

# *Florida Tech* TODAY

A magazine for Alumni and Friends of Florida Institute of Technology

SPRING 2009

*Cover Story*

## **Same Planet, Different Worlds: Understanding Autism**

*In This Issue:* **The Inauguration of the 44th President | Goodwill on an Upward Slope | The University is a Family Affair | HOMECOMING '09 Registration Details**

# President's Perspective

Dear Florida Tech Alumni and Friends,

Spring 2009 has been an extremely busy time for the Florida Tech family, as reflected in this edition of *Florida Tech TODAY*. From academics, to athletics, to alumni on the move, there is no slowing down the people associated with this wonderful university. It's in that spirit that we share with you one example. This issue's cover story addresses autism and the outstanding efforts of our faculty and students to examine this perplexing developmental disorder.



Known collectively as Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention outlines some of the key warning signs in young children: problems being friendly, problems talking, and problems dealing with changes to their daily routines. With estimates that 1 in every 150 American children have some form of the disorder, now is the time to find treatments and therapies that work.

That's part of the charge to our new Scott Center for Autism Treatment. Focused on service, research and training, the faculty and staff of this evolving initiative are gaining national attention for their work in autism. They are piecing together effective treatments for this puzzling condition, one child at a time.

Best wishes for a wonderful spring and summer!

Sincerely yours,

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

## Florida Tech TODAY

<http://today.fit.edu>

Florida Institute of Technology  
PRESIDENT Anthony James Catanese, Ph.D., FAICP  
SR. VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT Kenneth P. Stackpoole, Ph.D.

*Florida Tech TODAY* is published three times a year by Florida Tech's Office for Advancement and is distributed to over 50,000 readers.

MANAGING EDITOR/DESIGNER Judi Tintera, [jtintera@fit.edu](mailto:jtintera@fit.edu)

EDITOR Wes Sumner, [wsummer@fit.edu](mailto:wsummer@fit.edu)

ASSISTANT EDITOR Karen Rhine, [krhine@fit.edu](mailto:krhine@fit.edu)

COPY EDITOR Christena Callahan, [ccallaha@fit.edu](mailto:ccallaha@fit.edu)

CLASS NOTES REPORTER Verna Layman, [vlayman@fit.edu](mailto:vlayman@fit.edu)

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS Joan Bixby, Isabella D. Bunn,

Christena Callahan, Diane Deaton, Andy McIlwraith,

Melinda Millsap, Ramon Torres Morales, Karen Rhine,

MaryEllen Roy, Rebecca Vick, Rosalind Weiss, Wes Sumner

PRODUCTION Marcos Delgado, Rob Gribbroek, Kristie Kwong, Rachele Ross

WEB LAYOUT Christena Callahan

CIRCULATION Julia Murray

PHOTOGRAPHY Heather Emmert Cudmore, Ken

Droscher, Barry Eager, Thilina Fernando, Florida

Tech Athletic Communications staff, Peter Finger,

Ashley Franklin, Erin Frederick, Ray Goen, Anthony

James, Verna Layman, Billy Mims, Karen Rhine, Wes

Sumner, Wanfa Zhang.

### ALUMNI OFFICE

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT

AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Ken Droscher (321) 674-7191, [gopanthers@fit.edu](mailto:gopanthers@fit.edu)

DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP, MARKETING AND PROGRAMS

AND ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Diane Deaton (321) 674-7198, [ddeaton@fit.edu](mailto:ddeaton@fit.edu)

ASSISTANT ALUMNI DIRECTOR Marjorie Beckett '98

(321) 674-7642, [mbeckett@fit.edu](mailto:mbeckett@fit.edu)

ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK Hazel Rosskamp

(321) 674-7190, [hrosskam@fit.edu](mailto:hrosskam@fit.edu)

### HOW TO KEEP IN TOUCH

Florida Tech, Office of University Communications,

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

(321) 674-6218, Fax (321) 674-6399, [wsummer@fit.edu](mailto:wsummer@fit.edu)

### CHANGING ADDRESSES?

Don't leave copies of your alumni magazine behind.

Send your new address to Florida Tech, Office of

Alumni Affairs, 150 W. University Blvd., Melbourne,

FL 32901-6975, [hrosskam@fit.edu](mailto:hrosskam@fit.edu)

### ADVERTISING SALES

Jennifer Neuhard, Director of University Marketing,

(321) 674-8935, [jneuhard@fit.edu](mailto:jneuhard@fit.edu)



Florida Institute of Technology  
High Tech with a Human Touch™

[www.fit.edu](http://www.fit.edu)

© Copyright 2009 by Florida Institute of Technology.  
All rights reserved. Reproduction by any means whole  
or in part without permission is prohibited. For reprint  
information, contact Florida Tech TODAY at (321)  
674-8963, Fax (321) 674-8606, or [jtintera@fit.edu](mailto:jtintera@fit.edu).



Cover Story: Connecting parents and family in the treatment of autism



Feature: Restoring independence for homebound Texans



Members of the College Players show their spirit during the Homecoming parade.

## cover story

### 22 **Seeing the Autism Spectrum**

The new Scott Center for Autism Treatment forges ahead with research and service.

## features

### 10 **\$1 Million Northrop Grumman Gift Underwrites Innovation**

Funding from an aerospace leader means greater support for student projects.

### 16 **Reflections on the Golden Anniversary**

Take a look back at the smiles, celebrations and associated festivities.

### 21 **In the Beginning ... Joan Sherman**

Learn about a pioneering woman whose legacy is accomplishment.

### 26 **The Inauguration of the 44th President**

Read a first-person account of the historic day.

### 28 **Goodwill on an Upward Slope**

Alumni fight an uphill battle to help others.

### 30 **For the Lord Family, the University is a Family Affair**

Meet an enterprising family who finds Florida Tech a perfect "fit."

### 33 **With Her Psy.D., the Sky's The Limit**

Alumna Vicki Ingram is putting her degree to work in service to her country.

### 35 **Creating a Hot Bed for Climate Change Research**

New faculty member Richard Aronson says the world is heating up.

## departments

President's Perspective . . . . .	2	Athletics . . . . .	37
Mailbag . . . . .	4	Alumni News Notes . . . . .	41
On Campus . . . . .	5	Calendar . . . . .	42
Advancement . . . . .	10		

This issue's cover: Helping children with autism is a new aim of Florida Tech.  
Cover photograph credit: Peter Finger

## alumni news

From the FTAA President	13
On the Road	14
Aero Alumni Shine	15
Delta Delta Tau Challenge	15
Reflections on the 50th	16
Homecoming Preview	20
In the Beginning ...	21
Travel Opportunities	36
Alumni News Notes	41

## HOMECOMING '09 INFORMATION

Pages 13 And 20

### Alumni Association

Russ Ballagh '74, President, Venice, FL  
(941) 493-1303; russ.ballagh@verizon.net

Alan Prestwood '73, '80, Vice President,  
West Melbourne, FL (321) 953-1541;  
alan.prestwood@wachoviasec.com

Mike Gordon '94, '00, Treasurer, Palm Bay, FL  
(321) 951-3826; m\_gordon@bellsouth.net

John Valente '76, Secretary,  
Hampstead, NC (910) 270-8709;  
jffunding76@yahoo.com



## Alumni memories

I read the letter from **R.G. Kunze '65**, about the dean. Mr. **Ray A. Work, Jr.** was still the dean when I graduated five years later. I remember him as a no nonsense man and a fair man. I also remember the associate dean, Bill Rose, who lived across the street from me in Indialantic.

I also agree with **Gary Bushko '73**. It is and always was, FIT!

Actually, though, I originally applied to Brevard Engineering College, while I was still in the U.S. Navy. Imagine my surprise when I received a letter from Florida Institute of Technology stating I had been accepted for the next term, Winter 1967, and I had never heard of them!

*Tuck Fuller  
'70 Computer Science*

## Give the gift of life

My thoughts and prayers go out to the wife and children of **Michael C. Doughty, '82, M.B.A.**

I did not know Michael but his untimely passing brings to light the desperate need of organ donations as Michael passed away waiting for a heart transplant.

Here are some facts to consider:

- There are over 100,000 people waiting for organs across the U.S.
- Every day 18 people die waiting for a life-saving organ.
- One name is added to the waiting list every 11 minutes in the U.S.

While almost 90% of the population believes in organ donation and transplantation, less than 20% of the population actually have made the decision to become organ donors and communicated their decision to their families. All states have some type of organ donor registry, many of these are tied into the department that provides driver's licenses so that the decision to be an organ donor appears on your license or state ID card as well as a donor registry.

One person can save the lives of up to eight people and enhance the lives of over 50 people through organ, eye and tissue donation.

I hope you will all consider becoming an organ donor. Please make that decision ... join your state's donor registry and talk with your family so they are aware of your decision. As is seen on bumper stickers: "Please don't take your organs to heaven, heaven knows we need them down here!" Give the gift of life.

For more information, please visit [www.unos.org](http://www.unos.org) or [www.donate-life.net](http://www.donate-life.net).

*Mike Ussak  
'72 Management Science*

*We'd love to hear from you.*

*Tell us what you'd like to see and give us your responses to the articles you've read in the magazine. Send your comments to Wes Sumner, [wsumner@fit.edu](mailto:wsumner@fit.edu).*

## Be Part of the Florida Tech

# Alumni Online Community

As a graduate of Florida Tech you will be able to:

- > Locate old friends and classmates through the alumni online directory.
- > Update your information online.
- > Use the Career Center as a resource for correspondence and professional networking.
- > Participate in bulletin boards and live chats.
- > Be assured of permanent e-mail forwarding.

**Available FREE to all alumni!**

[www.fit.edu/alumni](http://www.fit.edu/alumni) | click on Alumni Online Community

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



*Join us  
today!*

**Did you know the  
Florida Tech Alumni  
Association is on Facebook?  
Contact [ftaa@fit.edu](mailto:ftaa@fit.edu)  
for more information.**

## Buehler Center Takes Flight with Dedication

The Emil Buehler Center for Aviation Training and Research at Melbourne International Airport opened its doors Feb. 20 with a dedication attended by nearly 400 well-wishers.

Construction of the \$5.1 million 12,240-square-foot facility began in 2008 following a \$1.5 million gift from the Emil Buehler Perpetual Trust of Paramus, N.J., which was established in 1984. The center, located on eight acres at the airport, consists of a main building and 17,600-square-foot hangar.

Special features of the center include separate rooms for simulators and training, a student lounge



and airfield viewing room, instructor pilot's lounge, general aviation pilot's lounge, conference and briefing rooms, a room for weather/flight planning and offices for general operations.



From left, Trustee George Weaver of the Emil Buehler Perpetual Trust and Richard Ennis, executive director of the Melbourne International Airport, hold their panther statuettes, gifts to commemorate the day. To their left are Florida Tech President Anthony J. Catanese and Dean of the university's College of Aeronautics Winston Scott.

## New Construction Raises State-of-the-Art Facilities

Generous donations to the Golden Anniversary Campaign have changed the landscape of Florida Tech with major construction underway since spring 2008. More than just flowers will bloom on campus by late summer 2009.

### The Ruth Funk Center for Textile Arts

Made possible by a \$1.25 million campaign gift from Trustee **Ruth Funk**, the Ruth Funk Center for Textile Arts should be finished by June 1. The center's mission is to preserve and display an international collection of textiles through rotating public exhibitions and educational programs.

### The Scott Center for Autism Treatment

The combined resources of a major donation by Trustee **Ed Scott** and \$2.4 million in federal funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration sponsored the Scott Center for Autism Treatment. The foundations of the two-story building are now complete and the expected date for occupancy is August. At approximately 18,000 square feet, the center will provide



services for individuals with autism spectrum disorders and offer training for parents, teachers and other professionals. (See cover story, page 22.)

### The Harris Center for Science and Engineering

Thanks to a \$5 million endowment from the Harris Corp. Charitable Fund, held by the Community Foundation of Brevard, the construction of the three-story, 27,000-square-foot Harris Center for Science and Engineering is ongoing. The first floor of the building replaces biological sciences space, which will be lost as a result of building demolition for the new parking garage. The second floor will house the department of computer sciences as well as the Global Center for Climate Change. The third floor will house the Harris Institute for Assured Information. Move-in day should be in late summer.

