

SPECIAL EDITION

Florida Tech TODAY

A magazine for Alumni and Friends of Florida Institute of Technology

FALL 2017

A diver in a helmet and gear is climbing a ladder on a boat over water. The diver is wearing a dark wetsuit, a helmet with a light, and a life preserver. The background shows a body of water and a distant shoreline with trees.

Jensen Beach

P. 14

LOFTY ASPIRATIONS | LEGENDS AND LORE | WHERE ARE THEY NOW | UNDERWATER TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM



In This Issue

FALL 2017 • Volume 26, Issue 2

Departments

President's Message	4
On Campus	5
Day of Giving	10
Athletics	12
First Person	38

GO GREEN, GET ONLINE!

Find expanded coverage,
photos and videos at:

www.fit.edu/florida-tech-today

Features

14 Lofty Aspirations

In this special edition of *Florida Tech Today*, we explore the history and evolution of the Jensen Beach campus of Florida Institute of Technology.

16 Legends and Lore

Jensen Beach alumni share memories with many common themes—from the picturesque locale to the close-knit camaraderie.

18 Jensen Beach Alumni: Where Are They Now?

The hands-on, broad-based approach of the Jensen Beach curriculum laid the foundation for many graduates to pursue diverse careers in engineering, ocean sciences, environmental studies and more.

22 Underwater Technology at Jensen Beach

This special section, contributed by UT faculty and staff members, highlights the history and significance of the Underwater Technology Department and diving programs at Jensen Beach.



Much of Florida Tech's Jensen Beach campus is now the site of Indian RiverSide Park, a premier family destination park in Martin County. The 780-foot pier, once a mooring place for Florida Tech research vessels, is today a community fishing spot extending over the western waters of the Indian River.

Florida Tech TODAY

www.fit.edu/florida-tech-today

Florida Institute of Technology

PRESIDENT

T. Dwayne McCay, Ph.D.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Wesley D. Sumner

Florida Tech Today is published three times a year by Florida Tech's Office of Marketing and Communications and is distributed to over 70,000 readers.

MANAGING EDITOR/ART DIRECTOR Judi Tintera, jtintera@fit.edu

EDITOR Christena Callahan '07 M.S., ccallaha@fit.edu

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS Stephanie Bacon, Christena Callahan, Erin

Fox, Erin Mahaney, Shelley Preston, Douglas Soule, Wes

Sumner, Daniel Supraner

PRODUCTION Rob Gribbroek, Kristie Kwong

WEB LAYOUT Christena Callahan, David Smith

CIRCULATION Ali Faisal

PHOTOGRAPHY Dominic Agostini, Martin County, Mike Brown,

James Ragan, Kim Seng

Alumni Office

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ALUMNI RELATIONS

AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Bino Campanini '90, '92 MBA

321-674-8434, bcampanini@fit.edu

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR Stephanie Bacon

321-674-7198, sbacon@fit.edu

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT OFFICER Stevie Pursell '12 MBA

321-674-6826, spursell@fit.edu

Have a Story Idea?

Email magazine@fit.edu

Changing Addresses?

Don't leave copies of your alumni magazine behind.

Send your new address to Florida Tech, Office of

Development Services, 150 W. University Blvd.,

Melbourne, FL 32901-6975, adv@fit.edu

Unsubscribe

Please email adv@fit.edu if you no longer wish

to receive this publication.

Alumni News

- 30 Jerome P. Keuper Distinguished Alumni Award Winner: Jim Thomas
- 32 Homecoming 2017: Featuring The Fratellis
- 34 From the FTAA President
- 34 AlumNotes and On the Road

Connect With Us

Florida Institute of Technology

Florida Tech University Online



[/floridainstituteoftechnology](https://www.facebook.com/floridainstituteoftechnology)



[/FLTechUniversityOnline](https://www.facebook.com/FLTechUniversityOnline)



[@floridatech](https://twitter.com/floridatech)



[@FLTechOnline](https://twitter.com/FLTechOnline)



[/floridatech](https://www.instagram.com/floridatech)



[+floridatechonline](https://plus.google.com/+floridatechonline)

COVER PHOTO: A Jensen Beach Underwater Technology diver descending on the ladder of the LCM dive vessel to begin a project at the infamous "Mud Hole," the deepest local dive site in the Intracoastal Waterway between Jensen Beach and Ft. Pierce. The Miller helmet, made of solid stainless steel, afforded maximum head protection for the diver during projects that involved heavy equipment moved with the LCM hydraulic winch.



