Dear Florida Tech Alumni and Friends,

It’s spring on the Florida Tech campus and the new semester is in full swing. We hope we’ve captured some of the excitement of these times in Florida Tech TODAY as well as provided a look at past accomplishments and new plans and priorities.

First, in January, we went to the next level in the 50th Anniversary Campaign for Florida Tech with an exceptionally generous gift from the Harris Corp. Charitable Fund. The gift means a new institute for the College of Engineering and a new building for that college and the College of Science.

Also in this issue, we look at what a busy anniversary year this is for still more campus construction. New residence halls will be completed, a new aviation center takes shape and other new structures, including an autism research and treatment center, begin to become realities.

What have our students and faculty recently accomplished? You’ll read in these pages that our Panther cadets are #1 in the region, that the biggest research telescope in Florida was installed and how a faculty member is a discoverer of a new planet. Also, let’s mention that a $1.35 million grant established a Women’s Business Center on campus.

For a look back at the pages of time, read about Andy Revay, former vice president for academic affairs. He can take you through 40 years of Florida Tech’s struggles and successes.

I’ve given you some clues, but you’re probably still wondering where we stand with the campaign. You can find out on pages 10–12. Another story about a donor’s generosity is an example of why our campaign is succeeding so well. So many donors make scholarships possible, enabling promising students like Tanja Cebic, Ashley Bacon and Britney Pennington, featured here, to attend Florida Tech.

Ready just in time for the anniversary year is the “coffee table” book by Jay Wilson, No Small Dreams: Florida Institute of Technology, 1958–2008. Look inside to find out how to order your copy and get the scoop on how we got from there … to here.

Finally, this issue offers a chance to give tribute to thousands of our contributing supporters. Where would we be today without them? For five decades, our donors have helped to write the most remarkable story in American higher education.

Sincerely yours,

Anthony J. Catanese, Ph.D., FAICP

High Tech with a Human Touch
IN THIS ISSUE

cover story

32 50th Anniversary to See Historic Building Boom
Florida Institute of Technology will spend much of its 50th anniversary celebrating to the sounds of saws and hammers as the campus undergoes nearly $75 million worth of new construction.

features

24 Inspiration, Recognition and Reward
Scholarships inspire, encourage, recognize and reward promising Florida Tech students.

28 Determination Marks Kelp-Saving Alumna
Nancy (Lightowler) Caruso ’94, a marine biologist for the Aquarium of the Pacific, has won accolades for her efforts to restore the Southern California kelp beds off Laguna Beach and Newport Beach.

31 Surfing for the Love of the Ocean
Jenna Van Guilder ’07 recently interviewed professor Lee E. Harris about the first steps a person needs to take when learning how to surf.

34 2006-2007 Honor Roll of Donors

departments

President’s Perspective ................2  Faculty Profile Muzaffar Shaikh ..........22
On Campus .................4  Athletics .........................56
Advancement ..................10  Calendar ..................62
Alumni Profile James Wong ..........21

alumni news

From the FTAA President 13
Fulbright Scholar 13
On the Road—Atlanta 14
Message from John Valente 15
Andy Revay: A Lifetime at Florida Tech 18
Fraternally Speaking 20
Outstanding Achievement Award 20
Class Notes 59

Homecoming 2007 Photos 16

Emil Buehler Center for Aviation Training and Research Groundbreaking

Homecoming '07 Photos

50th Anniversary to See Historic Building Boom

Feature Story: Inspiration, Recognition and Reward for Florida Tech Students

Feature Story: Determination Marks Kelp-Saving Alumna

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This issue’s cover: Artist’s rendering of the new south campus housing project provided by Harper Aiken Donahue & Partners.

This issue’s cover: Artist’s rendering of the new south campus housing project provided by Harper Aiken Donahue & Partners.
New Aviation Center Ceremoniously Begins

Officials broke ground for the Emil Buehler Center for Aviation Training and Research during Homecoming 2007. The center will be completed by fall 2008. See photo in Homecoming photo spread on page 16.

University Hosts International Coral Reef Experts

Robert van Woesik, associate professor of biological sciences, hosted a three-day workshop at Florida Tech for 12 faculty members from universities around the world, including the Philippines and Australia. They were part of the Coral Reef Targeted Research Program, funded by the World Bank and Global Environmental Facility and led by van Woesik to study coral bleaching.

The group brought together information and analyses from four global field sampling locations. These were in Zanzibar, Tanzania; Heron Island, Australia; the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico; and Bolinao, the Philippines.

“We are especially interested in understanding key ecological processes that regulate coral populations,” said van Woesik.

Physician Teams with Florida Tech Students on Patent

Richard A. Hynes, M.D., a Melbourne surgeon, envisioned an addition to air conditioner technology that could cut down on corrosion, save energy and increase the life of the appliance. Then he patented it.

Hynes turned to Florida Tech for the rest. Under an initial $170,000 in fellowship funding from Hynes, a graduate student in the College of Engineering and another in the College of Business began work last summer on his idea. One will create the low-cost device based on Hynes’ patent—a sprinkler system cleaning mechanism—and the other will investigate marketing and commercialization.

The graduate students are Jaemar Miller, College of Engineering, and Erin Gullickson, College of Business. Both earned Florida Tech bachelor’s degrees in May 2007. Hynes intends to continue funding the students’ work until it’s complete, which is projected for early 2009.

Panther Cadets are #1 in Region

The Florida Tech Army ROTC cadet team competed among 19 universities in Florida, Georgia and Puerto Rico last October to earn first place in the Sixth Brigade Ranger Challenge competition.

The annual event, held in Fort Stewart, Ga., comprised eight tests. They were physical fitness, land navigation, rope bridge, 10K rucksack march, hand grenade assault course, weapons disassembly and assembly, and rifle marksmanship. Back row, from left, are cadets John Tully, Sean Richardson, Joseph Sinkiewicz, William Wiseman and Billy Crish; front row, from left, are cadets Jeffrey...
International Environmental Science Degree Links Six Universities

Florida Tech is a partner in the International Master of Environmental Science (IMES) degree program, sponsored in part by the U.S. Department of Education, Fund for Improvement of Postsecondary Education. The two-year curriculum, offered cooperatively by three United States and a trio of European universities, began in fall 2007. Some of the courses will be taught via distance learning.

The other U.S. partners are Arizona State University and the Baylor University Institute for Air Science. The European participants are University of Florence in Italy, The New University of Lisbon in Portugal and Aston University in the United Kingdom.

The program offers concentrations in bioenergy, air quality, air quality monitoring, climate change, basic principles of environmental sustainability, available technology and ongoing research and development.

For more information, contact George Maul, head of the department of marine and environmental systems, at gmaul@fit.edu.

Florida Tech Showcases African Beadwork and Fiber Arts

Florida Tech presents Beadwork and Fiber Arts from Cameroon and South Africa in the Crawford Textile Gallery, continuing through Jan. 25. The display is made possible through recent gifts from William D. and Norma Canelas Roth.

The gallery, the campus showcase for the Ruth Funk Textiles Collection, is located in Room 405 of the Crawford Building. Admission is free.

The exhibit will be open Monday and Wednesday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. (closed noon–1:30 p.m.); Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. (closed 10:30 a.m.–1 p.m.); and Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. (closed noon–1:30 p.m.) or special tours by appointment.

For more information, call Carla Funk at (321) 674-6129.

New Telescope Installed Between Rain Showers and Rainbows

A worker guides the crane in to the dome as parts of the new research telescope are assembled atop the F.W. Olin Physical Sciences Center. This is the largest research telescope in the state of Florida.
Oswalt Among New Planet’s Discoverers

An international consortium of scientists, including Florida Tech astronomer Terry Oswalt, has discovered a planet similar to Earth that has survived a star’s red giant phase. This finding, and what it may mean for our own planet when the sun becomes a red giant a billion years from now, was detailed in the Sept. 13, 2007 issue of *Nature*.

Stars like the Earth’s own sun become red giants when the hydrogen in their cores runs out. As they expand, the inner planets are engulfed, meaning that Mercury and Venus will almost certainly be incinerated and become part of the sun. Earth is believed to lie just inside the maximum size the sun will reach when it becomes a red giant, so its future status was assumed to be the same as Mercury and Venus until this discovery.

“This is the first planet to be discovered that almost certainly has survived being swallowed up during the red giant stage of its host star,” said Oswalt.

Panther Plates Proliferate

“One faculty member bought four plates!” exclaimed Ken Droscher, executive director of the alumni association. He said when she told him she needed a fourth for her boat trailer, he realized his boat trailer needed one, too, and bought his third plate.

Those purchases helped power Florida Tech license plate sales to the current 1,250 plates mark. Because the university receives $25 per plate bought or renewed, that’s about $31,250 in annual revenue. The money funds scholarships.

Droscher will also tell you that buying a plate can promote pride.

“One alumnus told me that the day after he had attached the plate to his car he was rear-ended,” said Droscher. “He said that his first thought was that he hoped the plate was OK. The car wasn’t so OK, but the plate was fine and the alumnus was relieved.”

Any driver in Florida can buy a panther plate at their local tag office, or they can order online at www.pointandpay.com/newweb/Dmv_smartcart.htm.

Good News for Alumni, Prospective Students

Alumni can give back to their university and new undergraduates can take the edge off their tuition cost through the Alumni Endorsement Program. About 1,500 newly admitted freshmen and transfer students took advantage of the program in its first year.

Each student who received a $1,000 grant for the 2007–2008 year is eligible to renew the grant for three more years for a total of $4,000 in grants.

National and international alumni may nominate as many students as they wish, though each student may be endorsed by just one alumnus. The prospective students must apply to become full-time Florida Tech undergraduates. They can either find an alumnus to endorse them or alumni can identify students. The Office of Undergraduate Admission also will help match alumni to students.

“In the program’s first year, 36 percent of 677 enrolled freshmen, or 244 students, were endorsed by alumni,” said Gary Hamme, vice provost for enrollment management. “It’s a good incentive.”

The endorsement form is available at www.fit.edu/alumni/documents/GrantForm.pdf. For more information, contact Undergraduate Admission at (321) 674-8030.