According to **Greg Tsark**, assistant director of facilities management, "We are well on our way to completing the transformation of the campus. The design and construction teams have shown a true spirit of cooperation and we've set a new standard for sustainability that will be seen in these state-of-the-art facilities."



Posing for a job well-done, from left are: Travis Proctor '98, Sporting Affair committee member; Steve Lamontagne; Rosalind Weiss, director of annual giving; John C. Thomas, director of athletic partnerships; Troy Curry; President Anthony J. Catanese; Pete the Panther; Brian Dailey, associate provost for athletics; and Bill Jurgens '79, director of athletics.

## Sporting Affair Packs 'em in at Suntree Country Club

The highlight of Sporting Affair XVII, the university's premier athletic scholarship fund-raising event, was—as always—the Chopper Dropper. The Office of Development sold out of tickets for a chance on the \$25,000 grand prize and 12 other cash prizes, and it was standing room only under the tent for the big golf ball-drop event.

The helicopter sent 2,000 numbered balls raining down at about 7 p.m. The lucky winners were announced later amid great anticipation, including the winner who took home the grand prize, Lisa Holmes.

Sporting Affair also featured a golf tournament, raffle, auction, cocktail reception and, for the first time this year, a women's tennis tournament.

The event raised more than \$300,000, making it one of the best-ever fund-raisers for Florida Tech athlete scholars.



Steve Lamontagne of Suntree Country Club determines the winning ball numbers at the flag.

## Sumner Named Florida Tech University Relations VP

**Wes Sumner** was named to the newly created position of Associate Vice President for University Relations, reporting to Senior Vice President for Advancement **Kenneth Stackpole**. Sumner serves as university spokesperson and oversees the offices for communications, marketing, creative services and the WFIT radio station.



Wes Sumner

“Universities are, essentially, about people—and Florida Tech has dedicated faculty and staff making important contributions in teaching, learning and research,” said Sumner. “I enjoy being in a position to help to share that message far and wide.”

Most recently, Sumner was director of district communications and public information for Brevard Public Schools where he led a staff of 12 and was district spokesperson.

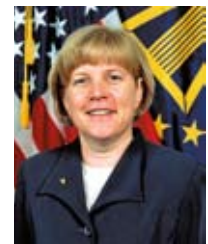
Prior to his work at Brevard Public Schools, Sumner spent almost a decade working for the University System of Georgia. Most recently, he served at Georgia Southwestern State University in Americus for nearly six years and left as director of university relations.

Sumner earned a bachelor's degree double majoring in journalism and political science at the University of Central Florida and holds a master of education degree in educational leadership from Valdosta State. Both degrees were with honors.

He is the recipient of many career honors. These include “One of the 20 Most Influential Young Leaders in Sumter County” by the Americus Times-Recorder in 2007 and nomination as one of *Georgia Trend* magazine's “40 under 40” in 2003.

## Fort Lee Alumna and Instructor Retires

**Claudia “Scottie” Knott** '84 M.S. retired in February after 31 years of federal service for the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) in Fort Belvoir, Va. Ending her career as DLA's director of acquisition management, she worked her way up from her first position as a personnel clerk in Fort Lee, Va.



Claudia “Scottie” Knott



Knott also held positions as an instructor and course director for the Management of Defense Acquisition Advanced Contracts course at the Army Logistics Management College at Fort Lee. She was an adjunct faculty member at Florida Tech's Fort Lee extended studies site from 1987 to 1989, having earned her Florida Tech master's degree in contract and acquisition management.

During her retirement ceremony, Knott received the Presidential Rank Award for 2008 Meritorious Service, silver letter for 31 years of service, and a Congressional Record tribute from Congressman Jim Moran, among several honors.

"Scottie is the person who makes things happen and sets high standards for performance and helping others. She is a special person and is not only leaving large shoes to fill, but truly a void for this agency," said Navy Vice Adm. Alan Thompson, DLA director.

## Patuxent Student Deploys to Iraq

**Vicki Leonard**, studying for her master's degree in management at the Patuxent River, Md., extended studies site is one of nearly 1,300 students enrolled at Florida Tech's 10 extended studies sites and the

Virtual Campus. Notable among them, however, she recently deployed to Iraq on a one-year contract.

The civilian single mother of two is a budget analyst in the Naval Air Systems Command's Aviation Support Equipment program office. One of 20 chosen from 2,000 applicants for volunteer duty in Baghdad, she continues work as a budget analyst. The salary boost, she hopes, will help her buy a house for her family.

Her ex-husband, Jim Leonard, will support her while she's away.

"We may be divorced but we are friends and we have children together," Vicki said. "He was very supportive of my decision to go to Iraq and he'll take care of the kids while I'm gone."

Leonard is enrolled in one distance learning class this semester, still a Florida Tech student though nearly 7,000 miles away.



Vicki Leonard

*Continued on page 8*

CELEBRATING  
**50**  
YEARS

Florida Institute of Technology  
**university college**  
*shaping minds | creating the future*




### DISTANCE LEARNING

Florida Tech's distance learning programs allow you to earn a degree outside of a conventional, campus-based setting. University College offers Florida Tech accredited course work to adult learners via the Virtual Campus.

### GLOBAL IMPACT

Current students and alumni of University College are from all points of the globe. From Alabama to Afghanistan and from New England to New Zealand, University College provides the opportunity for active and retired military personnel, government employees and civilians to earn a degree wherever they may be located.

### DEGREE PROGRAMS

M.S. Acquisition and Contract Management  
 M.S. Logistics Management • M.S. Operations Research •  
 M.S. Computer Information Systems • M.S. Human Resources Management • M.S. Management •  
 Professional Master of Business Administration •  
 Master of Public Administration

Additional master's degree programs and graduate certificate are listed in detail at <http://uc.fit.edu/dl>

*"I truly enjoyed my educational experience at Florida Tech. The faculty are knowledgeable, with real world experience. The classes aren't just lectures ... the instructors engage the class in discussions ... a real dialogue ... like a meeting at work."*

**Brian Scott Banville,**  
M.S. Computer Information Systems, Fall 2008

<http://uc.fit.edu/dl> | [virtualcampus@fit.edu](mailto:virtualcampus@fit.edu) | (864) 226-2257 | (888) 225-2239 (Toll Free)

## University Promotes International Sustainability

Florida Institute of Technology addressed smart growth and environmental sustainability at its sixth international, interdisciplinary forum, "Sustainability

2009: The Next Horizon," in March.

Keynote speaker was Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection



At the forum, Frank Leslie, adjunct professor in the Department of Marine and Environmental Systems at left, and Dean of the College of Science Gordon Nelson, pose by a Prius modified to become a plug-in hybrid. A third-party manufacturer, the Hymotion Co., modified the car. Charged by a normal 120-volt house utility outlet, the car's battery will take it 40 miles, which is adequate for typical in-town travel. When the voltage falls to a certain level the gas-powered engine automatically starts and recharges the battery.

**Michael W. Sole**, who earned a Florida Tech bachelor's degree in marine biology in 1986. He addressed the reality that Florida's economy and way of life depend on our ability to preserve and maintain a healthy and sustainable marine and terrestrial ecosystem for Florida's future generations.

"The forum focused on practical solutions to emerging sustainability issues from business, science and socio-political viewpoints," said Gordon L. Nelson, dean of the College of Science. "It offered the latest academic research and perspectives for practitioners and public policy makers."



Florida Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Michael W. Sole '86.

Speakers came from all over the United States as well as Germany, Hungary, China and Mexico. Participants heard presentations about Climate Change and Adaptation; Tourism and Economics; Sustainability, Technology and Innovation; How Climate Change Will Impact How We Grow in Florida; and Renewable (Sustainable) Energy.

The forum is a collaborative effort of the Florida Tech College of Business and College of Science, and Budapest University of Technology and Economics.



*Florida Institute of Technology*  
High Tech with a Human Touch™



*Our donors know that sound investments yield positive results.*

*That's why, year after year, they give to Florida Tech.*

*Join our team of smart investors and give to your alma mater today.*

*the Florida Tech fund  
an asset for all*

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





Titus Miles and mother Margie Miles in Washington, D.C.

## Florida Tech Student Earns Trip to Inauguration

**Titus Miles**, a sophomore honors student at Florida Institute of Technology and volunteer for Barack Obama’s campaign, reaped the fruits of his labor when he was rewarded with a trip to Washington, D.C. and Obama’s inauguration.

The meteorology major and member of the Florida Tech Young Democrats was the guest of the Brevard County NAACP and some generous donors.

“It was amazing,” said Rockledge resident Miles, who started the approximately 16-hour bus ride from Cocoa Beach the Sunday before the inauguration. He traveled with his mother Margie Miles and a full bus of mostly NAACP members.

Miles, who saw his first snow ever the Monday he arrived, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, joined the throngs of people who packed the city for the momentous event on Jan. 20. He visited the monuments and rode the Metro for the first time.

“I’ve seen crowds of people before, but not like that. At the inauguration people were pushing just to get near a screen [TV monitor].” He stood for six hours in what was, at some point, about 21 degrees. “I saw Obama but couldn’t get to the parade. My hands were numb but I did my best to take pictures.”

His efforts on the Obama campaign earned Titus the trip of a lifetime.

“He was selected due to his hard work in registering voters and helping to get out the vote last fall,” said **Heather Emmert Cudmore**. A Florida Tech

staff member, Cudmore is a co-adviser for the Florida Tech Young Democrats.

Miles worked with Cudmore in Precinct 26, situated near the university. “The precinct had its highest voter turnout ever with 98.7 percent of the votes cast for Barack Obama,” said Cudmore.

Miles spent what he estimates as “a few hundred hours” on the campaign. He knocked on doors, placed door hangers reminding people where to vote, made hundreds of phone calls, tallied numbers and prepared voter registration packets.

The gift of the trip was a surprise and Miles jumped at the opportunity.

“Just to be there for the moment was huge,” he said.

(See accompanying feature story on page 26.)

### Be Part of the Florida Tech Alumni Online Community

As a graduate of Florida Tech you will be able to:

- Locate old friends and classmates through the alumni online directory.
- Update your information online.
- Use the Career Center as a resource for correspondence and professional networking.
- Participate in bulletin boards and live chats.
- Be assured of permanent e-mail forwarding.



**Available FREE to all alumni!**

[www.fit.edu/alumni](http://www.fit.edu/alumni) | click on Alumni Online Community

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



### International Festival

Campus organization Sanskriti members whoop it up, Indian-style, at the annual spring International Festival, held at Panther Plaza and the Panthereum.

Left to right are: Kirtan Patel, Sindura, Praveen, Payal Rauliji, Kapil, Hamrata, Palak Gandhi, Yethiraj, Payal Pradhan and Suraj (in back).



Displaying the big check with pride are, from left: John Casco, vice president, Engineering, Battle Management and Engagement Systems Division, Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems; Thomas Waite, dean of the College of Engineering; President Anthony Catanese; Tom Vice, sector vice president and general manager, Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems; and T. Dwayne McCay, provost.

## \$1 Million Northrop Grumman Gift Underwrites Innovation

For more than four decades, Florida Tech engineering and science students have been required to complete a hands-on, detailed senior project before graduation. Now, funding that work will be a bit easier.

On Feb. 17, Northrop Grumman presented Florida Tech with a \$1 million gift to support the university's annual engineering and science student design competition, held in April. The newly named Northrop Grumman Engineering and Science Student Design Showcase will feature the innovation and creativity that Florida Tech students are known for.

In presenting the gift, **Tom Vice**, sector vice president and general manager for Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems, emphasized the importance of supporting students as they shape the future of our country in science and engineering.

"This isn't the end, this is just the beginning with this gift," said Vice, also a Florida Tech trustee.

In years past, students have raised money by doing simple fundraisers like raffles and car washes to fund their projects.

Florida Tech's student design projects have a track record of success. In 1990, Florida Tech's Sunshine Special entered the GM solar car race from Disney to Detroit placing 25th overall. In 2006, Florida Tech entered the first SAE Hybrid Formula One race. Their Racing Electric Vehicle (REV) won "Best Hybrid in Progress."

Northrop Grumman employees across the country hold 427 degrees from Florida Tech; 209 of those degrees are held by employees who work in the Melbourne location.

Wes Summer

## Farmer Scholars Program Launches

Beginning this fall, a new full four-year scholarship will be awarded annually to a Florida resident and high school graduate.