Florida Institute of Technology

www.fit.edu

© Copyright 2017 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 321-674-8548 or jtintera@fit.edu.



Florida Tech Today is printed on Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)® certified paper.

Florida Institute of Technology is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate, baccalaureate, master's, education specialist and doctoral degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Florida Institute of Technology. Florida Institute of Technology does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, protected veteran status or any other protected minority in the admission of students, administration of its educational policies, scholarship and loan programs, employment policies, and athletic or other university sponsored programs or activities. Contact the Title IX Coordinator at 321-674-8700.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Alumni and Friends,

On Monday, March 6, 2017, I had the privilege of meeting with an exceptional group of alumni at The Mansion at Tuckahoe in Jensen Beach, Florida. The mansion itself, built in 1938, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, but is historically important to Florida Tech for far more personal reasons—it was the site of our Jensen Beach student center.

For 13 years across the 1970s and 1980s, Florida Tech operated a campus in Jensen Beach. During that time, 2,410 degrees were awarded from programs including oceanographic technology, underwater technology and environmental technology/aquaculture. In 1986, the university made the difficult decision to close the campus for financial reasons.

In this special issue of *Florida Tech Today* magazine, we pay tribute to those alumni and the legacy of Jensen Beach. This university is proud of them and their varied accomplishments since graduation, some of which are highlighted across these pages.

The alumni I met in March are passionate, with many fond memories of their Jensen Beach days. These men and women, and their classmates, have helped us assemble the stories you are about to read.

While the Jensen Beach campus itself is a part of the past, these outstanding alumni are an important part of Florida Tech's future. We honor them and their place in the Florida Tech family, always.

Sincerely,

T. Dwayne McCay, Ph.D.
President

At the Jensen Beach Reception



Nancy Perry, Mark Perry '86, Dr. McCay



Kathy LaMartina '84 and Bino Campanini



Overlooking the beautiful Indian River Lagoon within Martin County's Indian RiverSide Park, The Mansion at Tuckahoe (previously known as the Leach Mansion), which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2005, sits atop Mt. Elizabeth, which was also listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2002. Florida Institute of Technology used the Leach Mansion as its administration building for the Jensen Beach campus. After the campus was closed, the property was sold to a land developer and eventually was acquired by Martin County. *Photo credit: Martin County, Florida*



Honoring a Legacy: The Edward H. Kalajian Professorship

“Welcome to Florida Tech. How can I help you to become the best engineer that you can be?” This is the introduction of **EDWARD H. KALAJIAN**'s dedicated university professional webpage. Kalajian taught every civil engineering student in Florida Tech's history until his retirement this year. Take a moment to reflect on that declaration—the thousands of alumni who are changing the world today.

In 1971, he joined FIT to launch the ocean engineering program. Shortly afterward in 1974, he created the civil engineering department. His efforts were instrumental in the accreditation from ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology) for civil engineering in 1976. This highly respected accreditation lends credence to Florida Tech's academic program meeting quality standards that produce graduates prepared to enter a global workforce.

He is a true visionary. He understands the importance of student involvement outside the classroom. In 1982, the ASCE (American Society of Civil Engineers) student chapter originated due to his efforts. National Concrete Canoe competitions, National Student Steel Bridge competitions, conferences and leadership seminars enable our students to network on the national stage and learn practical skills not taught in the classroom thanks to Dr. Kalajian. He also founded the Civil Engineering Honor Society Chi Epsilon chapter.