Niebuhr Is New College of Business Dean

Robert E. Niebuhr is the new dean of the College of Business. Niebuhr’s background includes more than 25 years of academic experience in teaching, research and administration. Part was spent as director of executive M.B.A. programs and department head at Auburn University in Alabama.

Among his professional roles in industry were national and international engineering and management positions. An expert in managing technology companies, he holds engineering and business degrees from the Ohio State University.

Since 2001, Niebuhr was dean of the Tennessee Technological University College of Business in Cookeville.
$1.35 Million Grant Establishes Women’s Business Center

A $1.35 million grant has established a Women’s Business Center (WBC) at Florida Tech, under the College of Business. The grant, from the U.S. Small Business Administration, will provide a wide range of training programs and resources for women to start or grow their small businesses.

The WBC will address regional needs for training, counseling, mentoring and technical assistance for entrepreneurial women and women-owned small businesses on Florida’s east central coast. There will be no charge for counseling, mentoring and basic courses; participants will be charged minimally for some of the center’s more advanced courses, workshops and seminars.

For more information, contact Ann Becker, chair of the WBC board of directors, at (321) 674-8780 or abecker@fit.edu, or WBC Director Donn Miller-Kermani at (321) 674-7007 or dkermani@fit.edu.

New Microscope Graces Center

A valuable, new scientific instrument is coming to the department of biological sciences thanks to Michael Grace, associate professor of biological sciences. He earned a grant of almost $370,000 from the National Science Foundation’s (NSF) Major Research Instrumentation program to purchase a new confocal microscope.

The instrument will augment the university’s growing High Resolution Microscopy and Advanced Imaging Center. Grace is center director. “Confocal microscopy is a very important tool in life sciences and materials research,” said Grace. Confocal microscopy involves scanning a focused laser beam across the sample to eliminate out-of-focus information.
Inside Chemical Reactions

Rudi Wehmschulte, associate professor of chemistry, earned a $400,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to study reactive materials, which may be used as novel catalysts in chemical reactions. The work may prove important in preparing organic compounds or pharmaceuticals.

“The compounds in question are very reactive. We are attempting to control and understand their reactivity to make them usable in chemical reactions,” said Wehmschulte. “Some potential applications include the formation of cyclic fluorescent compounds. Once formed, we can determine the potential of these compounds to react directly with chemicals, such as hydrogen, carbon monoxide or ethylene in precursors to plastics.

NSF Grant Enriches Interdisciplinary Training

A three-year National Science Foundation grant for $214,161 makes possible interdisciplinary training for undergraduates in biological and mathematical sciences in what will be known as the UBM program.

“NSF Grant Enriches Interdisciplinary Training

This is a fertile field for both disciplines as results in one area can lead to advances in the other,” said Semen Koksal, professor of mathematical sciences.

Annually, six qualified mathematics and biology majors will be mentored by Koksal: Eugene Dshalalow, professor of mathematical sciences; and Robert van Woesik, Richard Sinden and David Carroll, department of biological sciences faculty members.

These faculty mentors will direct student research in such areas as molecular, cell and developmental biology and population ecology.

Galapagos Climate Change

Mark Bush, interim head of the biological sciences department, received a $135,000 grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for climate change research in the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador.

Using sediment cores raised by Bush’s team during 2005 and 2007 field work, the researchers will investigate stratigraphic (layering) patterns in the sediment and biological indicators of climate change.

Turn your Travels into Donations for your Alumni Association!

The Florida Institute of Technology Alumni Association now has its own travel Web site. Access the same airlines, hotels and rental car companies, and find cruises and vacation packages like all the other major travel Web sites, and, best of all ... YOU get some of the lowest travel prices on the Internet!

Every time you use a travel Web site, the travel companies pay BIG commissions for your reservation. Well, now when you book business or vacation travel on our Web site, the Alumni Association will get a whopping 40 percent of those commissions!

You get excellent travel rates while supporting your alumni association! And your support helps us continue to offer great benefits to Florida Tech graduates and current students for your affiliation with an outstanding university.

Visit and bookmark www.FloridaTechtravels.com

Tell your friends and co-workers to use our new travel Web site, too!

Calling all golfers!

Be sure to visit www.FloridaTech4golf.com for great deals on golf trips!

You’ve supported your university and alumni association with your voice, your energy and your dollars. Now, we’re proud to say, it’s time to give something back to you!
Fossil pollen and diatoms (algae) recovered from the sediment can provide precise data on past rainfall and temperature of this system.

“The Galapagos are very strongly influenced by the El Niño and La Niña weather patterns,” says Bush. “El Niño results in deluges of rain on the islands while La Niña prompts intense droughts. By detecting these oscillations in the fossil record, we can track the frequency and intensity of events, especially the phases over many decades.”

The grant will support doctoral students Alejandra Restrepo and Aaron Collins for two years of research.

Machine Learning Collaboration

Georgios Anagnostopoulos, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, has earned a grant of more than $237,000 from the National Science Foundation for a collaborative project in machine learning. A grant for a similar amount was awarded to the University of Central Florida, which is a major partner in this effort.

Machine learning is traditionally considered a broad sub-field of artificial intelligence. The discipline draws concepts from other fields, including cognitive sciences, information theory, statistics, mathematics, physics, philosophy and biology.

The project builds upon a prior prototype effort of the two universities. Project leaders intend to create a large, community of scholars, researchers and learners by integrating research and education in machine learning.

Extragalactic Researcher

Eric Perlman, associate professor of physics and space sciences, earned $490,400 in funding over three years from NASA’s Longterm Space Astrophysics grant program.

He will conduct observational and theoretical work on jets, which are energetic outflows from the centers of some bright galaxies. “The jets are the largest, most powerful particle accelerators in the universe. They accelerate particles to energies many thousands of times greater than any particle accelerator here on Earth,” said Perlman.

His work will access the Hubble Space Telescope and Chandra X-ray Observatory, as well as other telescopes. These efforts may further understanding of the origin of cosmic rays, often created by jets and active galaxies, and affecting astronauts and satellites.
Since those early days, when Radiation President George Shaw served as the chairman of the college’s board of trustees, the two organizations have worked together to transform the Mosquito Coast into the Space Coast.

This synergy reached a new level with the announcement of a multimillion dollar commitment to Florida Tech as part of the university’s Golden Anniversary Campaign. The $50 million campaign, through the end of 2007, had raised $43.7 million.

The commitment will make possible the creation of the Harris Institute for Assured Information, to be housed in a new 24,000-square-foot Harris Center for Science and Engineering. The Harris Corporation Charitable Fund, held by the Community Foundation of Brevard (CFB), made a $5 million gift to the university. Harris Corp. has pledged an additional $2 million in support from its Research and Development budget to the new institute over the course of four years.

Florida Tech President Anthony J. Catanese heralded the commitment as a new chapter in the long-running collaboration.

“Florida Tech and Harris have a long history with each other, and this donation will...”

The roots of the relationship between Florida Institute of Technology and Harris Corp. go deep, spanning five decades to a time when one was known as Brevard Engineering College and the other as Radiation Inc.
Synergy Between Florida Tech and Harris Leads to New Institute

“Further strengthen our remarkable partnership,” said Catanese. “The new Harris Institute for Assured Information will enhance both organizations’ remarkable strengths in this 21st century research and development frontier.”

In fact, Florida Tech’s already strong reputation in information assurance served as one of the catalysts for this gift. Harris President and CEO Howard L. Lance said his corporation thought long and hard to determine what aspect of the Florida Tech academic mission to support.

“We extensively researched Florida Tech with our own people,” said Lance. “We wanted to know what differentiates this university from the rest and can we make that aspect of the university even better. What we learned is that information assurance is one of Florida Tech’s strengths, and a natural area for collaboration.”

Gary F. Lang, president and CEO of the CFB, said the gift showcases the foundation’s continuing mission.

“We extensively researched Florida Tech with our own people... What we learned is that information assurance is one of Florida Tech’s strengths, and a natural area for collaboration.”

Harris President and CEO Howard L. Lance

Indeed, lives will be changed through the science of information assurance. Information assurance is the computer science dedicated to protecting people and organizations from malicious software, and the hackers who employ such code to steal money, or information, or shut down systems.

Florida Tech’s Center for Security Science, the precursor to the new institute, is internationally renowned in the field.

Florida Tech’s Senior Vice President for Advancement Thomas G. Fox noted that this Harris gift is the corporation’s second lead gift for a Florida Tech capital campaign.

“Harris Corp. has a strong tradition of giving to Florida Institute of Technology, and for that we...”

Artist’s rendering of the new Harris Center for Science and Engineering
are grateful,” said Fox. “Nearly 20 years ago, Harris Corp. made a $5 million gift that was the centerpiece of a successful $25 million campaign. This tremendous contribution will serve in the same capacity for the Golden Anniversary Campaign.”

The $5 million gift will be divided into three main segments. First, $1.75 million will help build the Harris Center for Science and Engineering. Secondly, $2.5 million will fund a Harris Faculty Chair in Assured Information. Third, $750,000 will fund student scholarships and fellowships.

For Fox, the gift is emblematic of the Golden Anniversary Campaign’s goals.

“When we set up the campaign, we wanted 40 percent to fund bricks and mortar—new buildings on campus,” said Fox. “We targeted 20 percent toward student financial aid, 20 percent to faculty support and the final 20 percent to support research. This remarkable gift touches all four bases.”

While the campaign’s goal is now in sight, Fox said there is still much work to do to ensure its success. He added that this gift from the Harris Corporation Charitable Fund held by the CFB, however, will reverberate through the end of the campaign.

“Corporations and foundations always ask who else is on board,” said Fox. “By having the emphatic imprimatur of the Harris Corp. and the Community Foundation of Brevard on the Golden Anniversary Campaign, we will enjoy enhanced credibility and visibility through September of 2009.”

Jay Wilson

Florida Tech Receives $250,000 for Scholarships

Florida Institute of Technology recently received $250,000 for scholarships from the Thomas E. McNamara estate. The recent bequest brings the value of endowments from Thomas and Lois McNamara to more than $465,000.

