, depending on your privacy settings, you may be sharing this information with more people than you planned.

It’s important to be mindful of what you’re sharing, and consider the repercussions. Rather than instantly uploading vacation photos, perhaps post them after you’ve returned from your trip.

“I think we’re right at the tipping point,” says Ford. “There’s a lot of potential for malware, but we haven’t really seen it yet.”

The cyber world isn’t necessarily a scary place, but it’s important to think about the choices you make, consider the information you share and be mindful of the media you use.

Christena Callahan
Whether it’s a need for speed or the smell of the grease pit, car projects are popular with many Florida Tech engineering students.

Students, Start Your Engines!
When dual mechanical and ocean engineering major Mark Nanney began his studies at Florida Tech in fall 2010, he had already aced the equivalent of a culminating project. He not only completed it, but achieved stunning results.

At Southeast High School in Bradenton, Fla., Nanney was design and manufacturing engineer on the Formula 1 (F1) Unitus Racing team. The team’s little car, in competition with identical, miniature, CO2-powered balsa wood F1 race cars, won the Formula 1 in Schools world title in Singapore in 2010. Still onboard, Nanney helped take the team to third place in fall 2011 in Malaysia—the first team in the history of F1 in Schools to gain two podium finishes.

Nanney remains enthralled with cars and motors, but has not yet selected a project to culminate his Florida Tech engineering studies. “Working on Unitus was a great experience. Seeing how everything worked together was an inspiration and leadership.” But, I will continue to build on my F1 experience when I think the F1 will be his culminating project when he’s ready for a project that’s completely different.

In 2008, a hybrid with a formula body type was a project, and in 2007, a team focused its efforts on an electric car. Mini-Baja off-road car projects are favorites most years.

This year, students in the Florida Tech motorsports program are building a Florida Society of Automotive Engineers (FSAE) F1 and a Baja, which, of course, is bigger than a Mini-Baja, but in the same idea—a car that can climb in ravines and over boulders. Another project team is working on how to bring a flying car closer to reality, while the 5th Wheel Aerodynamics team is researching the efficiency of various trailer designs using a wind tunnel.

These teams are among those laboring to produce a product that will show well at the annual April Northrop Grumman (NG) Engineering and Science Student Design Showcase on campus. Judges will also evaluate their written papers and posters. All their work will count when they vie for design showcase awards and when prospective employers stop by to take a look.

Carlos Vargas is captain of the FSAE F1 team, heading up other aspiring engineers who will compete in 2012 against about 100 other F1 teams in Lincoln, Neb., and Brooklyn, Mich. They’ll work to “wow” with their design and in racing—auto-cross, endurance, acceleration and skid pad.

“Our car is based on a single piston 450cc engine from a Can-Am ATV and uses a steel tube frame. We hope to have it completely finished in January 2012,” said Vargas. The car will be painted,” he added, “in our signature, bright, lucky green!”

The Baja team, led by senior Emile Torbey, won approval for their final design and will spend January to April building the Baja.

Jorge Mario Abarca, a senior and mechanical engineering major from Costa Rica, will be in charge of steering and braking on the six-member Baja team. “I’ve always really liked cars, and I prefer the idea of an off-road vehicle rather than something like the F1 that runs on a track,” said Abarca.

Where Would We Be Without Mentors?

Students in the motorsports program get a huge boost from alumni and friends who enjoy lending a helping hand.

Chairman/CEO of Starport Aviation, Nelson Cambata ’78, for example, recently made a multiyear pledge to support the program. “Motorsports incorporates the challenges inherent to the racing world,” he said. “The camaraderie they experience can translate into great life experiences for the students.”

A sponsor of the #10 SunTrust racing Corvette, which won second place in the 2011 Grand-Am Rolex Sports Car Series, Cambata plans to bring together project team members with SunTrust racers for inspiration and leadership.

Alumni Clarke Fowler ’80, a senior mechanical engineer and J.D. Van Gilder ’02, a mechanical engineer in the same product design department at Harris Corp., have also lent time and experience to team members over the years.

“Being a mentor head myself, it’s a lot of fun for me to help with the car projects,” said Fowler.

Rivian Automotive also has a history of its professionals offering help and a critical eye to Florida Tech engineering students. Two of its engineers, Christopher Auerbach and Benjamin Kolodner, have spent time with F1 team engineers, critiquing designs and giving advice to Vargas on team leadership.