Most recently, he served as the associate dean for the College of Engineering, taught a graduate course in geotechnical engineering and undergraduate courses in soil mechanics and foundations.

In respect of his indelible career and 46 years of service, the university has established the Edward H. Kalajian Professorship. Our goal

is to perpetuate his passion for the College of Engineering. Endowed faculty professorships are crucial for recruiting and retaining the highest-quality faculty. The greatest institutions have the best minds, the most-creative researchers and the most-engaged teachers. Ultimately, this attracts the best students.

We are asking you to honor his impact with a donation.

Give online at <https://give.fit.edu/edwardkalajianprofessorship> or mail to: Florida Institute of Technology, Attn: Alumni Affairs, Edward H. Kalajian Professorship, 150 W. University Blvd., Melbourne, FL 32901.

All donations are tax deductible. If you have any questions, please contact **STEPHANIE BACON** at 321-514-4375 or sbacon@fit.edu.



“The College of Aeronautics participates in many events each year that foster females in aviation.”

—Victoria Dunbar, associate dean, College of Aeronautics

Map credit: Photo courtesy of Air Race Classic



Sherisse Pierre and Chesapeake Gustin



McKenzie Krutsinger

Panthers Soar in Cross-Country Air Race

Fly 2,600 miles, across 14 states in three days? Challenge accepted by three Florida Tech women in aviation who competed this summer in the 41st annual Air Race Classic, an all-women cross-country air race.

CHESAPEAKE GUSTIN, a senior in aeronautical science with flight, and Sherisse Pierre '15, '17 M.S., represented Florida Tech in the collegiate competition. **MCKENZIE KRUTSINGER**, a junior in aviation management with flight, served as co-pilot for team Kiwi Express and placed first out of 46 competitors.

“The Air Race Classic is the epicenter of women's air racing—memorializing the first all-women's air race in 1929 called the Women's Air Derby, when 20 pilots,

including Amelia Earhart, raced from California to Ohio,” explains **VICTORIA DUNBAR**, associate dean of Florida Tech's College of Aeronautics.

The 2017 event began in Frederick, Maryland, and concluded in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Two-women teams, flying only during the day, traversed a route of nine flyby timing locations—zigzagging the country through a variety of terrain, weather, winds and airspace.

Surprisingly, only 6% of all pilots in the United States are female, so opportunities like the Air Race Classic are key to inspiring the next generation of women in aviation.

“If we can get at least one kid to walk away from that event and say ‘wow, I want to be a pilot like these women,’ then we have done our job,” said Krutsinger.

Enriching Research



LIGHTNING MORE POWERFUL OVER WATER

Amitabh Nag, assistant professor of physics and space sciences, and research professor Kenneth L. Cummins recently published, “Negative First Stroke Leader Characteristics in Cloud-to-Ground Lightning Over Land and Ocean” in the American Geophysical Union's *Geophysical Research Letters*. Previous indirect observations have led scientists to believe that strikes over seawater tend to be more powerful, but the Nag and Cummins study represents the first time that an independent measurement has validated those beliefs. The scientists analyzed lightning over parts of Florida and its coasts using data provided by the U.S. National Lightning Detection Network.

HUMAN SIDE OF MARS MISSIONS

Researchers from across North America gathered at Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex in May for the Mars Mission Social Sciences Workshop co-hosted by Florida Tech's Buzz Aldrin Space Institute and the Institute for Cross Cultural Management. Leading scholars from a variety of social science disciplines discussed the psychological, sociological and human performance challenges associated with permanent Mars colonization and the research needed to cope with these challenges.

Grant Named VP for Development

GARY B. GRANT joined Florida Tech this summer as vice president for development and chief development officer. He holds more than 30 years of experience in higher education advancement, most recently as vice president for development and university relations at the University of Tampa.

Previous appointments have included service as vice president for college advancement at Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland; vice president for institutional advancement at the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth, Texas; director of

major gifts at the National Alzheimer's Association in Chicago, Illinois; and director of major gifts for the University of Chicago Medical Center.