The McNamaras started the Melissa Lee Crist Honorary Scholarship in 1998 to honor their granddaughter, a Florida Tech alumna who was injured in a car accident shortly after graduation. The accident left Crist ’92 unable to pursue her career in aviation management with flight.

“Melissa loved Florida Tech and they (the McNamaras) wanted to do something to help others get the good education that she enjoyed,” said Florida Tech Trustee Dale A. Dettmer.

Mr. McNamara added another endowed scholarship named the Thomas E. and Lois R. McNamara Scholarship a year later.

“Tom was a very caring and generous individual,” said Sue Garro, Crist’s aunt. “He wanted to help young people achieve their goals and give back to their community.”

Nearly $62,000 has been awarded to about a dozen deserving students to continue their studies at Florida Tech.

The current recipient, Matthew Danella, embodies the purpose of the McNamara scholarship. Danella is a senior in the preprofessional biology program and a member of the soccer team. He is a four-year letter winner and has started on the soccer team every year. His academic work is just as impressive. He has made the Sunshine State Conference Commissioner’s Honor Role each year. To be eligible for the Commissioner’s Honor Roll, a student-athlete must post a minimum grade point average of 3.20 on a scale of 4.00. After graduating from Florida Tech, Danella plans to attend pharmacy school and eventually open his own practice. “Thank you for making this amazing education possible,” wrote Danella in a letter to the McNamara estate.

For more information about giving to Florida Tech, contact Beverly Sanders, development director, at sandersb@fit.edu or (321) 674-6155 or go to http://campaign.fit.edu.

Melinda Millsap
Celebrating 50 Years and the University’s Golden Anniversary

Save these dates! Founder’s Day, Sept. 22, 2008 … Homecoming Week for alumni, family and friends, Oct. 13–19. The festivities are just around the corner.

John Valente ’76, chair of your alumni association’s 50th anniversary committee, has issued a call to action to all alumni—contact five classmates, confirm their participation in Homecoming 2008 and implore them to contact five others. John’s point is that it will take personal one-on-one contact to bring everyone back and he’s right! Please step up to this challenge.

For the large alumni affinity groups, lodging reservations will be important. Block rooms as early as possible. Many groups have already gotten their preferred housing venue at the block discount rate, and our local hotels will be pleased to work with you. If you want help with planning activities for your organization, contact the Office of Alumni Affairs for coordination of campus facilities. The sooner you do, the better your chances of getting what you need.

FTAA continues to look for corporate sponsors of alumni-hosted, Golden Anniversary events, and many corporations can benefit from an affiliation with Florida Tech. If you are the decision maker or would advocate on behalf of sponsorship for our events, let Ken Droscher know at gopanthers@fit.edu. He’ll be glad to mail you a sponsorship package.

A noto bene—the Office of Alumni Affairs along with your board’s assistance has generated wonderful support for the Florida Tech specialty license plate program. The total number of plates continues to increase and more than $30,000 has already been generated for student scholarships. That’s an annual number that will only get bigger. Thank you to our Florida alumni and friends for their support.

When you have a moment, visit the FTAA services and benefits page. Your association’s sponsors are there and, with their support, we’re able to underwrite programs that otherwise would not be available to our alumni. Special thanks go to US Bank and GEICO for their affinity card and auto insurance deals. We derive royalties from each of these programs, so please consider signing up.

Finally, it’s been my honor to serve as your president for the past two years. Russ Ballagh ’74 is your new president, and he will provide strong leadership. As always, he will be superbly supported by your board of directors and officers and by your alumni affairs team, led by Ken Droscher. These are all special people, and I owe my thanks to each and every one. You owe them too—their efforts enhance the value of your degrees as they improve the reputation and renown of your alma mater.

I’ll see you all at our Golden Anniversary celebrations. Go Panthers!

Fulbright Scholar Joins in West Point Conference

Zeeshan-ul-hassan Usmani ’06 M.S., Fulbright scholar doctoral student from Pakistan, participated in the 2007 Student Conference on U.S. Affairs (SCUSA) at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. The annual four-day student conference gathers hundreds of students, scholars and policy experts from the United States and abroad. Delegates participate in round table discussions to examine a range of foreign policy issues and problems. After thoughtful debate, the delegates craft a brief paper that contains proposals for U.S. foreign policy. Pictured at the conference, from left, are Salman Khan, Pakistani Fulbright Scholar at Rutgers University; General (Ret.) John Abizaid; and Zeeshan-ul-hassan Usmani.
Alumni News

Atlanta

The Ritz Carlton-Buckhead Hotel was the elegant site for a September alumni reception.

From left: Talal Qureshi ’02 M.S.; Jack Armul, vice president for financial affairs; Robert Sarkissian (striped shirt) ’78; John and Rebecca Lambert ’91; Sara Catanese; and Thomas Dean ’93 M.S. listen to President Anthony J. Catanese update everyone on what’s happening on campus.

Talal Qureshi and Tanya Plummer ’96 M.B.A. enjoy the evening.

From left: Chilawata Lungu ’04, Provost T. Dwayne McCay and Eric Gaciura get together for a photo.
A Message from the Chair of the 50th Anniversary Celebration for the Florida Tech Alumni Association

Florida Institute of Technology will soon celebrate 50 years of excellence in education. As alumni of this esteemed academic institution, we have so much to be proud of as this milestone in our history rapidly approaches. As chair of the 50th anniversary celebration for the Florida Tech Alumni Association, I’m proud to be a part of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

This anniversary is an occasion for commemorating the past, celebrating the present and embracing the challenges of our future. Exciting new initiatives are on the horizon, but the core mission of our university remains the same. Building on an impressive legacy, today’s faculty, staff, administration and volunteers carry on the work to bring the university to even greater standing in the worldwide educational environment. We trust that Florida Institute of Technology will continue to be a vibrant and valuable asset, and future students will continue to say with pride, “I am a graduate of Florida Tech.”

The vision of the Florida Tech Alumni Association drives our energies for the upcoming celebration. Our vision is …

“To commemorate and celebrate the bold spirit upon which this university was founded, the accomplishments of the university and its alumni, and to reflect on the opportunities and challenges of the next 50 years.”

In addition, our mission statement clearly points out that …

“The Florida Institute of Technology 50th anniversary celebration will inform and further educate Florida Tech students, alumni and selected audiences across the country regarding the impact of Florida Tech’s demonstrated accomplishments in engineering, science, mathematics, physics, business and citizenship through a series of commemorative events, charitable giving and new initiatives, in the spirit of our founder, Dr. Jerome P. Keuper.”

Our goal is to make this Golden Anniversary the high point of our university’s first 50 years. To achieve this, we need YOUR participation.

I CHALLENGE YOU to participate in the Alumni Association’s “5 for 50” program. Very simply stated, I want you to think back to the five people who had the most significant impact on your life while you were at Florida Tech. They may be professors, students, adjunct faculty, administrators, fraternity brothers, sorority sisters or anyone who made a lasting impression on your life—an impression that significantly contributed to who you are today. Think of them, locate them, then arrange to meet them during Homecoming 2008. It’s just THAT SIMPLE!

I HAVE COMMITTED to do this on a slightly larger scale. My “50 for 50” campaign is well under way. The Alumni Association directory is a good starting point. It may be all you need to make contact with your special “5.” In many cases, YOU may have kept in contact with someone the Alumni Association has lost track of over the years. By updating the Alumni Directory, you may help someone locate one of their special “5.”

DEDICATE YOURSELF to this one small effort, and we will have an outstanding celebration. Can you honestly say there aren’t five people who shared your joys and pains at Florida Tech who you would like to see again?

TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE IT HAPPEN!

The Alumni Association staff and I stand ready to help you accomplish your search and make your reunion possible.

See you in October ’08 for Homecoming and the celebration of our 50th anniversary.

John Valente ’76
Homecoming ’07

Hundreds of alumni and friends from all over “Let the Games Begin” at Homecoming 2007. They played soccer and golf; attended a concert, barbecue, parade and groundbreaking; watched a rowing race; enjoyed receptions, meals and parties; heard speakers; and danced and clapped for award winners. They reunited with old friends and made new ones. Also, student organizations raised more than $1,000 for adopted University Park Elementary School through the King and Queen contest and the Penny Wars. Here’s a glimpse of what Homecoming 2007 was like.

Officials broke ground for the Emil Buehler Center for Aviation Training and Research during Homecoming 2007. The center will be completed by fall 2008. Pictured from left are Kenneth Stackpoole, dean of the College of Aeronautics; George Weaver of the Emil Buehler Trust; Anthony J. Catanese, Florida Tech president; Harry Goode, Melbourne mayor; and Milo Zonka, president of FITSA, the College of Aeronautics alumni association.
From left, early chairman of the Florida Tech board of trustees, Denton Clark, Janet Clark, and Sara and President Anthony J. Catanese pose for a photo at Panther Plaza.

SAVE THE DATE
HOMECOMING 2008
October 13–18
See sneak preview on page 58.
Andy Revay may be an unsung hero of the early days at Florida Tech. He arrived in 1967, the year after Brevard Engineering College changed its name.

The university was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 1964 but Andy’s department, electrical engineering (EE), had not yet received accreditation. It already included a master’s degree program at that time, though.

President Jerome P. Keuper knew that acceptance by the Engineering Council for Professional Development (now ABET) for the school’s strongest department was imperative to strengthen the college’s reputation.

Harry Weber, EE department head, who hired Revay, said, “Andy and I have a friendship and a partnership that has lasted over 45 years. Both of us were top students at Pitt (University of Pittsburgh) and received all three of our degrees there. As office partners, we were sitting beside each other the day John Kennedy was assassinated.”

Weber knew that Revay would be an excellent addition to the faculty and a fine partner to help Florida Tech successfully gain accreditation.

“We had both been through [electrical engineering department] reaffirmation at Pitt,” said Weber. “We knew how to organize the process and we were very, very organized.”