**Phillip W. Farmer**, retired chairman, president and chief executive officer of Harris Corp., has donated \$1.5 million to establish an endowed scholarship—the Farmer Scholars Program. Farmer is chair of Florida Tech’s board of trustees and chair of the executive committee. He also serves as chair of the Golden Anniversary Capital Campaign.

The scholarship provides for all tuition and university fees, a room in Harris Village’s Farmer Hall and the regular university meal plan. Each subsequent fall semester another incoming student will be selected until, by the fourth year, four students will be enrolled at Florida Tech as Farmer scholars.

Qualified applicants will be in the top five percent of their Florida high school class, have outstanding personal character as determined through references, and proven leadership qualities. Financial need, while considered, is not a requirement.



*Phillip W. Farmer*

Additionally, if funds are available and the Farmer Scholar elects to participate, recipients will be given a stipend between their junior and senior year for enrichment through Florida Tech’s summer study abroad program at Oxford University.

## Tech Tailors Giving to Suit Donors

When asked to offer financial support to your alma mater, you might think that writing a check today is the only way to help. Actually, there are a range of planned giving opportunities that allow you to underwrite your university at some point in the future—and even receive income from your gift.

**Larry Pollack** ’85 is using one of these strategies to establish a scholarship and a fellowship that will be available to future undergraduate and graduate students in the College of Engineering’s Department of Marine and Environmental Systems (DMES). Florida Tech will ultimately receive the bequest funds at the time that Pollack’s will is executed.

“Training young adults in scientific disciplines is imperative to the success of high technology initiatives in this country,” Pollack said. “The number of students pursuing undergraduate and graduate scientific degrees in the United States is declining. Hopefully, this future funding will provide opportunities to those who want to become scientists and engineers but may not have the financial resources to achieve their goal.”

**Beverly Sanders**, assistant vice president of development, said that the university is currently revisiting its menu of planned giving options so that donors have a full range of choices.

“The most important consideration is offering giving opportunities that meet the individual needs of donors,” Sanders said. “Comprehensive estate planning is critical for all of us. In addition to will bequests, there are options like charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts that give donors maximum flexibility.”

A charitable gift annuity enables the donor to transfer cash or marketable securities to the university in exchange for a current income tax deduction and the university’s promise to make fixed annual payments to the donor for life. Charitable remainder trusts are a similar option.

“In the coming months, we will present new information to our alumni so that they can make better informed giving decisions,” Sanders said. “The continuing support of our alumni is critical to ensuring a bright future for Florida Tech and its students.”

For more information on these and other planned giving options, call Sanders at (321) 674-6155.



*A new scholarship and fellowship are being established for future students in DMES.*

*Wes Summer*



# All Faiths Center Becomes Focus of Renovation

*Father Douglas Bailey is grateful for a recent gift to renovate portions of the campus All Faiths Center—and hopeful that it may become the first of many.*

Originally built as the home of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church, the All Faiths Center became part of Florida Tech in 1994 and is now the headquarters for the Catholic Campus Ministry and Protestant Campus Ministry. The facility is not only a sanctuary for worship and personal reflection, but also a meeting place and student center for everything from Bible study to Wednesday night spaghetti dinners.

“We are always looking for new ways to encourage student involvement,” Bailey said.

But as the years have worn on, so has the wear and tear on the All Faiths Center. There are roof leaks to be patched, and the kitchen and bathrooms are outdated. The ceiling fans in the sanctuary need replacing, and the fellowship room—a constant hub of activity—needs new lighting.

**“Helping to create a faith-based affinity group will allow students to stay connected to each other and the university.”**

*Chip Heflich '73*

Enter **Chip Heflich '73**, a university trustee who saw the need and wanted to help. When in town, he and his wife attend services at the All Faiths Center.

“When I was on campus at Florida Tech, we didn’t have a chapel,” Heflich said. “It is unfortunate that when kids go off to college, they often disconnect from their faith. I thought it would be a good idea to help keep them connected.”

Heflich is helping by donating funds to start the renovation and repairs. He feels strongly that the fellowship opportunities available through the center should form the bedrock of the college experience.

“I was fortunate to be a Pike [fraternity brother] in college—a real affinity group that draws us back to campus,” Heflich said. “Helping to create a faith-based affinity group will allow students to stay connected to each other and the university.”

Heflich hopes that, eventually, funding will be found for bells and a steeple for the All Faiths Center.

“We all need a place to reach out to others,” Heflich said. “The All Faiths Center is open to all, and can be that place.”

For more information on supporting the renovations to the All Faiths Center, call University Advancement at (321) 674-6400.

*Wes Summer*

**All Faiths Face Lift: The facility will be freshened up, but more funds are needed.**





## from the FTAA President

From the desk of Association President Russ Ballagh '74

### Alumni Helping Alumni

In the good, bad and in-between times, families, colleagues and friends pull together to help each other. As the alumni association hosts receptions across the country, we meet former students who are doing very well despite the current economy. At the same time, there are alumni who seek employment, many for the first time, amid a long and distinguished career. We may know a grad in that exact circumstance or we may be that person.

Into this discussion, we add those alumni who had planned retirement in the near term who now, for financial reasons, choose to remain at their jobs. Meanwhile, universities continue to do their jobs, sending more job seekers into the marketplace.

While there are no guarantees, we can certainly try to help each other through an alumni help network.

Here's how:

Use the university's Office of Career Services, where free and full services await you, by registering online at <http://www.collegecentral.com/fit>. Participate in résumé referrals and view online job postings. Our alumni password is "panther."

Send your résumé to Alumni Association Executive Director **Ken Droscher** at [gopanthers@fit.edu](mailto:gopanthers@fit.edu). Know that your résumé will go out to the officers and full alumni association board. In turn, they will forward your résumé as appropriate. A board member might help you make a contact, arrange an introduction, or offer an opportunity.

Attend Florida Tech receptions in your area. The association has recently expanded its invitation list for receptions. In addition to you and your guests, invitations are being extended to families and prospective students, virtual students, and corporate supporters. Use these receptions as an opportunity to network and to help the university recruit new students and connect with other alumni. One of these events could create an opportunity for you. Network, network, network.

Consider re-enrollment at your alma mater as an option in this tough economy. Check all of your academic options. How about University College for an advanced degree or a second undergraduate degree through the virtual campus? Take this time to learn something new, and add breadth and depth to your résumé. You may decide to prepare for an increase in job responsibilities or re-tool for a totally new profession. Who knows? The challenges of today's economy may open some new doors.

*Go Panthers!*

## Homecoming 2009 Registration Form

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

**You may also register online at [www.merchantamerica.com/fit/echopay](http://www.merchantamerica.com/fit/echopay)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*Saturday, Oct. 17*

**Alumni Association Hospitality**—6:30–7:30 p.m. # Attendees \_\_\_\_\_ @ no charge

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

# Attendees \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$40 individual / \$75 couple = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Check enclosed  
 Credit Card:  Visa  MasterCard  American Express  Discover

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ CV# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cardholder Signature \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT REMITTED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**SEE PRELIMINARY  
 SCHEDULE  
 OF EVENTS  
 ON PAGE 20**



## On The Road

**Alumni  
Receptions  
Reconnect  
Old Friends  
and Make  
New Ones**

### Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates



At left are Muzaffar Shaikh, College of Engineering head, department of engineering systems, and Ibrahim Al-balooshi '99. The two are having a chat in a hallway at the Al Raha Hotel, the site of the first alumni reception in Abu Dhabi. Fifty-five alumni and current students attended.

### Mumbai, India



Professor Muzaffar Shaikh, center, traveled extensively in January, attending receptions in Abu Dhabi and this one in Mumbai. On his right is Parwez Javeed '05 and on his left is Balu Anantharamaiah '88, '91 M.S. Shaikh met with these and other alumni at the Karl Residency Hotel, "a festive environment with tasty Indian cuisine and traditional desserts," he said.

### Orlando



At an alumni reception at Orlando's Citrus Club are, from left: Ken Stackpoole, senior vice president for advancement; Melissa Klos, annual giving associate; Provost T. Dwayne McCay; and Jeff Holland '84, a biologist living in Winter Springs.

### Taipei



The first ever Taiwan alumni reception was held at Taipei's Caesar Park Taipei Hotel last December. Pictured front, from left: Pei-Feng Hsu, professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering, and Mike Lin '96, manager of customer service and coordination, L. Seatex Co., Ltd. Back, from left: Charles Chen '85, Yi-Chieh Wang '95 and Jack Lee '95.

### Raleigh, N.C.



At downtown Raleigh's Cardinal Club are, from left: Kenneth Stackpoole, senior vice president for advancement; Richard Lamb; Stacy Lamb '99; Sergio Hernandez, '97; and President Anthony J. Catanese.



From left are Jack Armul, vice president for financial affairs; Neville Daruwalla '94; and President Anthony J. Catanese. Daruwalla, a former Florida Tech student government president, has always kept in touch.



# Vero Beach, Fla.



Almost 40 people attended the alumni reception held at Costa d'Este Beach Resort in Vero Beach. Among them were Ken Stackpoole, senior vice president for advancement and President Anthony J. Catanese at right and, from left: Bill Helmly and Fritz Spitzmiller.



Enjoying the gathering are, from left: Carey Gleason '89 EMBA, assistant vice president for community relations; attorney Judy Graves '87 MBA; Marcia Littlejohn, a Vero Beach-area talk show host; and Janie Hoover.



From left, Dennis Miller '02 and wife Taranna Amani Miller, at right, share a night out. With them is Rita Lindsay '06 Ph.D.

## Aero Alumni Shine at Symposium

Seven alumni, whose graduation dates span 30 years, presented papers at the 2009 Airport Consultants Council/American Association of Airport Executives Airport Planning, Design and Construction Symposium in Denver, Colo. **Rick Busch** '74, director of planning for Denver International Airport, delivered a presentation on the growth of Miami and Denver airports over the years.

Also presenting were **Evan Futterman** '78; **Dave Byers** '78, '04 Ph.D.; **Ken Page** '90; **Amy MacPhetres** '93; **Neil Ralston** '97; and **Jonathan Hand** '00.

Under the general theme of "innovation and risk," the three-day symposium offered workshops on sustainability in airport projects and project management in the global marketplace.

## The Delta Delta Tau Admissions Challenge

**Delta Delta Tau Issues Challenge to all Alumni Association affinity groups.**

Over the past 10 years, Delta Delta Tau Fraternity members have regularly been involved in assisting with the needs of the alumni association and university. The fraternity also participates in such activities as Homecoming and the Dad Vail Regatta.

The Delts' school spirit has not diminished over the years. It is now leaping to the need expressed by the Office of Admission for alumni participation and is taking the lead by issuing the following challenge:

"Delta Delta Tau fraternity challenges any and all alumni association affinity groups to top the Delts' participation in admissions activities."

These activities include:

- Represent the university at college fairs;
- Host or attend receptions for students and their families;
- Complete alumni endorsement grants forms for students;
- Assist admissions staff with off-campus interviews;
- E-mail or call students who have just been admitted; and
- Assist an admissions staff member at a college fair.

This Admissions Challenge starts with the beginning of the fall 2009 semester.

If your alumni association affinity group has the "moxie" to take up our challenge, contact **Bob Rowe** at [browe@fit.edu](mailto:browe@fit.edu) as soon as possible with your group's name, a contact person, and the contact information for participating members in your group, including street address, e-mail address and phone number. Alumni association affinity groups must be registered by August 1, 2009.

The Office of Admission will send e-mail to all groups regarding activities as information becomes available. The alumnus that volunteers first to assist with any of the above-mentioned activities will be given further details. Admissions will let you know if there is a need for more than one alumnus at an activity. One activity completed counts as one point for your group. The sooner you volunteer the better your chances are of earning points for your group. The group with the most points takes bragging rights.

Alumni can only count affiliation with one affinity group for this challenge.

Let all alumni association affinity groups show the Office of Admission what school spirit is all about. Try and take bragging rights away from the Delts!

*Bob Rowe '87*

*Associate Director of Admission*

**"Delta Delta Tau fraternity challenges any and all alumni association affinity groups to top the Delts' participation in admissions activities."**

# Reflections

## Everyone Loves a Parade!

More than 25 organizations or individuals led dozens of floats and vehicles along the parade route on that sunny, bright October day of Homecoming 2008. Florida Tech community members, past, present and future came together in a happy procession, some with young family members and canines in tow.