"I am thrilled to be joining Florida Tech and am inspired by the leadership vision and by the faculty and graduates who have so greatly advanced the world through their passion for education, innovation and discovery," Grant said.

Grant holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Chicago and a Juris Doctor degree from the Illinois Institute of Technology's Kent College of Law. He was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1996.



Gary B. Grant



Distinguishing Sustainability Certification

Florida Tech becomes one of just five colleges and universities among more than 150 in Florida to be STARS certified.

Florida Tech has received certification under the prestigious Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS), solidifying its standing as a state and national leader in university sustainability.

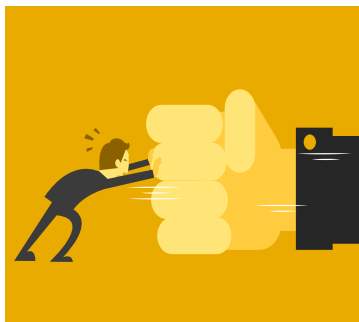
After a year of data collection and processing, Florida Tech achieved a Bronze rating from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, higher education's leading sustainability organization and the developer of the STARS program.

Certification at the Bronze level requires demonstration of rigorous performance across dozens of individual areas within four categories of sustainability: Academics, Operations, Engagement, and Planning and Administration. For example, the Academics category focuses on curricula and research. The Engagement category focuses on how sustainability is incorporated into campus life and community partnerships. The Operations category focuses on campus environmental footprint reduction through energy and water conservation efforts, greenhouse gas emissions and waste diversion. And the Planning and Administration category examines how sustainability is used by the management structure of the university.

This award also reflects a long commitment between Florida Tech's department of education and interdisciplinary studies and its Facilities Operations to use a "campus classroom" approach that encourages interdisciplinary partnerships among students and staff across multiple departments.

MENTAL HEALTH COURT CURBS RECIDIVISM

A new study by Julie Costopoulos, assistant professor of psychology, and doctoral student Bethany Wellman has found that criminal defendants who graduated from mental health court demonstrated substantially reduced re-arrest rates a full three years following their release, the longest period of post-program behavior examined in a published study involving mental health courts and the clearest indicator yet of the potential for diversionary programs to ease the burden on the nation's overcrowded prison system.



LINKING STRESS RESPONSES AND CANCER

Research recently published in the journal *PLOS ONE* by Eric Guisbert, assistant professor of biological sciences, and Karen Kim Guisbert, a research scientist, highlights a new link between stress responses and cancer through the gene SF3B1. The new research shows that SF3B1 controls how cells respond to stress and could be a missing link explaining activation of stress defenses in cancer. Eric Guisbert's laboratory is also working with the Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute in Orlando to develop a method to find new drugs that disrupt cancer cells' ability to respond to stress.

Introducing the 2017 Farmer Scholar

Camara Lyn Casson, of Waldo, Florida, is the 2017 recipient of the I Scholarship, Florida Tech's most prestigious financial award.

She graduated in May from Eastside High School in Gainesville—ranked first in her class of 358, with a 5.0 weighted GPA and a long list of school and community achievements.

"I am really excited to come to Florida Tech," Casson said. "For me, it means the start of a new chapter."

As a biomedical engineering major, Casson will use her creativity and desire to help others to focus on neural diseases and injuries—inspired by the experience of a quadriplegic family member.

"I ultimately want to work within a tissue-engineering field doing research on those medical conditions," she said.

The Farmer Scholars program began in 2009, when Phillip W. Farmer, chairman, president and CEO of Farmer Corp. and past chairman of the I Scholarship board of trustees, donated one million to establish the endowed scholarship.

The program provides full tuition and fees, a room in Harri Village's Farmer Hall and the regular university meal plan, as well as a stipend between the junior and senior years for enrichment through Florida Tech's summer study abroad program at Oxford University.