The Weber-Revay team accomplished its goal. The electrical engineering department, the first program at Florida Tech to receive separate professional accreditation, earned it in 1970. Revay said that President Keuper pushed the envelope by inviting the accreditation team to campus in 1968 for an initial look at the department.

Revay remembered that a junior member of the accreditation team wanted to approve the department following the first evaluation, but a senior member nixed it saying, “Nobody gets accredited the first time around.”

“Jerry knew what he was doing,” said Revay. “The accreditation would have been further delayed if we didn’t go through that early evaluation.”

**Early Days**

Revay grew up outside of New Kensington, Penn., in Kinoch and was the first member of his family to graduate from college. Although his family was unable to pay his tuition, the determined young man sought and won scholarships to fund his education.

Revay earned a bachelor’s degree in 1951 and a master’s degree in electrical engineering in 1956. His education was briefly interrupted by a United States Air Force/Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) commitment from 1956–60, but he returned to Pitt and completed an electrical engineering doctorate in 1963.

By the time he reconnected with Weber, Revay was married, had two children, Ken and Andrea, and thought that working at a new university would be an interesting challenge. He recalled that he was the third full-time faculty member hired in electrical engineering and the 13th in the entire school. He and his family bought a home in Indialantic.

Revay’s rapid rise in the university administration began in 1971 when he was appointed head of the electrical engineering department four years after he accepted the associate professor position. He took over as dean of engineering and science in 1982 and in 1986 was appointed vice president of academic affairs. He held this position until his retirement in 2001, following a 34-year Florida Tech career.

Revay said he found the position as dean most challenging and takes great pride in initiating the Honors Convocation. The annual event recognizes students and faculty members who have distinguished themselves and honors professors who are retiring from the university.

“The knowledge that you sometimes made a difference and passed on what you learned from your own teachers,” he said, sustains him in an active retirement.

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**Did you know that Florida Tech’s first off-campus program was started in 1972 in Maryland at the request of the United States Navy?**
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Florida Institute of Technology, 1958–2008
by Jay Wilson

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Thirty-seven cents. This first donation to Jerry Keuper, made at least partly in jest at a bar in Indian Harbour Beach, led to the creation of one the nation’s top technological universities, Florida Institute of Technology. The remarkable story of the university as it unfolded over the intervening decades is handsomely told in words and pictures in No Small Dreams: Florida Institute of Technology, 1958–2008. This beautiful coffee table book details the university’s journey from its origin as the “night school for missilemen” to the vibrant university still growing today.

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Haddad ‘87 Receives Outstanding Achievement Award

Comments from Wassim Haddad, B.S. ’83, M.S. ’84, Ph.D. ’87 mechanical engineering, delivered at the Homecoming Banquet, Oct. 20, 2007, upon receiving the alumni association’s Outstanding Achievement Award:

“President Catanese, Florida Tech faculty and distinguished guests, I am honored that the Florida Tech Alumni Association board of directors has chosen me as one of the recipients for the 2007 Outstanding Achievement Award.

As many of you know, I have a great attachment to Florida Tech. I received my bachelor’s, master’s and Ph.D. degrees here. I spent the formative years of my young adulthood here. And, as a young assistant professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering, I had the opportunity to start my academic career here. I have always felt that with the right leadership and vision Florida Tech has the potential to reach a level of perfection in education and research excellence that is second to none.

While the faculty are the pillars of an institution, the alumni are its souls. They emerge from a university with a sense of responsibility and a fearless attitude to confront and solve global problems. In my case, I emerged from Florida Tech with a passion for research and education—a passion that seems to thrive with time.

My first and most important teachers were my parents: Michael and Sofia Haddad. Through their actions, they inspired me to passionately pursue knowledge throughout my life because it is a more lasting possession than anything else. And for this, I would like to thank them from the bottom of my heart. I would also like to thank my teachers, some of whom are in this hall today. Professors Frank Stasa and Fred Ham’s teaching excellence made me fall in love with the field of dynamic systems and control. Dr. Billy Thrasher, my first department head at Florida Tech, gave me my first chance to develop my skills as an educator; whereas Dr. Paavo Sepri realized my potential as a researcher and allowed me to hone my research skills during my tenure at Florida Tech. I also see Professor Lakshmikantham in the audience. Though not a teacher of mine in the classical sense, I have always enjoyed my conversations with him over the years. He is arguably, the best scholar this institution has had the privilege of having.

Finally, and most importantly, I would like to thank my wife Lydia. She is the true grace, wisdom and balance in my life.”

Fraternities and Sororities Return to Campus

Fraternity and sorority members were among the first to arrive back on the Florida Tech campus for the fall semester. As part of their yearly volunteer efforts, the fraternity and sorority members awakened early on new student move-in day to help incoming students get situated in the residence halls. On Aug. 15, 118 members came to aid the new students and their parents.

The fraternity-sorority community wrapped up its recruitment events in October, welcoming almost 130 new members. Events included sports day, an outdoor carnival and trips to the local bowling alley. The fraternities recruited 98 men, while sororities recruited 31 women.

Fraternity Rush Statistics for Fall 2007:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fraternity</th>
<th>Recruited</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alpha Tau Omega</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chi Phi</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lambda Chi Alpha</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pi Kappa Alpha</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pi Lambda Phi</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tau Kappa Epsilon</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sorority Recruitment Statistics for Fall 2007:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sorority</th>
<th>Recruited</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alpha Phi</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gamma Phi Beta</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phi Sigma Sigma</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On Oct. 16, the Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) Housing Committee made a presentation of its accomplishments so far this semester to President Anthony J. Catanese.

In February 2008, Panhellenic will host the annual Big Man on Campus fundraiser. Men will compete in areas such as congeniality, talent and appearance. All proceeds will go to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Sorority women will be matched up with the contestants to serve as their coaches and teach them how to be “gentlemen.” The test will come when faculty members judge them.

Stay updated with the fraternity-sorority community by visiting our Web site at www.fit.edu/fsl. You will find monthly newsletters, semester reports and links to the chapters.

Sara Mayer

35th Year Reunion – Delta Delta Tau Fraternity

All Brothers and friends of DDT from the years 1967–77 are welcome to participate in our 35th reunion scheduled during Homecoming, Oct. 15–19, 2008. This is also the 50th anniversary of the university.

Many activities have been scheduled, including a Friday Night DDT Fraternity Meeting/Banquet with awards and special presentations for those who attend.

DDT Brothers and friends who have been out of contact and are not a member of the DDT Web site should contact George Poidomani at vocetypeg@yahoo.com for information and how to register.
New Online Degree Program Changed Alumnus' Career

James Wong '07 made productive use of cross ocean trips

James Wong

is one of the first graduates to receive a master of science in information technology from Florida Tech. The degree is offered through University College and the University Alliance Program. He chose the online program because it was a convenient way to enhance his career.

He was surprised by how well the information technology degree meshed with his legal background. It even led his career in a different direction. Intex originally hired Wong as the assistant to the president with responsibility for researching and implementing an enterprise resource planning (ERP) program.

“As I was studying, a brand new field of law emerged called e-Discovery,” Wong said. “It deals with how computer-generated information should be captured and used as evidence in court. All of sudden, I found myself translating between legalese and geek. I found that I could contribute to the organization on new levels. And the next thing I knew, I became the first company lawyer.”

Wong earned his Juris Doctorate at the University of California's Hastings College of the Law where he spent eight years learning tax planning and real estate development at international firms in Hong Kong and San Francisco. He left private practice to join a Hong Kong family-based investment banking firm to spearhead its direct investment efforts in China.

In the late '90s, he leveraged his investment experience to found an Internet startup specializing in providing retailers with simple consumer financing. “My time at the dot com hooked me on technology,” Wong said. “I was way more interested in technology jobs than in legal jobs.”

When he joined Intex, he traveled extensively between Hong Kong, China and the United States. An online degree was a good choice for him. “I signed up for Florida Tech’s information technology master’s degree a couple of months into the job. While I learned a lot about software in my dot com, I needed to enhance my tech chops to fully do my ERP job.”

Also, he wanted to make more productive use of the 13-hour flights across the Pacific and his downtime when visiting factories in China.

“I liked to study at my own pace and appreciated the online delivery of the Florida Tech program. I could study on the plane and also while inside a factory dorm. The degree was a much better use of my time than watching the in-flight movie or singing at karaoke bars—although I did some of those things, too!”

Working on the degree while traveling freed Wong up for family time with his son (now 10) and daughter (now 5) when he returned to the United States. Taking one course every eight weeks, he could adjust his work, family and study time without too much difficulty.

“Formal continuing education is a critical part of keeping up with constant change in every field—even in the way that education is delivered,” Wong said.

Wong is a perfect example of how Florida Tech maintains the high-quality, high tech and human touch for which it is so well known, while continuing to reach a new audience in an online world.

Brian Ehrlich
The Reluctant Adjunct
Shaikh Finds Teaching Niche at Florida Tech

Twenty-three years ago, T. Roger Manley twisted the arm of a Harris Corp. employee to get him to begin teaching as an adjunct professor at Florida Tech.

Today, that reluctant adjunct professor, Muzaffar Shaikh, is the associate provost for academic outreach as well as a full-time professor and the department head of engineering systems at Florida Tech.

Shaikh is originally from a town near Mumbai, India. He began his educational journey at the University of Bombay, picking up a B.S. in mechanical engineering. Following his undergraduate education, Shaikh came to the United States to get a master’s degree in industrial engineering at Kansas State University. He then continued his education at the University of Illinois, earning a doctorate in industrial engineering.

After completing his doctorate degree, Shaikh stayed in Illinois and took a job as an internal consultant for Caterpillar Inc., where he worked for more than 17 years. In 1985, Shaikh decided to leave the cold weather behind and took a job with Harris Corp. in Melbourne.

After teaching adjunct for two years, Shaikh joined the College of Business as a full-time professor teaching courses in quantitative methods, statistics and computer information systems.

“I feel most comfortable in the classroom,” said Shaikh. “I feel very satisfied when a student understands a complex engineering or mathematical concept in a simplified manner.”

During his time here, Shaikh has seen many changes in the engineering systems department and in Florida Tech as a whole.