Leading the way in a white Corvette was Grand Marshall **Reagan Dubose**, Brevard Engineering College's first graduate. Then came the Florida Tech ROTC color guard and marching cadets; Melanie Keuper and daughter Amber in one of Founding President **Jerry Keuper's** prized cars, a 1952 MG TD; and **Denton Clark**, one of the first chairmen of the university's board of trustees.

Also covering the 2.1-mile parade route were the MG Car Club of Melbourne; the Melbourne Pipe Band; Central Baptist Church; Melbourne Police Department; Space Coast Corvette Club; Mopars of Brevard; Porsche Club; University Park Elementary School; two Florida Tech mini Baja cars; the university's pep band and cheerleaders; Alpha Tau Omega; Alpha Phi Omega; Alpha Epsilon Pi; Pi Kappa Alpha; Delta Delta Tau; Pi Kappa Epsilon; Gamma Phi Beta; Caribbean Student Association; College Players; Alpha Phi, Lambda Chi Alpha; Florida Tech Sailing Club; Residence Life; Student Ambassadors; and the Botanical Garden Guides kazoo walking band.



*The Florida Tech Pep Band members march while playing their favorite tunes, "YMCA," "Low Rider" and the "Hey" song.*



*The College Players float recalls Florida Tech history.*



*It's Delta Delta Tau marching with pride.*



# on the Golden Anniversary

A LOOK AT MANY OF THE REUNIONS, RECEPTIONS, EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES TO COMMEMORATE FLORIDA TECH'S 50 YEARS



The Pikes' banner leads a long line of fraternity brothers and sisters.



No moths in his closet! Pike Danny Friedman '68 shows off his Brevard Engineering College sweatshirt.

The Zeta Sigma chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha celebrated the 40th anniversary of its founding during Homecoming 2008. Founding Pike brothers, sitting left to right are: Danny Friedman '68, William "Ozzie" Osborne '68 and Anna Osborne. Standing left to right: Jim Hughes '74, Tess Hughes, Rick Ward '69, Dennis Donato '69 and Jim Brackin '72. Look for a profile of the Pikes in the next issue.



The roof patio of the F.W. Olin Physical Sciences Building was aglow the night the Ortega 0.8-m Telescope was dedicated.



Phillip W. Farmer, chairman of the Board of Trustees, and wife Jeannie Farmer enjoy the 50th Anniversary.



# Reflections on the Golden Anniversary (continued)



Dressed in their best at the 50th Anniversary Homecoming Banquet are, left to right: Gene Ferraro '75; Jeff Benes '75; Bill Jurgens '79, director of athletics; Jennifer Neuhard, director of university marketing; and Joe Eckelman '74.



All aboard for the alumni row as four unidentified young men on shore look on. Left to right, standing: Carol Marcinkiewicz '88, Nancy Gardner '88, Sue LaGreca '87 (hidden behind Nancy), Megan McDevitt '89, and Dee Dee Cronin '87 (hidden behind Megan). Getting into the boat, from left: Lisa Innis '86, Kathy McDevitt '87, Edie Gallagher '88 (behind Kathy) and Jen Kwasniewski '86.



Do they look fit and healthy or what? After their alumni row in Crane Creek, women's crew reunion celebrants are, left to right: Carol Marcinkiewicz, Sue LaGreca, Nancy Gardner, Megan McDevitt, Lisa Innis, Dee Dee Cronin, Jen Kwasniewski, Edie Gallagher and Kathy McDevitt.



At City Tropics in Indialantic, Barb Andersen '85 and Elaine Martin '86 smile happily. The restaurant is at the site of the former Old Mac's 5th Avenue—a spot frequented by Florida Tech students in the '80s.



At City Tropics, left to right, are: Nancy McDevitt, Mike McDevitt '84, Megan McDevitt '89, Edie Gallagher '88 and Sue LaGreca '87. The McDevitts won many rowing awards for Florida Tech.







*In this handsome gathering are some of the College of Aeronautics' alumni and students attending the Homecoming 2008 Banquet. From left, they are: current student Morgan Sayles, Miguel Estremera '98, Greg Zahornacky '80, current students Jillian Daniels and Melissa Rego, David Byers '78, Kim Church '99, Jason Terrior '01, Grey Pinckney '88, Milo Zonka '95 and Diego Rincon '92, the 2008 Skurla Award winner.*



*Bill Parsons, a previous director of Kennedy Space Center, was the banquet speaker at the department of physics and space sciences 50th Anniversary reunion. He spoke on the future of NASA, especially the push to return to the Moon and to Mars.*



*Emcee Bob Taylor is a newcomer compared to the panel members, but he had a few stories of his own to tell.*



*The first lecture of the 2008-2009 Humanities Lecture Series was "Countdown College: Launching America's First Space University." Reminiscing to the delight of the crowd were, left to right: Professor Gordon Patterson; Faculty Emeriti Dick Enstice, Ken Revay, Tom Bowman and Harry Weber; and Bob Taylor, professor and head, department of humanities and communication.*



*At the School of Psychology 50th Anniversary alumni lunch, front table, are left to right, retired Professor Juanita Baker and Assistant Professor Paula Wolfteich. Across from them are Dawn Tepperman '82 Ph.D. and her husband John Tepperman. Behind them, from left are Mary Burke '04, Chad Kinney '07, Maura Reedy, Selena Roe '07 and Phil Weinstein '05. Just behind Wolfteich is Professor David Wilder.*



*A kick-off reception in the Hartley Room offered psychology grads a chance to catch up at the School of Psychology's 50th Anniversary alumni reunion in February 2009. Pictured in front are Robert Adams '83 and his wife Judy Adams. In back, from left, are faculty members Julie Gross and Radhika Krishnamurthy.*



*Florida Tech*

# HOMEcoming 2009

“FLORIDA TECH:  
MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE!”

## PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

- 11–2 p.m. Office Decorating Contest  
5:30–7 p.m. Welcome Reception – Rathskeller  
7–9 p.m. CSA Talent Show—Gleason Performing Arts Center

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

- Noon\* College of Aeronautics’ Skurla Award Luncheon—  
John and Martha Hartley Room, Denius Student Center  
1–4 p.m. Alumni Association Board of Directors Meeting  
6 p.m. Hangar Party—FIT Aviation

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

- All day College of Aeronautics Aviation Day—FIT Aviation  
11:00 a.m. Homecoming Parade  
All campus and community barbecue—  
following parade —Panther Plaza  
6:30–7:30 p.m. Alumni Association Hospitality—John and Martha  
Hartley Room, Denius Student Center  
7:30 p.m.\*\* Alumni Association Banquet—John and Martha Hartley  
Room, Denius Student Center

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

- 8 a.m.\*\* Homecoming Golf Classic—Baytree National Golf Links  
Shotgun format (Golf clubs available to rent for \$30.)

\*\*Payment required for these events. Schedule subject to change.

Go to [www.merchantamerica.com/fit/echopay](http://www.merchantamerica.com/fit/echopay) to register online or contact the Office of Alumni Affairs.

*For complete information by area, please contact the following:*

\* **College of Aeronautics or FITSA, Joyce Tsairis, (321) 674-7619 or [jtsairis@fit.edu](mailto:jtsairis@fit.edu)**

\*\* **Alumni Affairs, Hazel Rosskamp, (321) 674-7190 or [hrosskam@fit.edu](mailto:hrosskam@fit.edu)**

**Athletics, Michelle Delellis, (321) 674-8032 or [mdelelli@fit.edu](mailto:mdelelli@fit.edu)**

**Student Affairs, Judy Thompson, (321) 674-8080 or [Thompson@fit.edu](mailto:Thompson@fit.edu)**

**For the most current Homecoming information, go to <http://www.fit.edu/>.**

**SEE REGISTRATION  
FORM ON PAGE 13  
OR REGISTER  
ONLINE**



## In the Beginning ... Joan Sherman

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Joan Sherman was the first woman chemistry teacher at Brevard Engineering College, the first woman engineer at Radiation, Inc. in the early years of the semiconductor industry, and the first technical director at Harris Corp. Before she moved to Florida, she was the first chemist for the first city that added fluoride to its water and the first woman in refining research at Universal Oil Products.*

When **Jerry Keuper** and **Ray Work** recruited **Joan Sherman** to teach chemistry at Brevard Engineering College (BEC), she had no idea that 50 years later she could brag about a lifetime association with the school.

Keuper, Work, and Sherman were employed at RCA in 1959 when the recruitment took place in the company lunchroom. Soon Sherman was teaching evening classes for BEC at St. David's by the Sea Episcopal Church in Cocoa Beach. Although her classroom was not air conditioned, the swatting of a superabundance of mosquitoes kept a breeze blowing.

As BEC sought a more permanent home, Sherman happily moved to a portable at Melbourne Airport and in the early '60s, to today's campus. She also began to teach laboratory classes after Dr. Dan Dahl set up the chemistry lab. "From the beginning, the equipment was not new looking," she says. "Rusty ring stands and forceps, Bunsen burners that could not easily be regulated, etc." The students did not always have enough equipment and sometimes there was a dearth of chemistry teachers. For a few quarters she found herself teaching five nights a week and on Saturday.

Sherman, the oldest of a family of three, grew up on a farm

and was the valedictorian of her Chicago high school graduating class. Her mother encouraged the bright child to pursue her dream to go to college. Discouraged by her parents from entering college when she was 14 years old, she entered Northwestern University at 16 and graduated with a chemistry degree. She soon found work in Illinois as a research chemist in Evanston, the first city to add fluoride to water, and later performed refining research for an oil company.

She moved from Illinois to Florida's Brevard County just as the space industry was getting off the ground. She secured a position at the RCA Photo Lab and purchased a home in Indialantic. When her marriage dissolved, the single mom had two children to care for, Bernard, 1, and Kimberly, 3. In 1962 she married Charles Sherman, a former RCA colleague. They later had a son, Christopher.

In 1963 when one of her students brought her news that Radiation, Inc. [Harris Corp. today] sought to employ a chemical engineer, she responded, only to be told that they had a position but didn't want a woman to fill it. Several weeks later Radiation called again, and asked her if she would work for the man they hired. She accepted. Before the month was over, her new boss left, and she was offered the position he vacated. That's how Sherman became the first woman engineer hired at Radiation, Inc.

Later she was selected as a senior engineer on a project to develop the first chemical processes used in the manufacture of integrated circuits. She continued to teach at Florida Tech



*Joan Sherman*

and completed requirements for a master's degree in oceanography in her spare hours.

In the '80s she scored another first at her company when she became the director of product assurance, the company's first female technical director at Harris Semiconductor. In this capacity she directed the move from managed inspection techniques to the implementation of self-directed work teams.

The Society of Women Engineers named Sherman the "Space Coast Outstanding Woman Engineer" in 1994. She has been active in the Brevard chapters of Delta Kappa Gamma and the American Society of Quality, where she held the Certified Quality Auditor designation. She is also a member of the Indialantic Heritage Committee.

*Joan Bixby*

SEEING THE AUTISM  
SPECTRUM





UUM



**I**t's the fastest growing disability in the United States, yet it's one of the least understood.

Although it's more common than pediatric cancer, diabetes and AIDS combined, the public is only now beginning to understand its true impact.

For years, the term autism has evoked confusion, fear and misunderstanding among parents. Schools have struggled to keep up with the needs of these children and health professionals have scrambled to more fully understand the nuances of a condition that can be as varied as the individual children it afflicts. ▶



According to experts, autism is the most common of a range of developmental disorders known as the Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs).



*Fran Warkomski*

This complicated condition, usually diagnosed in the first three years of life, appears as difficulties in verbal and non-verbal communication and social interactions in repetitive or unusual behaviors.

“Early, intense behavior therapy has shown the most significant results,” said **Fran Warkomski**, executive director of the new Scott Center for Autism Treatment at Florida Tech. Under a mantra of “Service, Research and Training,” the center is probing the mysteries of autism and, most importantly, working with one child at a time to mitigate its effects.

“The stakes are high from a parent/family perspective,” Warkomski said. “They expect answers from experts in the field.”

Florida Tech is literally building its expertise in the area on a daily basis, with anticipated completion of the two-story Scott Center later this year. Valued at approximately \$5 million, the center is funded by several sources. Area businessman, co-founder of the Center for Global Development in Washington, D.C., and Florida Tech Trustee **Edward Scott** initi-

ated the support with a major donation. Additionally, the Health Resources and Services Administration supported the new center with \$2.4 million in federal funding.