Above: William Osborne
Below: President McCay and Joe Caruso



McCay, Caruso Attend Pike Groundbreaking

Florida Tech President **DWAYNE MCCAY** and board of trustees member **JOE CARUSO** joined alumni and active brothers from the Zeta Sigma chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha on July 8 in Palm Bay for the groundbreaking ceremony on the fraternity's new house.

McCay and Caruso, an alumni brother and chairman of the ongoing \$1.25 million capital campaign for the new, 40,000-square-foot home, both addressed the 100-plus guests who gathered outside the fraternity's house on Riverview Drive.

The new house will be built in front of the existing one, with site work set to start in August and completion scheduled for July 2018. Once the new house is occupied, the old one will be razed. MH Williams is the general contractor.

The chapter's roots go back to 1965, when Florida Tech was Brevard Engineering College. Zeta Sigma colonized in September 1967 and was chartered in March 1, 1968, on Pi Kappa Alpha's 100th anniversary. The Florida Tech chapter is one of three Centennial Chapters and the longest continually chartered chapter in Florida.

Campus Highlights

TOP TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

Florida Tech is among the nation's "Top Technical Institutes" in the 2017 *Fiske Guide to Colleges*, earning a spot in the influential annual directory's list alongside MIT, Caltech, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and just 13 other elite institutions from across the country.

BEST FOR ROI

Florida Tech is among the nation's best universities for return on investment 20 years after graduation, according to the 2017 *PayScale College ROI Report*. With a 20-year net ROI for graduates of nearly \$500,000, Florida Tech is in the top 8 percent of the more than 1,420 colleges and universities ranked in the annual report.

NEW ACADEMIC OFFERINGS

Launching this fall, Florida Tech introduces three new programs: a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences—Marine Conservation, focused on the long-term sustainability of populations and ecosystems; a Master of Science in Accounting and Financial Forensics, combining a breadth of preparation in accounting, finance and business technology with a depth of knowledge in forensic accounting, internal auditing and the financial environment; and a Doctorate in Aviation, the first 100-percent online, residency-free aviation doctoral degree offered anywhere.

Ask the Archivist

The Harry P. Weber University Archive at Evans Library served as an invaluable tool for this special issue of Florida Tech Today. University archivist **ERIN MAHANEY** and assistant archivist **LISA PETRILLO** scoured source material and scanned extensive Jensen Beach nostalgia to help tell the story of Florida Tech's beloved southern campus.

Is there a plan to make some of these scans available online?

Yes, in connection with this issue of *Florida Tech Today* and the university archives' fall exhibit at Evans Library about the Hydrospace Technical Institute, subsequent programs and the Jensen Beach campus, original items from the archives will be made available online, including publications, promotional materials and images.

To view and download copies of the items, visit: <https://repository.lib.fit.edu/handle/11141/1081>.

The public is also welcome to view original materials from the Hydrospace Technical Institute and Jensen Beach Campus at the Evans Library. Collection Guides to these materials can be found at: <https://ais.lib.fit.edu/search?type=resource>.

Information and policies regarding collection access for research, reproductions and other uses are available at: <http://lib.fit.edu/digital-collections/universityarchives.php>. The archives are open 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday through Friday by appointment. Please email archives@fit.edu to schedule a visit!

2017 Florida Tech Football Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
Sept. 2	Virginia–Lynchburg	Melbourne, Fla.	7 p.m.
Sept. 9	McNeese State	Lake Charles, La.	7 p.m.
Sept. 16	Shorter*	Melbourne, Fla.	7 p.m.
Sept. 23	Mississippi College*	Clinton, Miss.	8 p.m.
Sept. 30	West Florida*	Melbourne, Fla.	7 p.m.
Oct. 7	North Alabama*	Florence, Ala.	7 p.m.
Oct. 14	North Greenville	Tigerville, S.C.	2:30 p.m.
Oct. 21	West Alabama*	Melbourne, Fla.	2 p.m.
Oct. 28	Valdosta State*	Valdosta, Ga.	7 p.m.
Nov. 4	West Georgia*^	Melbourne, Fla.	1 p.m.
Nov. 11	Delta State*	Cleveland, Miss.	7 p.m.