“Florida Tech has come a long way, from annexes to these new buildings,” said Shaikh.

Of his recent accomplishments, Shaikh is most proud of the growth of his program.

“We went from zero to 250 students in just four years,” said Shaikh.

When he’s not in the classroom, Shaikh enjoys running and playing tennis. He has been running since childhood and has completed four marathons, including the inaugural Disney World Marathon in 1994.

After 23 years at Florida Tech, Shaikh is excited to see the changes the Golden Anniversary Campaign for Florida Tech will bring and has no plans of leaving anytime soon.

“It’s really amazing how Florida Tech has evolved. With the capital campaign, President Catanese plans to make Florida Tech a top school in the Southeast, and I wish to be a part of that.”

Jenny McCoy

Did you know that the last building in the original residence hall quadrangle, Evans Hall, was completed in 1976 and served as the home of 84 women, a new dining hall and the famous Rathskellar Pub?
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Tanja Cebic (center) attends Florida Institute of Technology thanks to a full presidential scholarship that includes the William and Wendy Potter College of Business Scholarship. Ashley Bacon (right) received the Dr. Kerry Bruce Clark Memorial Scholarship in recognition of her academic excellence and future potential. And Britney Pennington (left) devotes her time to her studies in molecular biology and biochemistry as well as volunteering in the community thanks to the Dr. Herman Kessler Moore Scholarship.
A healthy scholarship program provides the resources to attract and retain talented students. As a private university, this is particularly important at Florida Tech. Scholarships inspire, encourage, recognize and reward promising students. In this issue of *Florida Tech TODAY*, we sit down with three such individuals at Florida Tech—Cebic, Bacon and Pennington—who are achieving greatness thanks to their Florida Tech scholarships.

**A BETTER TOMORROW**

**Tanja Cebic**, a business administration senior from Bosnia–Herzegovina, studied at Brevard Community College before attending Florida Tech. After earning her associate degree, she received a full tuition presidential scholarship to Florida Tech—that means in recognition of her strong academic achievement Cebic received a combination of grants and scholarships sufficient to cover her Florida Tech tuition. Among her awards, Cebic earned the William and Wendy Potter College of Business Scholarship and the Florida Independent College Fund Ethics in Business Scholarship.

“If I didn’t get the scholarship, I would have gone back home to Bosnia because it was too expensive to continue school,” Cebic explains.

But thanks to the scholarship, she has achieved much more than she expected in the United States.

“The scholarship opened up a horizon for me. I initially did not intend to stay this long, but I’ve been doing so well in school that I realize I can do much more,” she says.

In addition to her course work, Cebic works part time in the Office of Development and volunteers in Downtown Melbourne. Currently, she is a coordinator of Friday Fest.

After graduation in May, she plans to move to New York City to complete her optional practical training, or OPT. This is a form of employment authorization that allows international students to gain practical experience in their field for one year before returning to their home country.

*Cebic (center) at home in Bosnia with her mother and sister.*
Ultimately, Cebic would like to stay in the United States because severe employment shortages in Bosnia make it difficult to find work there. “Most of my friends back home right now are without jobs, even those who finished school and went to universities,” Cebic explains. “The job opportunities are so low at the moment.”

If she can stay and work in the United States, it will help her achieve her main goal—to help her family. “This is my one chance to actually help my friends and family,” she says. “Just like this scholarship helped me.”

**Making a Difference**

For Ashley Bacon, a senior from Stratford, Conn., majoring in marine biology, her scholarship is helping her complete her undergraduate degree, but more importantly, it indicates a level of success and achievement.

Bacon chose Florida Tech based on her first visit to campus. “It was just one of those things where I knew it was right,” she says of her visit. “I knew I had to come here.”

She was impressed with the faculty, the facilities and the friendly faces she met all around campus. “Everyone was like, ‘we really want you to come here,’” Bacon recalls. And she says it was not simply the desire to secure one more tuition check, it was a genuine welcome and a positive feeling.

Three years later during her junior year, Bacon participated in the honors convocation. Upon the suggestion of Associate Professor Richard Turner, she also applied for the Dr. Kerry Bruce Clark Memorial Scholarship.

This scholarship honors the memory of Kerry Clark who was one of the originators of the Florida Tech biological sciences department and considered a phenomenal teacher by all who knew him. Each year, the scholarship is awarded to a deserving junior or senior marine biology major. It recognizes outstanding students who show promise to achieve excellence in a marine biology-related career. In addition to academic achievement, students are selected based on indicators of success such as internships, research participation or other activities above and beyond standard course work.

In Bacon’s case, she had already published a book, *The Fiber Option: A Real (Anti-Fad) Plan for a Healthier Lifestyle*. While Turner concedes the book has nothing to do with marine biology, the significant factor is the motivation and dedication Bacon showed in choosing independently to research and publish on a topic. “An important aspect of marine biology or any science,” says Turner, “is writing and publishing what you wrote.”

Gaining the favor of her favorite professor and being considered for the scholarship was an honor for Bacon. Actually winning the scholarship was empowering. “I wasn't expecting it at all,” said Bacon. “I just thought I was an average, normal, not extremely exceptional student and then all of a sudden Dr. Turner said, ‘Well, you're qualified for it, why don’t you apply for it.’ The day I got that letter in my mailbox, I was just like, ‘Wow! I guess I really have made a difference and done something at this school that people have noticed.’”

She says the achievement inspired a sense of pride and made her college career even more special. When she graduates in May, Bacon plans to pursue a career with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, where she hopes to educate the public about the values of the environment.
Britney Pennington, a senior from Orlando, Fla., who is dual majoring in molecular biology and biochemistry, acknowledges that the gift of time is the most important contribution her scholarships make. Pennington is a three-time recipient of the Dr. Herman Kessler Moore Scholarship, a fund established by Richard and Charlotte Moore in honor of his father.

Thanks to this scholarship Pennington can devote her full attention to her rigorous studies and her ample volunteer commitments.

Pennington’s volunteer work is impressive. On campus, she is the historian of Tri Beta, the biological sciences honor society. She works with the Green Campus Group and the Brevard County recycling coordinator to get glass, plastic and can recycling on campus. And during her sophomore year, she was a member of the AIChE Chem-E car team that won first place in regionals.

In the community, Pennington volunteers with Central Baptist Church, visiting the homes of elderly widows who need assistance. She also volunteers with another ministry’s after-school program tutoring kids or working with senior citizens.

As Pennington explains it, her scholarship allows her to donate so generously of her time because she doesn’t have to obtain a second job to supplement her education expenses.

“TI have a work-study job,” says Pennington, “and the scholarships keep me from working another job—so I can devote that time to volunteering in the community or being an officer in a club or studying.”

Pennington, who plans to pursue her Ph.D. after graduation, feels scholarships play an important role in allowing students to focus on school work, rather than having to work or worry about the means to pay for their education.

She says, “scholarships make the education the priority and make it more attainable.”

Whether paving the way for a bright future, recognizing exceptional work, freeing up study time or simply easing the financial burden, scholarships play many roles for Florida Tech students.

A scholarship fund is established as an endowment gift to the university. Once a fund holds a minimum of $25,000, the gift is invested. The principal amount is untouched to grow in perpetuity, and a percentage of the earnings are distributed annually based on the designation of the donor. Funds can be established in the donor’s name or in the name of a loved one or friend, as in the case of the Clark and Moore scholarships.

As the fund grows, so too does its impact. For example, Turner, a donor to the Clark scholarship himself, anticipates the day when the fund reaches a level that allows for a greater allotment of money each year.

“As the endowment continues to increase, we’ll have more options in how we can support the undergraduates,” he says. “Perhaps awarding it to two students or increasing the award we give to one student … it will give us much more flexibility.”

Increasing scholarship support is a key goal of the Golden Anniversary Campaign for Florida Tech. For more information on establishing a scholarship fund, contact Beverly Sanders, development director, at (321) 674-6155 or sandersb@fit.edu.

Christena Callahan
In the 1959 movie, “Gidget”, the Big Kahuna’s beach cronies initiate the determined wanna-be surfer by telling her to go cut kelp. Beds of the life-giving seaweed abounded off the Los Angeles coast then.
That’s not the case today, off those beaches and further south off the beaches of Orange County. In the latter decades of the 20th century, these kelp forests decreased by as much as 80 percent, victims of heavy storms, pollution and predator imbalances that leave reefs covered with hungry sea urchins.

Sometimes reaching 100-foot lengths, the giant alga *Macrocytis pyrifera* provides habitat and food to more than 800 plant and animal species. Kelp is also harvested for its byproducts and processed into dozens of everyday health, dietary and pharmaceutical products.

Yet, Southern California's kelp abundance or dearth is invisible to most, hidden beneath the blue Pacific Ocean.

“If people drove to Sequoia National Park and saw all the trees gone, they would tell the press,” said Nancy (Lightowler) Caruso ’94, a marine biologist for the Aquarium of the Pacific.

Her efforts to restore the Southern California kelp beds off Laguna Beach and Newport Beach have won accolades. In 2007, Caruso was named #66 of 103 Most Influential People in the Newport Beach-Costa Mesa areas by the *Daily Pilot*, a Los Angeles Times publication serving Orange County beaches.

Sheer determination has kept the 33-year-old Alexandria, Va., native tirelessly on the job. She struggles to create public awareness, organize volunteers and create kelp beds from scratch. Her career moves have followed local kelp restoration funding and today she spends part of her time raising those funds herself.

The marine biologist began her career at a catfish farm in Mississippi. A subsequent job as an aquaculture supply representative led her to a sales management position in California. One of her customers, the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, hired her as its director of water quality, a position she held for three years.

In 2001, she jumped at the chance to lead kelp restoration under a grant-funded position with a local waterkeeper. That funding ended, so in an effort to keep the project alive, she got the aquarium involved. “I wasn’t done yet,” Caruso explained. Caruso continues there today, maintaining 12 new kelp beds.

Caruso works with biology classes at Pacifica High School and Bell Middle School, both in Garden Grove, where she lives with husband Tom. The students cultivate the kelp nurseries, growing the spores into ¼-inch-tall juveniles, big enough to plant by volunteer divers.