Ready to be a mentor himself, Nanney doesn’t think the F1 will be his culminating project when the time comes because of the past six years he’s spent working on Unitus. Now that he’s designed and built one he’s ready for a project that’s completely different.

“Just, I will continue to build on my F1 expertise and I’ve been in contact with an F1 team in England about internship opportunities. I hope that my Formula 1 in Schools experience will give me a foot in the door.”

Karen Rhine
Stephanie B. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
Joseph B. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
M. Gary Tabachnik, Ph.D.
John Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
James A. Tabachnik, Ph.D.
Alumni Donors by Years

Class of 1962
James L. Fay

Class of 1963
Paul D. Gordon
John G. Kramptom

Class of 1964
William H. Dickson

Class of 1965
Kari M. Mihalyik

Class of 1970
Eugene C. Branson

Class of 1971
Robert E. Brown

Class of 1972
John E. Sheehan

Class of 1973
William D. LeBlanc

Class of 1974
Glenn M. Hunter

Class of 1975
Richard D. Grimes

Class of 1976
Karen W. Larr

Class of 1977
James R. Way

Class of 1978
William L. Burns

Class of 1979
Kenneth M. Nicholson

Class of 1980
Susan D. McKay

Class of 1981
Carla J. Martin

Class of 1982
Robert E. Martin

Class of 1983
John P. Macelloni

Class of 1984
Samuel M. Chiles

Class of 1985
Thomas C. Lewis

Class of 1986
Lisa K. Dobes

Class of 1987
John B. Jordan

Class of 1988
Nicholas J. Raybould

Class of 1989
Frank E. Brown

Class of 1990
Richard D. Grimes

Class of 1991
Michael G. Barron

Class of 1992
Robert E. Brown

Class of 1993
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 1994
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 1995
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 1996
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 1997
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 1998
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 1999
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2000
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2001
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2002
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2003
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2004
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2005
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2006
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2007
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2008
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2009
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2010
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2011
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2012
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2013
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2014
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2015
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2016
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2017
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2018
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2019
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2020
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2021
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2022
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2023
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2024
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2025
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2026
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2027
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2028
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2029
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2030
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2031
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2032
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2033
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2034
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2035
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2036
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2037
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2038
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2039
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2040
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2041
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2042
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2043
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2044
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2045
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2046
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2047
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2048
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2049
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2050
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2051
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2052
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2053
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2054
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2055
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2056
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2057
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2058
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2059
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2060
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2061
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2062
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2063
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2064
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2065
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2066
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2067
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2068
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2069
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2070
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2071
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2072
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2073
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2074
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2075
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2076
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2077
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2078
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2079
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2080
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2081
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2082
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2083
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2084
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2085
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2086
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2087
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2088
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2089
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2090
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2091
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2092
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2093
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2094
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2095
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2096
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2097
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2098
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2099
David M. Goldfinger

Class of 2010
David M. Goldfinger
**Announcing**

Gleason Campaign to refurbish Gleason with new seating

**NAME A SEAT**

www.alumni.fit.edu/gleasonseats

“I invite all alumni to purchase a seat and join me in leaving our legacy in Gleason for future generations of Panthers, supporting our Alumni Association, and keeping Florida Tech traditions alive.”

Rino Campasani ’90, ’92 M.B.A.

See story on page 12
Kirui Reaches for the Sky with his Feet on the Ground

Kenyan cross country star is making his presence felt while achieving his academic dream at FIT

“Kwenda mbio siyo kufika” is an old Swahili proverb that literally translates to “To run is not necessarily to arrive.” Swahili is the language spoken by Florida Tech’s Moses Kirui. Hailing from Eldoret, Kenya, “to run” has been his only option to reach his goals.

Through his hard work and perseverance, he has “arrived” at Florida Tech.

Kirui’s path toward becoming a Panther has been anything but straightforward. After graduating from Meteitei Secondary School in Kenya, Kirui’s wish was to study abroad. Thanks to his running ability, he earned a scholarship to study at New Mexico Highlands where he instantly made a name for himself by twice being named to the cross country trail, his main focus has never strayed away from his studies. His passion for running is like a tradition. It’s like football here. A lot of my achievements have been because of my running ability, but my dream has always been to create something that can fly through the air with the same ease that I run. My real goal in life is to become an aerospace engineer.”