Designed by Stottler Stagg & Associates of Cape Canaveral, the two-story building will encompass about 18,000 square feet. It will allow for intense, individual treatment and feature consultation areas and observation rooms to keep parents and family connected to the treatment process.

Meanwhile, College of Psychology and Liberal Arts faculty and students are currently working with 36 children ages 2 to 13. Another 40 children are on a waiting list for services, according to **Ivy Chong**, program director.



*Ivy Chong*

“Our clients represent all ranges of the spectrum, from those with destructive, self-injuring behaviors to those with milder forms of behavior problems,” Chong said. “For a child who engages in these behaviors, it precludes them from learning in a regular educational environment. If we can teach them to minimize those behaviors, we are able to dramatically increase their quality of life.”



#### AUTISM FAST FACTS

**Autism affects an average of 1 in 150 children born in the U.S. today**

**Boys are far more greatly afflicted (four boys to one girl)**

**Early screening for early intervention is imperative; diagnosable at 18-36 months**

**Early behavioral intensive intervention should begin by age 3**

**Individuals with autism benefit from behavioral treatment regardless of age**

*Source: Scott Center for Autism Treatment*

**For more information, visit: <http://research.fit.edu/scottcenter/>**

Faculty and students work with the children in both one-on-one and group settings, Chong said, usually in twice-per-week 90 minute sessions. Family counseling is critical to ensuring continued progress is made with the children, Chong said. The center is also reaching out to local schools to provide training for teachers and support personnel charged with offering daily services in the classroom.

Nationally recognized and respected autism research is another key objective for the center. The college will launch a doctorate program in the fall, and currently boasts 30-40 master's students studying psychology at any given time. Florida Tech already hosts periodic workshops, an annual autism conference and just last year, published the first national survey of attitudes toward autism (see sidebar).

Dr. Rachel Fornes is one example of a parent who is seeing results. Her 9-year-old son was diagnosed with autism at 2.

"When we started out six years ago, there was nothing available," Fornes said. "I am happy to say that we found a place for Ali to go for social skills groups, where we are seeing tremendous results. He is blossoming...and is able to communicate outside of his comfort zone. All parents need to be proactive and seek what is available," Fornes added.

Alumni are excited that their alma mater is expanding into this important area.

"I am very proud," said **Selena Roe-Jordan '07**, who holds a master's degree in Applied Behavior Analysis from Florida Tech and currently lives in St. Petersburg, Fla. She is a Certified Behavior Analyst working with children and adults with developmental disabilities. "I began [an] agency in 2001 and we currently provide services to 183 individuals, including many with autism," she said.

"I feel we as professionals owe individuals and their families the most effective interventions and the Scott Center for Autism will assist us to do so. It is a great opportunity for FIT to reach beyond just the current students and alums and provide education to professionals and families of individuals with autism," Roe-Jordan said.

Warkowski believes that the future is promising for the field of autism research. "We have to collect more data, but we are learning new techniques every day," she said. "I believe we are at a crossroads. We need to be clear about what works in helping these children. This is a very talented team here at Florida Tech, and we are excited about the opportunity to innovate."

Wes Summer

## Survey Confirms Parents' Fears, Confusion Over Autism

The first national survey of attitudes toward autism reveals that a small but significant percentage of people still believe the disease is caused by childhood vaccines. The survey of 1,000 randomly selected adults was conducted for Florida Tech last year.

Nearly one in four (24 percent) said that because vaccines may cause autism it was safer not to have children vaccinated at all. Another 19 percent were not sure. This at a time when the Centers for Disease Control reports that autism affects one in 150 children born in the United States.

Scientists say there is no evidence linking vaccines and autism, but the lingering fear is leading to fewer parents having their children vaccinated and a growing number of measles infections. *The New York Times* reported in August that measles cases in the first seven months of 2008 grew at the fastest rate in more than a decade and cases in Britain, Switzerland, Israel and Italy are said to be soaring.

The public's concern over vaccines stems from a controversial 1998 British study linking autism and the MMR vaccine. Other childhood vaccines at the time contained the mercury-based preservative thimerosal. The British study was later retracted, disgracing its authors and thimerosal was removed from nearly all childhood vaccines in 2001, but responses to the survey show the public remained confused.

Florida Tech commissioned the survey, which asked specifically about the link between the preservative and autism. Nineteen percent of the respondents agreed with the statement "Autism is caused by a preservative once found in childhood vaccines." An additional 43 percent were not sure, meaning fewer than half (38 percent) of the respondents believe no link exists between the vaccine and autism.

Part of the confusion may stem from the fact that the cause of autism is unknown, according to Florida Tech Assistant Professor of Psychology **Celeste Harvey**. More than three in four respondents (76 percent) to the national survey agree with the statement: "At this time, scientists don't know exactly what causes autism."

"Fear of the unknown, coupled with anxiety over the growing incidence of the disease, may be leading people to draw their own conclusions," said Harvey.

The first national survey of the public's knowledge and understanding of autism included responses from 1,000 men and women, 21 years old or older, randomly selected from throughout the nation. The poll had a plus or minus 3.1 percent confidence interval at a 95 percent level of confidence. The telephone interviews were conducted between Aug. 1 and Aug. 29, 2008 by GDA Education Research, Mount Pleasant, S.C.



Florida Tech students discuss cases.



THE  
INAUGURATION  
OF THE  
*44th*  
PRESIDENT



A FIRST-PERSON ACCOUNT BY PRATTSIE L. ARTIS '83

*My* inauguration experience was phenomenal. New leadership in government is typically characterized by campaign promises overshadowed by politics as usual. This impending change to new leadership was anything but typical. In fact, this day would be like no other in our nation's history. Not only was a person of African American descent about to assume the highest office of the most powerful nation on earth, he was about to take office, not by the force of bullets or with threats of violence, but by the grace of God and the awesome power of the ballot. President-Elect Barack Hussein Obama was about to take the constitutional oath of office as the 44th President of the United States of America less than forty-five years after the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.



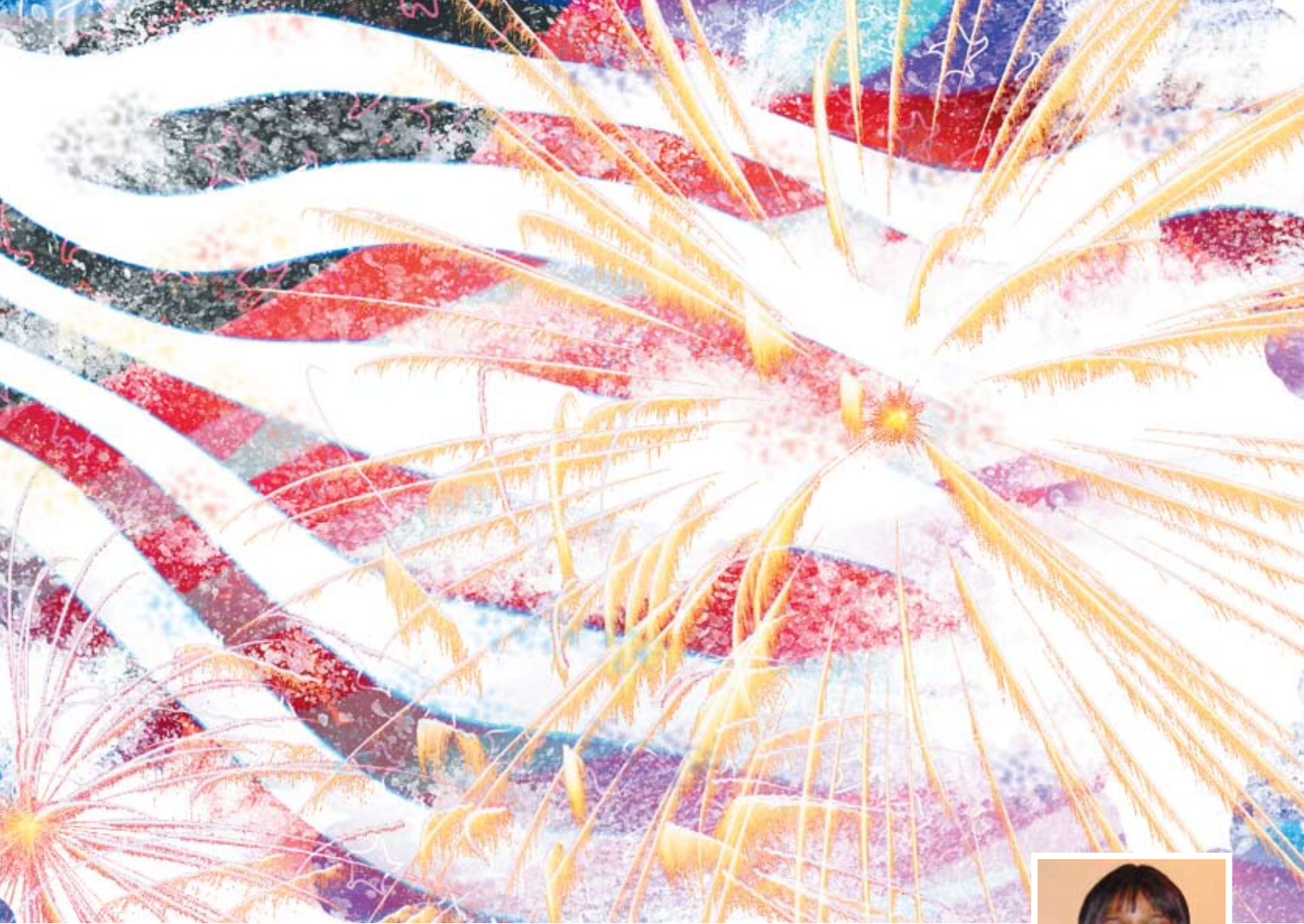
This singular act of constitutional imperative notwithstanding, party affiliation inspires hope for positive change. And, our hope is for a better America. For this reason, my friends and I, like so many others, began our day long before sunrise on January 20, 2009.

For the 56th Presidential Inauguration, we set out girded by great spirits and steadfast patience, with hand and foot warmers and our embossed silver inauguration tickets. Amid concerns for enormous crowds, the Metro subway system was ever the gracious host.

Along the way, the enormity of the day was apparent as the Metro train passed above what appeared to be an endless sea of coach buses parked at the old RFK Football Stadium—what a Kodak moment. Someone's whispered “look at the buses” caused quiet gasps and a calmed hush fell upon us all. Amazing.

Throughout the day, we met folks who sojourned from all parts of the country and even abroad. Everyone greeted one another with hugs, huge smiles, high fives, and of course, the “fist bump.”





People kindly purchased hand and foot warmers for the young folks who were not dressed properly for the extreme temperatures. I ride the Metro all the time and the outpouring of camaraderie was awesome. It was a positive, stress-free day!

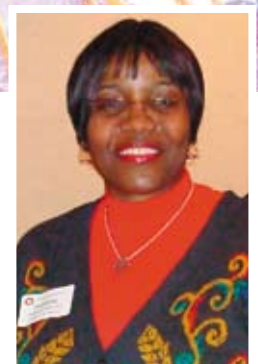
At the appointed time, our silver tickets allowed us through the security entrance to an ample standing area with a great view of the Capitol staged with American flags. Amid cheers and whoops, huge screens enabled us to watch the action on the national mall and also to see politicians and celebrities walk onto the Capitol's curtained entrance. Prior to their entry on the Capitol, the shouting was such that you could not hear yourself think each time a presidential entourage traveled Pennsylvania Avenue (all the living presidents were in attendance).

Away from the commentary of network anchors, we had no idea how many people were actually in attendance, but our guess was well over one million. There were no lines at the portable toilets, though, and we had but one concern that day—camera batteries (agh), can you believe it?

It's an incredible feeling now to know that we were a part of that day. As the commercial says, it was "priceless."

After the speeches and the departure of the presidents, the crowds broke away and we enjoyed a beautiful, sunny winter afternoon and a leisurely stroll back to the Metro. We admired the wares of the many vendors who were selling items imprinted with the presidential seal or President Obama's name or image. There was everything from notebook paper to aprons to rear tire wheel covers to scarves.