Dates and times subject to change. All times ET. **Home Games in Bold**
 * Gulf South Conference Game | ^ Homecoming Game

TICKET INFORMATION

Individual game tickets:

- \$16 Reserved seating (\$20 on game day)
- \$12 General admission (\$15 on game day)
- \$6 Seniors ages 65+, children ages 5–16 and FIT employees with school ID (\$10 on game day)

Children ages 4 and under free.

BUY ONLINE:

<http://floridatechsports.com/sports/2016/7/26/tickets.aspx>
 or through the FIT Ticket Office at
321-674-6228

Tickets are available on game day 1.5 hours prior to kickoff at Florida Tech Panther Stadium.

RUTH FUNK CENTER FOR TEXTILE ARTS at Florida Institute of Technology



UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

On view at the Ruth Funk Center for Textile Arts this fall is *Cloth as Community: Hmong Textiles in America*, starting Oct. 17. Learn more at textiles.fit.edu.

Starting on Oct. 14, the Foosaner Art Museum is showing *The History of Space Photography*, including photographs from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and other institutions' exploration of the solar system. Visit foosanerartmuseum.org.

FOOSANER ART MUSEUM Florida Institute of Technology



SAVE THE DATE FOR #GIVINGTUESDAY

LAST YEAR...

You helped us rescue Pete the Panther when our beloved mascot was lost in the Jungle. The College of Business won the grand prize of \$15,000, but Florida Tech was the real winner: **1,942 donors** participated in our second annual Day of Giving – a new university record!

Overall, **alumni participation** – the number of alumni who give back to Florida Tech – **has DOUBLED** from three years ago thanks to Day of Giving! We still have a long way to go to be competitive with the top schools in the nation. Help us get there by continuing to participate *every year!*

TOTAL RAISED
\$100,000+

HIGHEST CLASS
PARTICIPATION
2016

UNDERGRAD
ALUMNI
DONORS
618

#PARTICIPATIONMATTERS
#PANTHER4LIFE

NOVEMBER 28, 2017

FLORIDA TECH'S 3RD ANNUAL DAY OF GIVING

THIS YEAR...

The game becomes more clear as we venture underwater. Live leaderboards will show **real-time dollars and donors** for each college, athletics and unit, as well as overall totals!

In response to alumni feedback, we've restructured the competition, too. Instead of giving out prizes, your donation will go directly to your college. So, encourage your friends to join you to make the biggest impact on Florida Tech!

If you're near campus on November 28th, come check out the **live band** and **food truck rodeo** at lunchtime on Crawford Green! We'll have mini-events around campus all day to celebrate Day of Giving!

#GIVINGTUESDAY

dayofgiving.fit.edu



Florida Tech

Guided by 2017 Sunshine State Conference Coach of the Year, Corinne Desrosiers, Florida Tech had a magical season in the women's lacrosse program's third year in existence. The Panthers finished with a 14-4 record, including five victories over Top-15 opponents, and made their first ever trip to the NCAA Tournament where they picked up their first NCAA Tournament victory, upsetting No. 3 seed East Stroudsburg in the First Round, 17-10. The Crimson and Gray were then dealt a season-ending loss in the Quarterfinals, falling to eventual national runner-up Florida Southern. Florida Tech finished 2017 ranked No. 6 in the final Division II poll.



Competing against a field of mostly upperclassmen, Florida Tech freshmen Ondrej Rapp and Joshua Norville performed admirably at DII's biggest stage. Rapp became the first athlete in men's track & field program history to be named a First Team All-American after finishing seventh overall in the long jump finals at the NCAA National Championships with a distance of 7.45m. Norville was named a Second Team All-American following a 12th place result in the long jump with a mark of 7.03m.