“I always wanted to study abroad,” Kirui said. “So I ran to achieve my goal. I ran hard, fought for it and sometimes struggled to achieve it until it finally came true.”

Once on campus, the soft-spoken aerospace engineering major became a force to be reckoned with on the cross country scene. He breezed through the Sunshine State Conference Championship, winning the 8K race a full eight seconds faster than his closest rival at 25:46.60. He followed that up with a spectacular victory at the NCAA Division II South Region Championship where he turned in a time of 32:00 in the 10K event. His time was 11 seconds faster than his closest rival at the runner up.

In total, he amassed five top-10 finishes in eight events in fall 2011. He was named SSC Male Runner of the Year and United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association South Region Male Athlete of the Year. He capped the season by becoming the first FIT male runner in recent memory to participate in the NCAA Division II National Championship race.

Though his immense talent has been on display on the cross country trail, his main focus has never strayed away from his studies. His passion for running is clear, but his goals in life are away from the sport and in the sky.

“Running has always been a part of my life,” he said. “In Kenya, running is like a tradition. It’s like football here. A lot of my achievements have been because of my running ability, but my dream has always been to create something that can fly through the air with the same ease that I run. My real goal in life is to become an aerospace engineer.”

FIT head cross country coach Pete Mazzone, who is a father figure to Kirui, echoes this sentiment and only foresees good things coming his way.

“He is the epitome of what a student-athlete really means,” he said. “He’s got an incredible work ethic and determination. He prides himself in his studies and athletic accomplishments. He knows the importance of an education and has seized the opportunity that life has given him. He’s going to be a special person.”

With only one year of eligibility left, Kirui is nearing the finish line of his Panther athletic career. In the end, his biggest triumph might not come in a race, but in something more important...life.

Hector Severeyn, Graduate Assistant

To kick off the basketball season, Florida Tech hosted a Tip-Off Luncheon featuring Orlando Magic head coach Stan Van Gundy.

Ann-Marie Helgestad reacts after scoring the game-winning goal in women’s soccer’s 1-0 win over Nova Southeasterns in the Sunshine State Conference Championship quarterfinals.

Simon Cummings drives to the basket in men’s basketball’s exhibition opener at Division I Mississippi State on Oct. 29.

President Anthony J. Catanese welcomes the board of trustees and the campus community to the dedication of the Panther Aquatic Center.
Virginia (Ginny) Ann Baldwin ’69 retired this year after a 20-year career as a space, technology and engineering librarian, 13 years as an engineer specialist at Vandenberg Air Force Base, and three years as a scientific programmer at Patrick Air Force Base. Ginny completed her Bachelor of Science at University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill in 1965, her Master of Science in mathematics at the University of Minnesota in 1969 and her Master of Library Science at Indiana University in 1990. She is the editor of three books on science librarianship and numerous publications. In her retirement activities include gardening, reading, and traveling Arabian Horses.

1970s

Mike Clancy ’73 retired in August 2011 after more than 32 years of federal service and six years as technical and scientific director of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command (FNMOC) in Monterey, Calif. Rear Admiral Jon White ’81, the commander of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, presented Mike with the Navy’s Distinguished Civilian Service Award.

From left: Jon White, Captain Jon Pettigrew (Commanding Officer FNMOC) and Mike Clancy holding the Navy’s Distinguished Civilian Service Award.

Barbara Larson ’75 is an energy efficiency engineer working at the EPA to promote energy efficiency and pollution prevention. Her oldest son is pursuing a Ph.D. in physics at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, and her youngest son is working toward his degree in computer science.

Stephan Wagner ’76, A.S., marine technology, SOMET, retired after working at NOAA for 34 years. Beginning in 1977 as an ordinary seaman, Steve worked on numerous NOAA ships in most deck and officer positions. His last two positions were master of the NOAA ships FV ’77, a 144-foot research vessel, and FV Sable, a 216-foot Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) vessel. Steve has just completed his career, southward heading toward his degree in computer science.

International Advisor

In the case of Douglas J. Gurbani ’84, ocean engineering, it has taken him from FIT to Washington, D.C., to Broomerton, Pa., to Woods Hole, Mass. And from Woods Hole, Mass., to Woods Hole, Mass. Dr. Gurbani holds a Ph.D. in physical oceanography from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI). His research interests are in the coastal ocean and marine environment.