I am so happy to have been there and have offered many quiet prayers of thanksgiving. My family hosted a celebration at home with food, drink and champagne toasts which I could only briefly partake in before dashing back out to enjoy more of the festivities. I attended one of the many unofficial balls around the city, The Grits and Granite Inaugural Ball, co-sponsored by the state Democratic parties of South Carolina and New Hampshire. It was indeed a phenomenal day to be "Fired up and Ready to go!"



*Prattsie L. Artis '83*

# GOODWILL

## on an UPWARD SLOPE

THE TEXAS RAMPS PROGRAM



*A finished ramp brings smiles to all.*

**The Dallas Pikes spell freedom R-A-M-P. In a matter of hours, their hard work restores independence and peace of mind for homebound Texans. How do they do it? With a simple inclination.**

**J**ohn McLellan '73, **Michael Fladmark** '73, **Chip (Henry) Heflich** '73 and their classmate **Joe Zinser** volunteer with the Dallas Ramp Project, a chapter of the Texas Ramp Project. For nearly three years, these friends and Pi Kappa Alpha brothers have reunited for Saturday service projects building ramps at the homes of wheelchair-bound Dallas residents who cannot afford a ramp on their own.

“Many people compare the Ramp Project to Habitat for Humanity,” explains McLellan. “In many ways it is similar, but the difference is the gratification that comes from knowing in just a few hours you have changed someone’s life.”

McLellan joined the Dallas Ramp Project in 2004.

After retiring from corporate America, he was looking for an outlet to give back to the community. His involvement grew quickly—from volunteer builder to team leader to board member. He was among the founding group that took the program statewide to become the Texas Ramp Project.

The organization is unique in targeting individuals in their homes, says McLellan.

“There are many state and federal programs that provide free motorized wheelchairs, and modifications to public transportation and buildings, but there is nothing that provides people with safe access to their own homes.”

The Texas Ramp Project has provided that access for more than 3,000 individuals. And McLellan himself has participated in roughly 50 of those ramp builds.

Over the years, he has reconnected with his Pike brothers, and when the foursome began getting together as a group, McLellan suggested the others join him on a build.

Since that time, the Dallas Pikes have become a ramp-building team, and their work is truly making a difference. McLellan recalls the struggle of one client before the Texas Ramp Project visited his home. As a neighbor described it: “This man would come on to his front porch and stare at the few steps that held him prisoner in his own home. Then, with sheer will and determination, he would cascade out of his chair onto the porch, toss the chair onto the ground, hurl himself off the porch and crawl back into the chair.”

“To a person in a wheelchair,” says McLellan, “even a few steps are like prison walls.”



*Chip (Henry) Heflich '73*



More and more individuals are finding satisfaction in service to their communities. And the trend will likely continue, inspired by President Barack Obama's effort to encourage national community service.

The president's Web site describes public service as transformative, "helping both the individuals that serve and the communities that benefit."

And McLellan agrees, explaining the long-term benefit really belongs to the volunteer.

Florida Tech also boasts a proud service commitment and encourages it through the Civic Engagement Initiative, a program launched in 2006 by President Catanese to recognize students, faculty and staff who make significant contributions



*The Dallas Ramp volunteers take their project step by step.*



to the campus and community. For the third consecutive year, Florida Tech has been honored on a national level on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for exemplary service efforts to America's communities.

While McLellan conducted some service work as a Pi Kappa Alpha member and Florida Tech student, nothing was particularly memorable. He says he wishes there had been programs in place like President Obama's plan to integrate service into learning and President Catanese's Civic Engagement Initiative.

"Unless you make a [significant] commitment, you might wake up one day and realize you just didn't 'get it' until it was almost too late," he says.

Today, McLellan certainly gets it.

"Community service is important because it helps us understand the harsh realities of this world. All too often we get caught up in our own little worlds and filter out the pain and hardship that others experience every day," he says.



Helping those less fortunate is something that makes working with the Ramp Project very rewarding. However, to ensure the agency's future, long-term funding must be

secured. All the agency's ramps are built at no cost to the client, and currently, a volunteer director manages the organization. Part of McLellan's work on the board is identifying sustainable funding to ensure the long-term survival of the Texas Ramp Project and support hiring a full-time executive director.

He is optimistic. "There is someone (person, foundation or company) out there with financial means to make this

happen. We simply need to find them."

In the meantime, McLellan, the Dallas Pikes and all the volunteers with the Texas Ramp Project will continue their good work, doing what they can to bring an upward slope to a neighbor in need.

*Christena Callahan*

**For more information on the  
Texas Ramp Project  
visit [www.TexasRamps.org](http://www.TexasRamps.org).**



ONE DAY IN 2005, THE

# *Lord Family*

OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, WENT TO  
A COLLEGE FAIR IN PORT OF SPAIN,  
TRINIDAD, LOOKING FOR A UNIVERSITY  
FOR SON KENTON TO ATTEND.



# That day started the ball “enrolling.”

The Lords are now a Florida Tech family in a big way. Kenton is a senior accounting major and daughter Kandice is a sophomore majoring in mechanical engineering. Father Kennedy, a mechanical engineer and section head in Trinidad Cement Limited’s packing plant, is at work on a Florida Tech M.B.A. degree program through University Alliance Online Learning.

“I guess this says a lot about our belief in the Florida Tech way and the professionalism that is evident on your campus,” wrote Kennedy to **Stephanie Enstice**, associate director of international admission, when he enrolled in 2008.

Why Florida Tech?

For Kenton, who has spent the last five summer vacations working as an accountant for the cement company, it was probably location. He wanted a university experience away from home but not too far and he hoped for good weather. So he was looking at schools in Florida.

“Our children were accepted at many other schools but Florida Tech always responded quickly and professionally,” said Kennedy. “I think the customer service at Florida Tech is a cut above the rest.”

Kenton, a high school track star and winner of a high school history medal, also found what he needed in the College of Business. Among those not-so-rare Florida Tech undergraduates involved in research, Kenton will publish his first paper in May 2009. It’s on his analyses of government financial data and spending reports, work he has done in the university’s Activity Based Total Accountability (ABTA) Institute.

The ABTA concept, originated by former Florida State Senator and current U.S. Congressman William J. Posey, is to promote simplified accountability measures and cost/performance comparisons to help government leaders make deci-



Kenton Lord discusses his paper with ABTA Center Director Deborah Carstens.

sions effectively.

On the dean’s list with a 3.8 grade point average, Kenton now looks forward to graduation in December 2009. His next goals are to complete CPA requirements and a master’s degree.

Kandice chose Florida Tech because she missed her brother and wants to be an engineer like her father. In her sophomore year, she is already taking mechanical engineering courses.

She also is involved in extra-curricular activities as in high school, where she was the valedictorian of her graduating class. Kandice is secretary of the Caribbean Students Association, one of Florida Tech’s largest and most active clubs.

Both students have on-campus jobs and live in the university’s Southgate Apartments where Kenton replicates the Caribbean dishes the two miss, such as curried chicken.

Home in Trinidad with wife Susan, a senior microfinance adviser, Kennedy doesn’t at all miss out on Caribbean cooking. He’s earning his Florida Tech M.B.A. in the comfort of his home office.

He finds the online lecturers and students to be very interactive. “There’s no difference from sitting in a classroom,” he said. “The students interact with each other a lot and I’m getting to know people from all over the world.”

Kennedy, who completed his bachelor’s degree in 2004, calls the online learning program “an eye-opener.”

“This is helping me to do what I already do only better. It gives a realistic view of business and of the modern world of work. With the current recession, it’s especially valuable to learn new skills.”

The three are classmates, in a way. They consult each other on their papers and solve problems together, which Kennedy said, brings them closer.

“This works out great for all of us,” he said. “I’ve been sending more families to talk to Stephanie Enstice.”



Kenton and Kandice Lord

**“I guess this says a lot about our belief in the Florida Tech way and the professionalism that is evident on your campus.”**

Kennedy Lord

Karen Rhine



Order your limited-edition book today!

# No Small Dreams: Florida Institute of Technology, 1958-2008

by Jay Wilson



*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 of 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.

**Available now!**  
**Use this form to place your order.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Books: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form, along with a \$45 check, payable to:  
(Price includes shipping and handling)

Florida Institute of Technology  
Attn: University Communications  
150 W. University Blvd.  
Melbourne, FL 32901



**Vicki Ingram:**

## *With Her Psy.D., the Sky's the Limit*

Nearly one in five veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars suffers from depression or stress disorders, according to a study published in April 2008 by the RAND Corp. That's surely disturbing but perhaps no revelation to some, including **Vicki Ingram '97** Psy.D.

"It shouldn't be a surprise to anyone that when you deploy a person three or more times there will be emotional consequences for the person and their families," said Ingram.

An award-winning clinical neuropsychologist and chief of psychology services at Womack Army Medical Center in Ft. Bragg, N.C., Ingram works to see that returning combat veterans with brain injuries and post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and their families get the help they need. She leads about 35 doctoral- and master's-level psychologists and paraprofessionals in this mission.

"We have a strong, caring competent staff. They are highly motivated, expert and genuinely compassionate," she said.

Though a manager, Ingram still spends about 40 percent of her time doing clinical work. This is where she finds the most gratification.

"The best part is working with the soldiers. They are dealing with issues that are strikingly difficult and they are incredibly motivated. Their goal is to get treated and get back to the mission at hand. They have a passion about what they do."

She most often treats veterans who suffer from brain injuries, strokes or neurological diseases. "It's rewarding," she said, "to watch them heal and regain their skills."

Ingram spent several months in 2007 traveling the country as a lead researcher with Sen. Bob Dole, former Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala and a contingent of health care professionals. They reviewed programs at military service hospitals, and veteran and civilian sites.

"We wanted to make sure that a soldier's needs would be taken care of equally in San Antonio, Palo Alto or wherever."

"I believe we're making positive progress fighting the stigma against behavioral health care. We need many more service providers, though, for military personnel and families, particularly in rural communities," said Ingram.

Ingram is passionate about her work. In fact, that is what one of her former School of Psychology professors, **Frank Webbe**, recalls about her.

"What I remember most about Victoria as a student was her incredible intensity not just to learn but to learn thoroughly. She committed herself to obtaining every possible bit of knowledge and skill that would define her as a professional psychologist."

When Ingram came back to campus in 2008, honored as the School of Psychology's Alumna of the Year, she told the Psy.D. graduating class that there was nothing limiting in their Florida Tech degree. In fact, she is currently president-elect of the American Board of Clinical Psychology.

"I will be the first Psy.D. to become president," she said. That demonstrates that this degree creates no restrictions."

Among her honors came a Presidential Citation at the American Psychology Association's (APA) 2006 annual convention. The association's highest honor was for her role in helping to establish the federally funded Defense Graduate Psychology Education (D-GPE) program.

Ingram was a key architect of this program to train military and civilian psychologists who serve U.S. soldiers and their families.

If it sounds like Ingram's accomplishments must more than fill her days, you might wonder how she would have time for a family. Well, she does, and it's a young one.

At home in Fayetteville, N.C. are her husband Tim; son Alex, 7; daughter Zoë, 5; and Ingram's dependent mother. Tim, a former computer systems engineer is now a stay-at-home dad while Vicki keeps her career on track.

"He's the reason I can do what I do," she said. "We are a team."



*Vicki Ingram '97*

*Karen Rhine*



# Earn your choice of rewards with the **ONLY** card that supports Florida Institute of Technology!



The exclusive **Florida Institute of Technology Select Rewards Visa® Card** lets you support valuable alumni, student and athletic programs at the Florida Institute of Technology, while you earn points redeemable for virtually any type of reward.

**Select Rewards Card benefits:**

- 1,000 bonus points with your first purchase
- Rewards points with every net purchase, and rewards starting at just 1,500 points<sup>1</sup>
- Your choice of almost any reward—gift certificates, electronics, groceries, free travel...even cash back!

**Other cardmember benefits include:**

- Low introductory rate<sup>2</sup>
- No annual fee
- 100% fraud protection<sup>2</sup>

Available in two designs that let you show your Panther Pride!

## Apply Today!

**CALL 888-327-2265 ext. 9344, or VISIT [usbank.com/FIT1208](http://usbank.com/FIT1208)**



*Florida Institute of Technology*  
High Tech with a Human Touch™

<sup>1</sup>Accounts must be open and in good standing (not past due) to earn and redeem rewards.

<sup>2</sup>Some limitations may apply. Details will be provided when you become a cardmember.