“You might say I do it all,” said Caruso. “I teach the students, train the divers, dive to check on the kelp beds, write the grants, do the budgets, write the press releases and drive the boat.” The vessel is named *Macrocytis* after the genus of the giant kelp she fosters.

She credits Florida Tech’s solid foundation in marine biology and aquaculture as a major influence. Caruso fondly recalls such faculty members as Russell Weigel, who encouraged her love of botany; the deceased Kerry Clark (“a brilliant eccentric”); and invertebrate marine animal expert Richard Turner, with whom she remains friends.

“I received an excellent education,” she said. “I could have gone to another university and had an easier ride, but I wouldn’t have gotten the breadth of coverage in my core subjects that I did at Florida Tech.”

She was just one course short of a double major in aquaculture. “If the administration at Florida Tech wants to give me an honorary bachelor’s degree in aquaculture, I would willingly accept,” she laughed.

Near term, what she most hopes for is community support for the kelp project.

“The aim is to get the community behind the restoration efforts,” she said. “Without the involvement of the local citizens, the work would be unknown and invisible because no one can see what’s going on underwater.”

Anyone who can financially help Caruso restore and protect this vital ocean ecosystem may send a check payable to: Aquarium of the Pacific, 100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach, CA 90802. Put “kelp” in the memo. She would also appreciate an encouraging e-mail at NLCaruso@lbaop.org.

Karen Rhine

*Florida Tech TODAY* | 29
“I became a life member of the Florida Institute of Technology Alumni Association to show my pride and loyalty to my college. As a member of the FTAA board of directors, I believe it’s important to show my support financially to help benefit the many alumni programs, current students and the university as a whole.”

Alan L. Prestwood
B.S. Management Science ’73
M.B.A. ’80

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Lee Harris, associate professor of ocean engineering in the department of marine and environmental systems, has been surfing for 35 years. He has surfed in many places, including Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia, the Dominican Republic and Barbados. However, Harris’ favorite place to surf is right here in Florida. Jenna Van Guilder ‘07 recently interviewed Harris about the first steps a person needs to take when learning how to surf.

Q: What do I need to know before purchasing a surfboard?
Before buying a new or used board, borrow or rent until you are comfortable. It’s important to know that this sport has a steep learning curve and that you must love the ocean to excel.

Q: What type of board is best to begin on?
A soft top longboard and then, as you get better, a short board. Learning boards are 8–10 feet in length and are also known as fun shapes.

Q: What type of wax should I use in Florida?
Before purchasing either warm or cold water wax, it’s important to know the water and air temperature. Warm water wax will not melt as easy as cold water wax. In Florida, there is no reason to change wax with the seasons because you will constantly be adding more.

Q: What is the best time of year to surf?
Fall, winter and spring. However, the summer is best for beginners because small waves are present.

Q: What is the best time of day to surf?
The morning is usually best because there can be less wind, or ideally a slight offshore wind. This can vary with storm patterns, with offshore winds from the southwest, west and northwest preceding a cold front passage.

Q: Are there any exercises I should do before I begin?
Stretch your legs, arms and back. It’s also important to be in good shape and swim well because there is a lot of paddling and swimming.

Q: How can I practice before going out into the ocean?
Lie down on your surfboard on the beach, and try to jump up to your feet. This will help with movement needed as you catch the wave.

Also, practice paddling in water when there are no waves to help get used to the surfboard. If possible, surf with a professional or friend that is capable of taking the time to provide you with advice.

Q: What safety precautions do I need to take?
Be aware of schools of bait fish, jellyfish, man-of-war, rip currents and strong longshore current (called “drift” or “sweep” by surfers). Schools of bait fish can be near the shoreline or within 100 yards offshore and can attract sharks. Jellyfish or man-of-war can sting. If you get stung, keep area stung in salt water and put meat tenderizer or ammonia on it. Rip currents are dangerous, but it’s better to be in one as a surfer, than as a swimmer. To get out of one, swim or paddle parallel to the coast until out. Longshore current is caused by the waves and wind. Be aware and plan your beginning place since a strong drift can direct you hundreds of yards down the beach and away from your group and surf area, especially while you are paddling out, which is not safe.

Q: How do I get ready to ride a wave?
It is important that you time your entry into the ocean, because the hardest part is getting out through the waves. Paddle out during wave lulls, but do not get discouraged because even some of the best surfers have difficulty when the waves are large.

Q: What is the best advice you can give someone learning how to surf?
Paddling out is the hardest part, but you will excel if you have perseverance. Try duck diving: bury nose of board as deep as possible and bury the tail when wave comes over you. This will cause you to go underneath wave and prevent you from being forced back toward the shore.
Florida Institute of Technology will spend much of its 50th anniversary celebrating to the sounds of saws and hammers as the campus undergoes nearly $75 million worth of new construction. The boom, the largest construction undertaking in the university’s history, will add nearly 200,000 square feet of space to the campus—an increase of 20 percent.

At the heart of the new construction will be the South Village, located on the southern end of campus. This village will include three new five-story residence halls (1), a 20,000-square-foot autism research and treatment center (2), an Olympic-sized swimming pool and integrated diving well (3), a new dining hall (4) and the new 24,000-square-foot Harris Center for Science and Engineering (5). Not lost on current students is one other aspect of the South Village—a 392-space parking garage (6).

Florida Tech President Anthony J. Catanese, whose background is in urban planning, said the South Village project reflects the concept of New Urbanism.
"The whole idea is, we’ll actually have a living, breathing, village here that’s very accessible to the whole community,” said Catanese. “The concept encourages walking, but the addition of a parking deck shows we’re not anti-automobile. We just hope they stay in their spaces while students, faculty and staff are on campus."

Other projects under way include the College of Aeronautics’ Emil Buehler Center for Aviation Training and Research at the Melbourne International Airport (pictured at right) and the Ruth Funk Textile Gallery, to be located in the heart of campus.

Jay Wilson
2006-2007 Honor Roll of Donors

Each year we honor trustees, alumni, faculty, staff, students, parents, corporations, foundations and other friends in the Honor Roll of Donors. This year’s Honor Roll of Donors consists of those who gave to the university between May 1, 2006 and April 30, 2007. We salute all who remembered Florida Tech during the 2007 fiscal year.

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Meredith W. Scholtens
Leslie L. Savoie
Ann H. Sepri
Paso Sepri, Ph.D.
Robert L. Serody
Michael R. Shaffer
Muzaffar A. Shaikh, Ph.D.
Yahia L. Sharaf-Eldien, Ph.D.
Wade H. Shaw
Carol Shehadde
William D. Shoffin, Ph.D.
Johann M. Simicak
Michael H. Slotkin, Ph.D.
Cheryl Smith
Jeanette C. Sparks
Kenneth P. Stackpole, Ph.D.
Thomas E. Stewart
Judith B. Strother, Ph.D.
Elaine N. Taylor
Robert A. Taylor, Ph.D.
Janice B. Teegen
Judith E. Tintera
Manolis Tomadakis, Ph.D.
Denise M. Touma
John H. Treffy, Ph.D.
Kathy A. Turner
Richard L. Turner, Ph.D.
Tom W. Urley, Ph.D.
Robert Van Woesik
Penelope L. Vassar
Nathaniel E. Villaire, Ph.D., Ed.D.
Thomas D. Waite, Ph.D.
Fontaine Wallace
Linda J. Ward
Carol W. Waters
Lynn E. Weaver, Ph.D.
Frank M. Webbe, Ph.D.
Harry P. Weber, Ph.D.
Rosalind E. Weiss
Priscilla C. Wiener
Gary N. Wells
Amy S. Williams
John E. Williams (d)
John G. Windsor, Jr., Ph.D.
James O. Wilson III
Matthew A. Wood, Ph.D.
James N. Woodyard
Debra C. Woodruff
Feng Yang, Ph.D.
Charlotte M. Young
Ming Zhang
Peggy A. Zinsmeister

Parents
Wayne L. Andrews, Jr., PE
Donna Andrews
Wanda L. Bethea
Samuel L. Bogdon
Susan M. Bogdon
Rita T. Bowman
Thomas E. Bowman, Ph.D., PE
John M. Clifford
Judith A. Clifford
Organizations