Douglas Gurbani, right, with Colonel Samar Gud, Real Property Division Head, at the Facilities Department.

In Memoriam

John J. Thomas, Ph.D., passed away Dec. 6 after a long illness. Thomas was an active member of the Florida Tech community for more than 40 years—first as head of the chemistry division and associate director of the Medieval Research Institute, and later as the director of the Florida Tech Biosimilarity and Technology Lab, an active member of the Florida Tech National Center for Hydrogen Research and a researcher responsible for the development of biological and chemical engineering. He will be remembered for his kindliness, his passion for alternative fuel research and his many contributions to Florida Tech and the broader community. Memorial gifts may be sent to: Florida Tech, 1550 S. Hibiscus Street, Melbourne, FL 32901. Read more about Thomas’ many accomplishments at http://today.fit.edu.

Joan Bixley ’75 M.S. passed away Dec. 23 from complications due to pneumonia. A resident of Melbourne since 1977, Joan was hired as University’s first development director of what is now alumni affairs. She led a fund drive that doubled its goal then took a leadership role in developing the technology programs at the university and helped the school to become a technology leader. Joan was a member of the alumni association’s board of directors and a contributing writer for Florida Tech Today. The Joan Bixley Award, named for her, is presented annually by Alumni Affairs to honor members of the Florida Tech community who make a difference. She volunteered with numerous organizations including Space Coast Therapy Dogs, Operation Hope, Space Coast Jazz Society and Trinity Presbyterian Church.

2000s

Kevin Thomson ’00, wife Sheree and big sister Emily Rose welcomed Ellie Brooke on Feb. 18, 2011. The family lives in Satellite Beach, Fla.

Iron Men

In November, Greg Reverdiana ’04, Chad Ciretti ’01, and Jeff Rhodes ’01 competed in the Manila Half Iron triathlon. The event consisted of a 1.2-mile swim, 56-mile bike ride and a 13.1-mile run and drew about 700 participants.

Greg finished in 5 hours, 5 minutes (elapsed), 6th in age group and 35th overall; Chad finished in 5 hours, 27 minutes (131st overall and 4th in age group); and Jeff finished in 7 hours, 20 minutes (458th, 11th in age group). Jeff breaker his master’s in aviation human factors. Chad is a current M.B.A. student.

Jimi Hendrix, Greg Reverdiana and Chad Ciretti.

Laura (Gata de Gons) ’00, environmental science, and husband Chad welcomed their son Levi Charles de Gons on Sept. 13, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. He was 8 lbs., 1 oz., 21 inches. They currently reside in Fallbrook, Calif.
Q: How was Homecoming 2011? It was a great success all around. From the alumni perspective, we were very pleased with the attendance at our events and how well everything was received. The highlight was our awards gala, Hollywood Nights, which attracted more than 420 guests to the Clemente Center—more than we anticipated and just phenomenal. The red carpet and support of their alma mater. The inaugural award winner was Dale Dettmer '71 M.S.

Q: The FTAA board has decided to eliminate membership dues. What was the reason for this decision? As President Catanese and I travel the country, meeting alumni at receptions and events, it became clear to us our alumni are not committed to a dues-paying alumni association. There is a real sense of support for the university and the work of the association among our alumni, but they just don’t feel they should have to pay to be part of the alumni association. President Catanese shared this feedback with the FTAA board at the fall board meeting. Impressively, the FTAA board took immediate action voting to eliminate dues and make registering the only requirement for membership.

Q: That is a big change. Only recently you were talking about how important membership is for the FTAA. Have you changed your opinion? We will do this in multiple ways. We will continue to offer a lifetime supporting membership, Panther 4 Life, for those who want to financially support the association in that way. We will also do a better job letting our alumni know they can support their alumni association through designated gifts. And finally we plan to have targeted fundraisers to benefit the university as well as the FTAA.

Q: How do you plan to do this? We will do this in multiple ways. We will continue to offer a lifetime supporting membership, Panther 4 Life, for those who want to financially support the association in that way. We will also do a better job letting our alumni know they can support their alumni association through designated gifts. And finally we plan to have targeted fundraisers to benefit the university as well as the FTAA.

Do you give a brick? Visit http://alumni.fit.edu/brickterrace
Homecoming in History
The first homecoming parade was held Feb. 18, 1984. Theta Xi won first place for their float.