U.S. Bank National Association ND is creditor and issuer of the Florida Institute of Technology Alumni Association Visa Card. © 2008 U.S. Bank



# Creating A Hot Bed for Climate Change Research



Whether he's diving in the sub-zero waters of Antarctica, or swimming in the warm seas of the Caribbean, **Richard Aronson** finds evidence of global climate change. "Antarctica is very cold, but it's getting warmer rapidly," he said.

Aronson, the new head of the department of biological sciences in the College of Science, plans to link his experiences with the university's strong team of researchers to develop ways to mitigate, and ultimately reverse, the impact of climate change worldwide.

"Florida Tech is about to become a hot bed for climate change research," said Aronson. "We have a great interdisciplinary team and we're growing rapidly."

Part of the biological sciences team will relocate to state-of-the-art facilities in the new Harris Center for Science and Engineering when the complex is complete later this year. "We have a real potential to be major players in climate studies on the international scene," said Aronson. "We have all the talent and tools in place."

While in Antarctica, Aronson discovered some striking changes as a result of small temperature increases. By looking at fossils on Seymour Island, off the coast of the Antarctic Peninsula, researchers were able to see which animals flourished more than 40 million years ago when the earth suddenly got cooler.

Many predators disappeared during that first major episode of global cooling, allowing rare species

to thrive near Seymour Island, he said. Now that the water is getting warmer—as much as 1°C in the last 50 years—those predators are returning.

"Why should we care about these changes? Because we're going to lose one of the last truly wild places on earth," said Aronson. "If these predators are allowed to thrive here, the world will be a more dreary place."

The same changes are happening along Florida's coast. Elkhorn and staghorn corals are creeping northward as the water warms. But because Florida's coastal sand changes dramatically near Jacksonville, the coral will not be able to continue the northward migration and will run out of suitable habitat.

On a more practical side, the changes in climate will have a direct impact on public health. Already, outbreaks of West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis—diseases spread by mosquitoes—could become more common.

"Are we going to start having outbreaks of Dengue Fever, also transmitted by mosquitoes?" asked Aronson.

As climate patterns change, the southeastern United States will likely see more periods of drought followed by heavy rainfall. These patterns could have a serious impact on agriculture in Florida and elsewhere.

Aronson came to Florida Tech in January with a strong mission: to serve society. "We intend to lead in the science of climate change, and that includes adaptation as well as mitigation and reversal. We have a world class faculty and we're ready to go to work," he said.

Undergraduate and graduate students are a critical part of the team. In his more than 20 years of research and teaching, Aronson said he has never seen an institution that involves its undergraduate students in so much field-based research.

"It's really more like a family here," he said. "We're all working together."

Speaking of family, Aronson, his wife, Lisa Young, and children, Ben and Max, are happy to call Melbourne Beach home.

"Florida Tech's biological sciences program is a best-kept secret," Aronson said. "I don't want us to keep it a secret anymore."

*Gretchen Sauerman*





# TRAVEL WITH US



**Florida Institute of Technology**  
High Tech with a Human Touch™

**Alumni Association Exciting Travel Opportunities!**

## Peru: Ancient Land of Mysteries—June 23

Featuring Machu Picchu and Lake Titicaca

- Travel to Peru and experience some of the world's most intriguing and mysterious cultures and beauty
- Enjoy the breathtaking voyage through the Andes to Machu Picchu aboard the Vistadome train
- Meet the indigenous Indians of the floating islands on Lake Titicaca and learn of their culture
- Visit Cuzco, the former capital of the Inca Empire, and the Sacred Valley of the Incas and experience a blend of Inca culture and Spanish colonial influence

Land only tour: \$2,499 per person based on double occupancy and includes 13 days and 20 meals (Air travel priced separately through various gateway cities.)  
Featured departure date: June 23, 2009, other dates available as needed.

## Bahamas Cruise—Oct. 12

Take a four-night cruise and complete the week at the 2009 Florida Institute of Technology Homecoming Festivities!

- Take Royal Caribbean International Cruise Lines' *Monarch of the Seas* departing from Cape Canaveral on Monday afternoon, Oct. 12, 2009, and cruise to the Bahamas
- Return the morning of Friday, Oct. 16 and enjoy a weekend of fun and friendship with former students and faculty members during Homecoming
- Ports of Call include: Coco Cay—a private island in the Bahamas and Nassau, Bahamas
- Ship features include: Rock climbing wall, sushi bar, casino, two outdoor pools, teen-only areas, day spa, fitness center and more!

Fares: Inside: Category N \$317 per person based on double occupancy. Ocean view: Cat I \$342 per person based on double occupancy. Balcony: Cat JS \$742 per person based on double occupancy. Third and Fourth passenger \$242 per person. Inside cabin for 4 is \$1,118 or \$280 per person.

One person in each cabin must be 21 years of age. Prices include port taxes, charges and fuel supplement. A deposit of \$200 is due at booking and is fully refundable up to the due date for final payment on July 27, 2009.

\$50 from each passage will be returned to the Florida Institute of Technology Alumni Association.

For more information on these trips, contact  
**Diane Deaton • ddeaton@fit.edu • (321) 674-7198**

## California—New Year's Getaway—Dec. 29

Enjoy the next holiday season in leisure and experience once in a lifetime opportunities.

- Go behind the scenes to observe the magnificent floral floats being decorated for the Tournament of Roses Parade
- Enjoy reserved seats at the amazing "Glory of Christmas Show" at the Crystal Cathedral
- Attend a New Year's Eve Gala Dinner Dance with live entertainment and a champagne toast to the New Year!
- Sit in reserved section seats and watch firsthand the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade

Land only tour: \$1,249 per person based on double occupancy and includes five days and six meals. (Air travel priced separately through various gateway cities.)  
Departure date: Dec. 29, 2009

**Space is limited—BUT IT'S NOT TOO LATE to sign up for this fantastic trip to Peru!**



**CRUISE HOLIDAYS** VIERA, FL.  
Relax...you're with us





Eleven student-athletes from Florida Tech traveled to Kissimmee this spring to volunteer at the GKTW Village. From L-R (back): SAAC Adviser Rebecca Vick, Lindsay Green, Amanda Deveaux, Jon Hanna, Dean Faithful, Jennifer Gillette, Natalia Ramos, Ryan Moon; (front): Jennifer Lindsay, Kelsey Clayton, Cristina Mazzone, Andrea Madrigal.

# Panther Student-Athletes Give Back

Not only does Florida Tech produce winning athletes on the field and the court, but well-rounded and community-minded students as well. This spring, 11 Panthers participated with other Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) members from around the Sunshine State Conference in volunteering at the Give Kids the World Village (GKTW) in Kissimmee, Fla.

The Village is a 70-acre, non-profit resort for children with life-threatening illnesses and their families. The group of volunteers was divided into five sections for the day. Student-athletes cleaned coins, organized Christmas decorations, cleaned the "Heart House," cleaned wheelchairs



Members of the Florida Tech women's cross country and basketball teams help clean out a storage trailer at the GKTW Village.

and strollers, and cleaned an entertainment trailer.

"This was my second time taking part in this, and it was an enjoyable experience once again," said **Cristina Mazzone**, Florida Tech SAAC president and cross country team member. "It was nice to see so many people putting forth their time to help these children and their families. I will definitely do it again next year."

GKTW partners with over 250 wish organizations, including the Make-A-Wish Foundation, to fulfill a child's wish to visit Central Florida. Led by the National SAAC, Division II student-athletes have been raising money for the Make-A-Wish

Foundation since 2003. To date, Florida Tech's student-athletes have raised over \$1,000 for the Foundation this year alone.

"For me, it was a great experience and an honor to go and visit the village," said **Jonathan Hannah**, Florida Tech SAAC treasurer and tennis team member. "It gave me a chance to give back to those kids who have terminal illnesses and aren't promised the same opportunities that I've had. For myself, and I'm sure for other SAAC members from around the conference, it gave us the perspective to be thankful for everything we have and not to take anything for granted."

Hannah wanted to take his give-back spirit to his entire team, so Tech's men's and women's tennis programs joined efforts to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. During the month of February, the Panthers

*continued on page 40*



# Florida Tech Consulting

Results that matter.

Florida Tech Consulting is a full-service consulting entity that harnesses the expertise of Florida Institute of Technology's faculty, staff and alumni as well as the university's facilities and external partners to assist organizations.

Areas of specialization include:

- **Airport Planning and Operations**
- **Biological Sciences**
- **Marine and Environmental Systems**
- **Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering**
- **Systems Engineering**

With approximately 300 faculty members and 125 laboratories within the six colleges at Florida Institute of Technology, Florida Tech Consulting has the resources organizations need for success.

Contact us today to find out how we can help your organization achieve its business goals.

(321) 674-8945 | [www.fit.edu/consulting](http://www.fit.edu/consulting) | [consulting@fit.edu](mailto:consulting@fit.edu)



Florida Institute of Technology  
High Tech with a Human Touch™



OC-349-50

## Space Coast Credit Union Congratulates Florida Tech for 50 Years of Service

- ✓ Free Checking with Rewards
- ✓ Fast & Easy Auto Loans
- ✓ Mortgages & Home Equity Loans
- ✓ Platinum Visa® Credit Card with Rewards
- ✓ Business Services, Investment Accounts, & more!

Stop in or call today to find out how you can become part of Space Coast Credit Union.



Visit [SCCU.com/locations](http://SCCU.com/locations) to find a branch near you or call us:  
**800-447-SCCU (7228)**  
Brevard: 321-752-2222  
Option 5 for Member Services



### Alumni Endorsement Grant

At Florida Tech, your endorsement counts! The deserving student(s) you refer will receive a \$1,000 grant, renewable annually for up to four years, toward their tuition for full-time undergraduate study on the Melbourne campus. You may recommend as many students as you wish.

### Florida Tech Legacy Grant

Sons and daughters of Florida Tech alumni, enrolling in a full-time undergraduate program at Florida Tech, are eligible for a \$2,500 grant on top of the alumni endorsement grant. This award is renewable for up to four years.

These awards are given in addition to any merit scholarship earned by the student. For more information and the appropriate forms, go to: [www.fit.edu/alumni/services/index](http://www.fit.edu/alumni/services/index) or [www.fit.edu/ugrad/financial\\_aid/scholarships](http://www.fit.edu/ugrad/financial_aid/scholarships)

AD-217-406

A simple form that takes 5 minutes to complete can be worth more than \$4,000 to a worthy student.



Florida Institute of Technology

## Keyboards for Kids Strike Charitable Tone

The act of giving seems to come naturally for the Morin family. **Paulette King Morin**, a 1993 Florida Tech graduate and '99 Panther Hall of Fame inductee, has helped instill a spirit of charity in her children that they are now passing on to others.

Over the holidays this past winter, accompanied by their mother, Mikayla, 6, and Alex Morin, 5, delivered 20 keyboards to the children in the oncology ward at Arnold Palmer's Children Hospital in Orlando after raising money all year for the cause. Along with the keyboards, the family donated 20 copies of Mikayla's piano-teaching DVD, "Music Made Simple, the Baby

Steps Method," to give to the kids who are battling cancer.

The Indianalantic first-grader was just 4 years old when she and her mother created an interactive DVD that teaches children and adults piano basics.

The Morin family wants to extend the reach of its project even further each year.

"We donated 20 keyboards last year to the Arnold Palmer Hospital and we want to add another 20 this year, hopefully to the Florida Hospital," said Morin.

The two-time All-American who earned her undergraduate degree in

business administration from Tech also holds a degree in criminal justice from Florida Atlantic University. She led the Panthers to two regular-season and Sunshine State Conference tournament championships during her tenure and was additionally inducted into the league's Hall of Fame in 2000.

For more information on how you can help the Morin family in raising money for the keyboards or to donate one, call Paulette King Morin at (321) 773-4993. For more information on Mikayla's DVD, visit [www.wbc.fit.edu/bbsteps](http://www.wbc.fit.edu/bbsteps).

Rebecca Vick



Mikayla and Alex Morin



Mike Morin, Paulette King-Morin, Mikayla Morin, Alex Morin and Sheri Mosely.



Paulette King Morin with Sheri Mosely and Billy Chrouser, representatives of the Arnold Palmer Hospital oncology department, and Alex and Mikayla Morin.



continued from page 38

offered free tennis lessons and the community helped by donating as much as they chose while receiving lessons with Florida Tech players. In total, the teams raised over \$500.