3M Corporation
Above & Beyond Designs
Adobe Systems, Incorporated
Advanced Aesthetics
All Pro Sporting Goods
American Business Interiors
American Electric Power
American Insurance Administrators
Andretti Thrill Park
Antiques Etcetera
APIC, Inc.
Appalachian Log Homes
Archer Daniels Midland Company
Artemis IT Solutions
Artword
Aviation Training Institute, LLC
B & A Sports Production Inc.
Ball Corporation Matching Gifts
Bank of America, Orlando BB & T
Beach Street Eatery
Beach Studios, Inc.
Bear Stearns Asset Management
Bechtel Foundation
Bennigan's Restaurant
Berkshire Hathaway
Bettinger Gifts
Boeing Gift Matching Program
Boeing Space Systems
Bonefish & Tarpon Unlimited, Inc.
Brady Smith Associates Inc.
Bradco Supply Corp
Brandt Ronat & Company
Breard Business News, Inc.
Brevard Alliance, Inc.
Brevard ElderLearning
Brevard Watercraft
Bright House Networks
Bristol Myers Squibb
Securities Litigation
Brownings Pharmacy & Health Care
Bryce Cameron
Construction, Inc.
BSS Exteriors
Budget Printing Centers
Buttermaid Bakery
C.D.M.A., Inc.
Cape Side Dental PA
CDM
Cemex Inc.
Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society Inc.
CFS Industries, Inc.
Chevron USA Inc.
Chick-Fil-A
Chilli's Grill & Bar
Citigroup Foundation
City of Melbourne
City Tropics Bistro
Civil Land Engineers
Cleefar Millare Landscaping
Cobb and Walls Insurance Agency
Florida Coca-Cola Bottling Co.
The Coca-Cola Bottling Company (Tampa)
Columbus & Cook, Ltd
Commemorative Brands, Inc.
Community Educators
Credit Union
Connie Chiles-Cooke Inc.
Agency
Constellation Energy Group
Construction Engineering Group
Construction Solutions Unlimited
Cool Roses, Inc.
Cosmic Cafe
Creative Political Foundations, Inc.
Creech Engineers
CTH Environmental Inc.
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D & F Concessions, Inc.
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Data Management
Distribution Specialist Incorporated
Domino's Pizza
Dongbia, Inc.
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Oceanfront
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Douglas C. Lane & Associates
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Dritte
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Eastman Chemical
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Elemental Nursery
Ellison Graphics Corp.
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Going Bananas
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Goldman, Sachs & Co.
Golf Search, Inc.
GTC of Brevard, Inc.
Hamilton Beach Proctor-Silex, Inc.
Harbor City Travel
Hardee's
Harris Corp Government Communications System Division
Haru Sushi Bar & Grill
Headhunter Inc.
Health First, Inc.
Hiett Construction, Inc.
Hooters of Melbourne
Horizon Software Solutions, Inc.
House Of Lights
Hoyman, Dobson & Company, P.A.
Hurricane Product Warehouse Inc.
IBM Matching Grants Program
ICI Resources Center
ICM Asset Management, Inc.
The Imported Car Store, Inc.
Indian River Orchids
Insurance Consultants of Central Florida
J. G's Tropical Plants
JAG Enterprises & Associates, Inc.
Jasmine Homes, Inc.
Jason's Deli
Jatco, Inc.
Jimmie Vickers, Inc.
Jim's Orchid Supplies
Joel E. Boyd & Associates, P.A.
Jones Edmonds
Joyal Construction
Just Plumerias
Kamp - J, Inc.
Kaye-Lynn Dance Studio
Kennen Family
Chiropractic
Kinberg & Associates, LLC
Kountry Kottage Restaurant
L&S Restaurant Concepts, Inc.
Lanier Worldwide Inc.
Laura Leigh
Lockheed Martin Corporation
Lockheed Martin Space Systems
Lockheed Martin
Look'in Good
Lucidus Imports
Luge's Holdings, Inc.
Lyondell
M.H. Williams
Construction, Inc
M.L.Wilson Co.
Ma-Gray Services, Inc.
Mactec
Magnolia Cafe & Eatery
Management Wise
The Mango Tree Restaurant
Markel Corporation
Maxwell Appraisal & Consulting Group
MBV ENGINEERING, INC
Melbourne Area Pilots Association Inc.
Melbourne International Airport
Melbourne Ocean Front
Melbourne Podiatry Associates
MGI USA
Michael's for Men & Women
Ministry of Soccer, Inc.
Mitchell & Mitchell Insurance Agency, Inc.
MOEN Incorporated
Montessori Academy of Virginia
Morgan Stanley & Company Inc.
Morrell Enterprise Group LLC
Muddie Designs Inc.
NationAir Insurance Agencies, Inc.
National Educational Fin Svcs
National Management Resources Corp.
National Semiconductor Corporation
Nationwide Insurance Company
Nationwide Insurance Pete Ballard Agency
Neil Bayer P.A.
Netagy Technology Solutions LLC
New York Life Insurance Co.
Newtek Manufacturing, Inc.
Noble Engineering Associates
Northern Trust Bank
Northrop Grumman
Integrated Sys. Sector
NorthStar Capital Management, Inc.
Northwestern Mutual Life Ins.
O'Brien Riemenschneider, P.A.
Oggi Salon & Spa
OMNI Healthcare, P.A.
Omnifirst Capital Corporation
The Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Center of Brevard
Palm Bay Fire Extinguisher Company
Palm Bay's Secret Gardens
Palm Gardens Golf Course
The Palm Garden Nursery & Landscaping, Inc.
Peoples Physical Therapy, Inc.
Perky's Pizza
Petals Flower & Gift Shop
Phantom Productions Of Florida LLC
Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity
Pinkerton Financial
Plants by R W Daniel
Plaza Paint & Decoration Centers, Inc.
Porter World Trade, Inc.
Project Regreen
Promotional & Advertising Product
PVZ Enterprises
Gift Summary Report  FY 07: Gifts through 4-30-07

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Grand Total:

Documented Legacy Bequests: $15,795,366
Includes Trusts Pending

Online Giving Year To Date: $59,356
Online Donors Year To Date: 574
Village Life in Tuscany
April 26 — May 4, 2008

Join this delightful Tuscan experience and discover the stunning beauty, rich history and unrivalled artistic and cultural legacies of one of Italy’s most fabled regions. Stay in the charming 130-year-old Hotel Chiusarelli, located in the heart of Siena, a perfectly preserved medieval town and UNESCO World Heritage site.

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• Enchanting medieval hamlets of San Gimignano and Montalcino, virtually unchanged for centuries
• Siena’s Piazza del Campo, where the Palio has been held since 1283
• Tour Chianti, the legendary wine-making region and savor the delights of one of Italy’s most famous cuisines

Approx. $1,995 plus air

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9 Days | 15 Meals | 7 Breakfasts | 4 Lunches | 4 Dinners

Beijing is hosting the 2008 Olympics in August ’08—this is a great opportunity to enjoy some of the new amenities added for the Olympics, after the crowds are gone.

• Visit Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City
• Learn the art of traditional dumpling making in the home of a local Chinese family
• Plenty of free time to explore
• Stay in one hotel the Loong Palace Hotel and Resort in Beijing—no unpacking and packing items!

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For more details on these exciting trips, contact Diane Deaton at (321) 674-7198
International Athletes “Sweden” the Pot for Florida Tech

Sweden’s largest soccer magazine featured a Florida Tech soccer player in the September issue of Match magazine. Freshman midfielder Matilda Östergaard was featured in an article called “The American Way.”

Ulf Jörnvik, a writer for Match, touched on the advantages collegiate soccer can provide, namely the combination of a strong education and the chance to further develop as a soccer player. Östergaard, majoring in psychology, values the priority American coaches place on academics. That teamed with the success of women’s soccer in the United States provides an appealing option for international athletes.

Östergaard has proved to be a force in the midfield for the Panthers this season. She’s started 10 of 13 games played, scored two goals and registered one assist. But Östergaard is just one of four Swedish players on the Florida Tech soccer team. Sophomore midfielder Therese Svensson, freshman forward Amanda Hjalmarsson and redshirt freshman Paula Lillsjö round out the Swedish Panthers.

Head coach Fidgi Haig believes the girls bring a lot to his team. He lists composure, creativity, quick vision and focus as strong points in the Swedish players, but he also marvels at the differences between the four.

“Matilda is good on the ball under pressure. She has great dribbling ability,” Haig said. “She makes something happen from nothing, but she’s still getting used to the game speed. Once she gets that under control, she’ll be twice as dangerous.”

Svensson is the oldest and has one year of play under her belt. Last season she started all 18 games and scored six goals. This season she’s added playmaking abilities to her repertoire with four assists and three goals.

“Therese is an all-around player. She’s athletic and quick,” Haig said. “She’s tremendous with both feet. She creates a lot of trouble offensively.”

Hjalmarsson started the season providing offensive depth, but midway earned the starting nod from Haig. It’s easy to see why. Hjalmarsson registered two assists and four goals and showed unmatched accuracy on passes, shots and corner kicks.

“Amanda is an attacking player, but she’s more creative,” Haig said. “She sees things well and does well under pressure. Once she’s used to this style of game, she’ll make more of an impact.”

When it comes to Lillsjö, there is excitement brewing in anticipation of what she’ll add to the team next season. She’s shown excellent speed and quickness in practice, as well as strong tackling ability. She’s displayed such versatility that Haig has yet to decide what position she’ll play.

“Paula is energetic. She covers a lot of space and tackles strong. Of the four, she plays most like an American,” Haig said. “She’s physical but also composed. She’s also a vocal leader who plays many different positions.”

For the attributes each girl brings to the game, Haig believes they will improve from playing in the United States.
“The American game helps because it’s faster and more physical,” Haig said. “The style, competitiveness and athleticism they face here can help complete their skills.”

Each girl noticed differences in the way Americans play. Hjalmarsson points out that due to the physicality, soccer can become a more individual game here. Because of that, Östergaard noticed American teams don’t necessarily use the same tactics a Swedish team might use.

Svensson says the team’s success is most important in Sweden and there are times when a player might not even know individual statistics. Lillsjö thinks that’s a direct effect of the Swedish culture.

“In Sweden, we don’t want to stick out,” Lillsjö said. “We’re happy in the background, and it isn’t necessarily like that here.”

Despite some of the differences, the girls have had no problems adjusting. Svensson said she loves American people because she is social like them. Lillsjö believes American extroverts make adjusting easy. All of them agree it’s hard to feel homesick because everything is so different. For that reason they aren’t reminded of home too often. But there have been minor challenges.

“They say math is the universal language, but it’s definitely not,” Östergaard said. “They have different letters in different places, and it can get pretty confusing.”

Language places an extra burden on the girls. Lillsjö points out that when they learned the language it was for everyday conversation. They didn’t learn the words they might need to know to succeed in science for example.

But on the field it’s all soccer. That’s the reason the girls wanted to come. It was the best way to travel, like their Swedish friends, but still play soccer.

“In Europe soccer isn’t just one of the sports, it’s the sport,” Svensson said. “You want to play soccer from birth.”

Östergaard even had her high school graduation rescheduled because of a Swedish national team soccer match.

Their drive to succeed in soccer should help each girl, as well as the Panthers. They helped Florida Tech compile a 9-5-2 record in 2007 and were 4-1-2 on their home turf.

In addition to the four Swedish soccer players on the women’s team, there are 41 international athletes representing 12 Florida Tech teams. All bring a different level of experience and a different skill set to their squads. And at a school with a large international population, those athletes are in good company.

Joshua Flanagan

Did you know that Florida Tech’s athletics programs joined the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) in 1978 and that Florida Tech’s rowing team won the Southeastern United States Rowing Championship that same year?
**Science and Mathematics Education**

**Alumni Reunion in 2008**

Save the date for the inaugural science and mathematics education grand reunion celebration. All science and mathematics education alumni, current students and their families are invited for a weekend of festivities in Melbourne, July 11–14, 2008.