"This was a great opportunity to help out those who are in need while having fun and learning at the same time," said head tennis coach **Bill Macom**.

In addition, the entire SAAC at Florida Tech has worked hard to collect items from teammates, coaches and staff members to donate to the local Melbourne Salvation Army. The student-athletes have been soliciting

For current **NEWS, SCORES** and **SCHEDULES**, visit the official Web site of Florida Tech Athletics  
**FloridaTechSports.com**

donations monthly since October and have so far been able to deliver nearly 1,000 items to the Salvation Army.

Finally, several SAAC members partnered with the Florida Tech women's basketball team to put on the second annual Pink Zone™ game (formerly "Think Pink") in conjunction with the Women's Basketball Coaches Association's (WBCA) push to raise awareness for breast cancer. The event took place on Saturday, Feb. 14, and raised \$700 for the Kay Yow/WBCA Cancer Foundation through the generous donations of campus and community members. As their show of support, the women's basketball players wore pink shooting shirts and pink shoe laces, while both the men's and women's coaches sported their own pink attire that day.

"This is a good event to get our community involved in," said head coach **John Reynolds** in a recent interview. "We had a really good time running it the past two years and recognized several of the survivors in our community. This is something I'm real proud to be a part of."

The members of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee strived all year to help increase fan attendance at all games, as well as make a difference on campus and in their community. Through their efforts and the partnerships they have formed with other organizations across campus, including student government, they have raised awareness of Panther Athletics and shown how important leadership and integrity are to their academic and athletic experience.

"It has been my privilege to work with these student-athletes this year," said **Rebecca Vick**, athletic communications director and SAAC adviser. "Their passion for fundraising and reaching out to our community are inspiring. These students are so busy with classes, homework, practice and competition, and yet they still find ways to get involved and donate their time. That speaks volumes to the kind of student-athletes we have here at Florida Tech."

*Rebecca Vick*



 Florida Institute of Technology  
High Tech with a Human Touch™

## *We Invite You to Join Your Alumni Association Today!*

Your participation in the work of your alma mater's Alumni Association and your paid membership in this organization aid in continuing the progress made on behalf of the university, its students and graduates.

You can join today by visiting [www.fit.edu/support/direct.html](http://www.fit.edu/support/direct.html) and clicking on "Join Today" under the heading of "Alumni Association."



# **DRIVE** *with Panther Pride*



**Show your school spirit, and benefit Student Scholarships**

To order your Florida Tech specialty license plate visit your local Florida DMV office or order online at [www.pointandpay.com/newweb/Dmv\\_smartcart.htm](http://www.pointandpay.com/newweb/Dmv_smartcart.htm)



# share your news!

Submit your information at [www.fit.edu/alumni/ftaaform.html](http://www.fit.edu/alumni/ftaaform.html)

Class Notes are exclusively online at <http://today.fit.edu/classnotes.html>

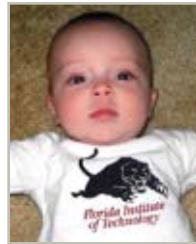
## 1985

Michael Capco M.S. and wife Connie welcomed Mackenzie Ann in October 2008. Michael is principal at Human Resource Solutions in Tampa Bay, Fla. Connie is a financial planner for Northern Trust in Tampa.



## 2001

Beth (Finn) Stolte and husband Steve welcomed their first child Jackson Stephen in June 2008. Beth is a systems engineer for Honeywell at the Flight Dynamics Facility at Goddard Space Flight Center. Steve is an account representative for the IRS. The family lives in Columbia, Md.



## 1989



Michael Dadko and wife Diane are proud parents of Marissa and Sarina, born July 2008. They live in Palm City, Fla.

## 2004

Lauren (Walker) and Ben Jackson welcomed Audrey Mathes in January 2009. They live in Fairbanks, Alaska, where Ben is stationed at Ft. Wainwright with the U.S. Army as a Chinook pilot.



## 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](mailto:hrosskam@fit.edu) to receive your shirt.

## 1996

Paul and April (Hill) Michelotti '97 announce the birth of Marina Rae, born May 2008. The family resides in Orlando, Fla.



# share your good news!

Fill out our online form at: [www.fit.edu/alumni/ftaaform.html](http://www.fit.edu/alumni/ftaaform.html)

or send this to: Florida Tech, Alumni Affairs, 150 W. University Blvd., Melbourne, FL 32901-6975

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Year Graduated \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Business Title \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Names and Ages (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Your news (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Attach additional sheet, if necessary)

**I'VE MOVED.** Please change my mailing address to: \_\_\_\_\_

{0509}

Visit *Florida Tech TODAY* online at:



[today.fit.edu](http://today.fit.edu)

Online form available

"SAVE THE DATE" EVENTS | HELD ON CAMPUS UNLESS OTHERWISE

NOTED

**May**

- 8-9—*Dad Vail Regatta, Philadelphia*
- 17-22—*Creative Writing Institute*
- 18—*Activity-Based Total Accountability (ABTA) Conference*  
<http://abta.fit.edu/conference>

**June**

- 5 *Capstone Classic Golf Tournament, Vero Beach*
- 27 *Washington D.C. area annual picnic*

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](http://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.*



Anthony Catanese and Rachel Fornes address the more than 200 people who attended "An Evening of Hope" in April.

## A Hope-fulfilling Evening

The benefit for Florida Tech's Scott Center for Autism Treatment, currently under construction, was sponsored by corporate contributions, in-kind donations and a live auction. The event brought in \$123,500, much more than the \$30,000 anticipated.

Dr. Rachel Fornes and Al Neuharth, founder of *Florida Today* and *USA Today* newspapers, were honorary chairpersons and hosted the event at their beachside home.

For the live auction, Derek Gores, a local mixed media artist, donated two original pieces, which brought in \$11,000. Kempf's Jewelers donated a Black Tahitian Pearl strand, which was auctioned for \$6,800. Other major supporters included Cort Sutton and Sutton Properties; John and Susan Hopkins and Berman, Hopkins, Wright & LaHam; and *Florida Today*. Tom and Polly Molnar were event chairs.

"This fundraiser provided an opportunity for the community to recognize the importance of early, intensive behavioral intervention in the treatment of autism. In addition, the event emphasized the need for qualified, credentialed personnel to deliver this research-validated service," said **Fran Warkomski**, executive director of the center.

## Florida Tech Terrace



**Act Now!** The next opportunity to have bricks inscribed is June 15th!

A permanent recognition program for graduates, students, parents and friends and a great way to invest in the future of the university.

Purchase an inscription to memorialize or honor someone, or to applaud your own accomplishments at the university.

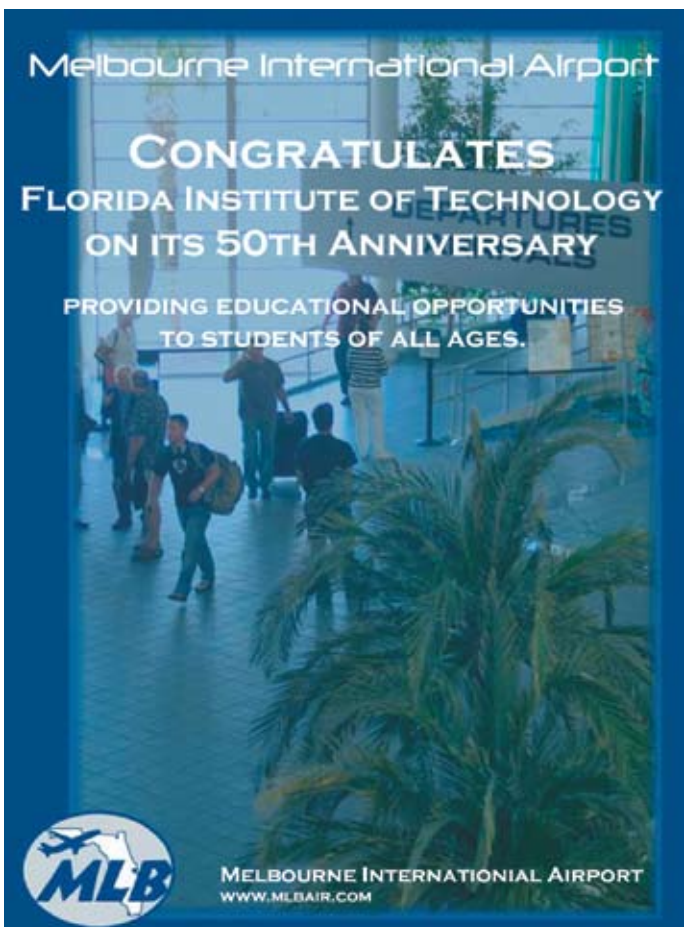
Proceeds will support the alumni association's endowed scholarships for Florida Institute of Technology students and increase opportunities for qualified students to attend our university.

Visit the Web site to download the appropriate form or call (321) 674-7198 to receive the form by mail.



Florida Institute of Technology  
High Tech with a Human Touch™

[www.fit.edu/development/terrace.html](http://www.fit.edu/development/terrace.html)





# Happy 50th Anniversary Florida Tech!



Visit [geico.com](http://geico.com) to see if you  
could save with a special  
Florida Tech  
alumni discount.

Get your free rate quote today.

**GEICO**<sup>®</sup>  
[geico.com](http://geico.com)  
1-800-368-2734

Discount amount varies in some states. One group discount applicable per policy. In New York a premium reduction is available. Florida Tech Alumni Association is compensated for allowing GEICO to offer this auto insurance program to Florida Tech Alumni Association members. Some discounts, coverages, payment plans and features are not available in all states or companies. Government Employees Insurance Co. • GEICO General Insurance Co. • GEICO Indemnity Co. • GEICO Casualty Co. These companies are subsidiaries of Berkshire Hathaway Inc. GEICO auto insurance is not available in Mass. GEICO: Washington, DC 20076. GEICO gecko image © 1999-2009. © 2009 GEICO

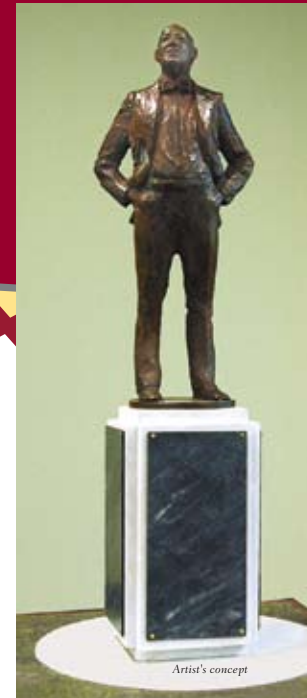


Florida Institute of Technology  
Office of University Communications  
150 W. University Blvd.  
Melbourne, Florida 32901-6975



# Support the Keuper Statue Fund and Honor Florida Tech's Visionary Founder

During the university's golden anniversary, the legacy of Jerome P. Keuper, founder and first Florida Tech president, will be recognized in perpetuity with the dedication of a life-size bronze statue.



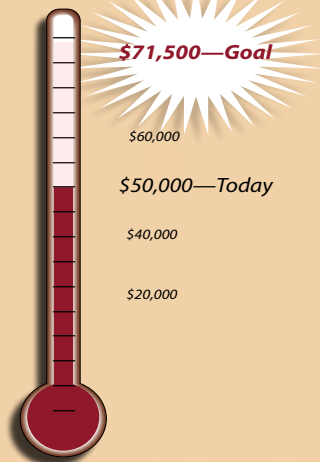
*Statue Project Committee Leadership*

Joe Brett, local retired businessman  
Denton Clark, retired president of RCA and former trustee  
Melanie Keuper, daughter of Jerry and Natalie Keuper  
Gene Fetner, retired RCA administrator  
Gene Buzzi '65, chair of the association's alumni relations committee

Join us today by making a gift to this important and historic project!

Contributions of any amount are welcome—and consider adding 37 cents to your gift as a reminder of our humble beginnings and Keuper's unwavering vision.

## Dr. Jerome P. Keuper Statue Fund



Gifts may be securely made online at <https://www.merchantamerica.com/fit/echopay>.

Or, send a check payable to the *Florida Tech Alumni Association* designated to the Keuper Statue Project to:

**Florida Institute of Technology, Office of Alumni Affairs**  
150 W. University Blvd., Melbourne, FL 32901