Join us for campus tours and an evening mixer on Friday night. Enjoy local area activities followed by an evening dinner and entertainment on Saturday. Sunday events include trips to Kennedy Space Center and Orlando area attractions.

Mark your calendar now for a great weekend to greet old friends, meet new friends and share the success.

E-mail education@fit.edu for more information.

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**HOMECOMING 2008 • OCTOBER 13–18**

The “Amazing Kreskin,” the world’s foremost mentalist, will be performing at the 50th Anniversary Alumni Banquet this October. Don’t miss the best Homecoming Celebration in our university’s history!

October 13–18, 2008 is Homecoming week for Florida Institute of Technology. Plan your vacations now to come back to Melbourne as we celebrate our first 50 years. Enjoy the nostalgia of old memories, the camaraderie of renewed friendships and the excitement of novel sights and experiences.

The Homecoming 50th Anniversary Alumni Banquet will be held in the Charles and Ruth Clemente Center for Sports and Recreation on Saturday, October 18. Tickets are available for the buffet dinner at $65 per person or $100 per couple.

Tickets may be purchased online at https://www.merchantamerica.com/fit/echopay

For more information, call (321) 674-7190.

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1971

Mark Sivik is a teleclass teacher for the Palm Beach County School District and lives in Loxahatchee, Fla. He is a member of the Florida Entomological Society and the Mosquito Control Association of America. Son Cory, 19, attends Florida Atlantic University and daughter Hillary, 21, is a student at Boston University School of Dentistry.

1976

Paris Michaels ’83 M.B.A., ’86 M.S., is a Ph.D. candidate in the science education program as well as an adjunct faculty member for the College of Aeronautics on the Melbourne campus. As a captain for U.S. Air, his June 6, 2007, commercial air flight from Manchester (UK) to Philadelphia, Penn., has been established as a world record, at 526.93 mph, according to the History of Aviation and Space World Records.

1978

Bennie Williams M.S., retired Maj. Gen. U.S. Army, served for 35 years. He is enrolled in an executive management program at the Broad Superintendents Academy that trains top executives from military, business, nonprofit, government and education to lead urban school districts.

Jim Rhine is the author of Mindblowers!, a nonfiction collection of essays, mind-altering ideas and stories designed to astound, delight and amaze. Check out mindblowersthebook@yahoo.com. He is a three-time Emmy-winning writer on the TV game show, “Jeopardy!” Based in Los Angeles, Calif., Jim can be reached at Jeqimby@aol.com.

1982

Mark Cole is president of the American Coaster Enthusiasts, an international organization with more than 8,000 members. He has ridden over 400 roller coasters worldwide. Mark is employed at Dundee Ridge Middle School, working with data analysis of standardized testing at the Dundee, Fla., site. Mark, in the green shirt, is riding the Starliner at Cypress Gardens Adventure Park in Winter Haven, Fla.

1983

Catharina (Dubbelday) Haynes is a judge in Texas and was nominated by President Bush to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Appeals from the federal district courts of Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas are heard through this circuit.

1987

David Edwards Jr. serves as airport director at Asheville Regional Airport in North Carolina. Prior to relocating to Asheville, he was the executive director of the Titusville-Cocoa Airport Authority in Florida. He and wife Lisa are parents of Jessica and Sarah.
1990
Scott Folstein, wife Dr. Renata Folstein, and son Joseph welcomed Anna Marie in November 2006. The Folstein Four reside in Jacksonville, Fla.

1991
Alexander “Sasha” Digges Jr. is founder and president of two businesses, Peak Physical Therapy & Sports Rehabilitation and Core Fitness Performance Training Center in Williamsburg, Va. He and wife Kelli welcomed their second son, Bryce Jordan, in November 2006. Sibling Mitchell Alexander is four years old.

1992
Alberto Lacaze is co-founder of Robotic Research, LLC, a five-year-old engineering firm in Gaithersburg, Md. With co-founder Karl Murphy, he has established the company in the defense contracting industry. For additional information, visit www.roboticresearch.com.
Godwin Ndukwe, M.B.A., is employed by the Internal Revenue Service in New Orleans, La., as a revenue agent.

1993
Tony Quintana and wife Maria are parents to Victoria, who was born November 2006 in Lansdowne, Va.

1994
Steven Shapiro, M.S., is a colonel in the U.S. Army, serving as commander of Letterkenny Army Depot in Chambersburg, Penn. He and wife Mary have two children, Allison, 13 and Grace, 8.

1995
Elvin McLaughlin Jr. and wife Alicia welcomed their second child, Nicole Derine, in May 2007. Quinn, 4, enjoys being a big brother. Elvin is a senior manager at BearingPoint, and Alicia is a Ph.D. candidate in social work. The family resides in Tallahassee, Fla.

1996

2000

2001

2002
Anna (Tylka) Landman and husband Nick welcomed Abby Michelle in February 2007. The family lives in Orlando, Fla.

1997
Arte Roman, wife Krisa, and three-year-old sons Athan and Christian welcomed Lucian to the family in March 2007. The family lives in Orlando, Fla., where Arte is an environmental scientist for MSCW Inc.

1999
Jeremy Harris and wife Kelly are first-time parents to Connor David born May 2007. The family lives in Austin, Texas, where Eric is a software architect and Kristen is a real estate consultant.

2000
Astrid Anduze-Melendez are proud parents to Alejandro born December 2006. Alex is an acceptance test pilot for Sikorsky Aircraft and a black hawk pilot for the U.S. Army Reserves. Astrid is taking a break from teaching elementary school to stay at home.

2001
Alexandria “Sasha” Digges Jr. is founder and president of two businesses, Peak Physical Therapy & Sports Rehabilitation and Core Fitness Performance Training Center in Williamsburg, Va. He and wife Kelli welcomed their second son, Bryce Jordan, in November 2006. Sibling Mitchell Alexander is four years old.

Class Notes

Calling all Panther Cubs!

Congratulations on your new arrival!
If you've recently welcomed a new Panther Cub to your family, contact us for your free infant T-shirt.
Your only obligation is to send us a photo of your baby wearing the shirt—we will proudly display it in this section of Florida Tech TODAY.
E-mail hrosskam@fit.edu to receive your shirt.
Theresa Castle and husband Ron Ramirez welcomed Chase Jayden in August 2007. Big sister Skylar was born March 2006. Theresa works as a pilot with Chautauqua Airlines and Ron is a contractor with AT&T. The family resides in Melbourne, Fla.

2004

Gilbert Geer is an air traffic control specialist at Montgomery Field Airport, San Diego, Calif. In 2006, he earned a A.S. in air traffic control from the Community College of Beaver County, Monaca, Penn.

Nicole Zajicek and Bradley Wise ’05 were married in August 2007 in Blaine, Wash. Many Florida Tech alumni attended the wedding, particularly members of Alpha Phi and Tau Kappa Epsilon. Both work for The Boeing Company in Everett, Wash. Nicole is an analysis engineer for environmental control systems, and Bradley is a project management specialist for 787 program planning and controls.

IN MEMORIAM

Peter Albano Jr. ’72 passed away in September 2007. He was a purchasing manager for the Crabs Claw Inn in Lavallette, N.J. He is survived by his parents Peter Albano Sr. and Dorothea Albano of Long Valley, N.J., and three siblings.

Gayle Hager ’73 passed away in November 2005. He was a retired NASA employee and a Satellite Beach, Fla., resident.

Roger Spencer ’78 M.B.A. passed away in October 2007 in Largo, Fla. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and an engineer at Honeywell for 25 years. Survivors include his six children, nine grandchildren and a sister.


While on a recruiting trip to India, Stephanie Enstice, associate director of international admission, was surprised to find Sunita Williams ’95 M.S. was staying in the same hotel while visiting her family in Ahmedabad, India. Williams, an astronaut, was on the cover of the winter 2007 issue of Florida Tech TODAY. Enstice shared some Florida Tech memorabilia with her and said Williams was greeted by huge crowds while visiting her hometown.

Did you know that Florida Tech’s public radio station, WFIT, first went on the air in 1975?

I’VE MOVED. Please change my mailing address to: ___________________________
2008

February
4—Alumni Reception, Hyatt Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.
21, 22—Uncommon Threads, "The Art of Fashion"
24—International Festival

March
1—Botanical Fest Plant and Garden Sale
8—Keuper Cup, Canal 54, Palm Bay
14—Sporting Affair, Suntree Country Club
18—Alumni Reception, Raleigh, N.C. 6:30–8:30 p.m., Second Empire
TBD—Space Coast Chapter reception

April
4—School of Psychology Research Expo
11, 16, 20 and 25—Tournées French Film Festival
15—Business Ethics Conference, Harris Corp.
21—Alumni Reception, New York City/Northern New Jersey, 6:30–8:30 p.m., Water Club
23—Alumni Reception, Boston/New England, 6:30–8:30 p.m., Seaport Hotel
April 24–May 3, Alumni Travel Opportunity—Village Life in Tuscany

May
6—Alumni Reception, Dallas, 6:30–8:30 p.m., Hyatt Regency
10—Dad Vail Regatta, Philadelphia
16—Alumni Reception, Huntsville, AL, 5–6:30 p.m., Marriott

June
13—Capstone Classic Golf Tournament
TBD—Seattle
TBD—Los Angeles

July
11–14—Science and Mathematics Education Alumni Reunion
Inaugural grand reunion celebration. Contact education@fit.edu

Contact the Alumni Office for more information on alumni events.

ONGOING EVENTS | HELD ON CAMPUS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

WFIT Concerts and Special Events—Visit www.wfit.org

Women’s Business Center—Visit http://wbc.fit.edu
The WBC provides training, counseling, mentoring and technical assistance targeting women entrepreneurs and women-owned small businesses in Brevard, Indian River and St. Lucie counties.

SAVE THE DATE
HOMECOMING 2008
October 13–18
See sneak preview on page 58.
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