(Above) After a phenomenal freshman campaign, the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association tabbed men's track & field's Joshua Norville the 2017 South Region Field Athlete of the Year. He is the first Panther to receive the award. Norville was one of the top performers in Division II in 2017, ranking fifth nationally in the long jump and 21st in the triple jump. At the Peach Belt Conference Championships, the rookie won the gold medal in the triple jump and the bronze in the long jump.



Florida Tech took home the 2017 Sunshine State Conference Championships Varsity 8 title and finished third in the Varsity 4 race to end the competition with 16 total points and the SSC Team Championship. It was the sixth SSC Championship in program history. Head coach Adam Thorstad was named the SSC Coach of the Year for the fourth time. Florida Tech continued its impressive run into the NCAA National Championships where the Varsity 8 advanced to the DII Grand Final and took third place overall in the nation.



The Florida Tech men's golf team made history in 2017, as the squad qualified for the NCAA National Championship for the first time after placing fourth overall at the NCAA Division II South/SE Super Regional. The Panthers sat in fifth place after three rounds of stroke play at the national championship and advanced to the match play rounds where they were pitted against Sunshine State Conference foe Lynn in the Quarterfinals. The team eventual lost to Lynn to end the season ranked fifth in the nation, the highest ranking in program history.



Florida Tech senior Grant Hughes became the first player in the history of the men's lacrosse program to be drafted by a Major League Lacrosse team. He was selected with the first pick of the 10th round of the 2017 MLL Collegiate Draft, 82nd overall, by the Florida Launch. A 2017 Honorable Mention All-American, Hughes is just the second player in Sunshine State Conference history to be drafted.



Women's golfer Brittany LaPadula capped off her illustrious collegiate career in impressive fashion with her second trip to the NCAA National Championship. The senior earned her spot after taking second overall at the NCAA South Super Regional. LaPadula sat in 22nd place after an opening round 78. She climbed the standings to 20th after a second round 78 and then to 13th overall following a 76 in round three. Taking the course for the final time of her career, LaPadula shot a 73 to finish seventh overall at the National Championship. Following the end of the championship, LaPadula was named a First Team All-American by the Women's Golf Coaches Association.

Former Florida Tech football standout, Manny Abad, became just the second player in program history to sign with an NFL franchise, inking a standard three-year rookie contract with the Tennessee Titans. The cornerback earned his spot on the Titans' 90-man roster after impressing the coaching staff at the team's rookie mini-camp. Abad ended his career as a four-time All-Gulf South Conference selection, a 2015 USA College Football All-American and a 2016 First Team Academic All-American. Abad graduated last fall with a degree in accounting and a 4.0 cumulative GPA.



LOFTY ASPIRATIONS

During the height of the Space Race, as the U.S. invested heavily in science and engineering education and innovation to help us reach the moon, there was a parallel initiative focused on exploring the Earth's seas. In 1966, Congress enacted the Marine Resources and Engineering Development Act, focusing unprecedented attention on the nation's coasts and oceans.

The Commission on Marine Science, Engineering and Resources, chaired by Julius A. Stratton, then chairman of the Ford Foundation, had a broad charter: to evaluate national needs and national capabilities and recommend appropriate governmental structure to meet those needs and maximize those capabilities. The commission's final report, *Our Nation and the Sea: A Plan for National Action*, contained 123 recommendations designed to place the U.S. at the forefront of ocean science and technology.



One of the Stratton Commission's ideas, to "expand support for ocean engineering and marine technician training," became the impetus for Florida Institute of Technology to develop a training program for oceanographic technicians. Popular thinking at the time held that every doctoral-level marine scientist would ultimately require a supporting staff with up to 12 technicians.

In an effort to help meet this anticipated manpower demand, Florida Tech opened the Hydrospace Technical Institute (HTI) in September 1968. Based out of an annex to the FIT maintenance building on the Melbourne campus, it had one classroom,

a machine shop, a photo lab, an office and a "loft" area filled with a bizarre combination of electronic and mechanical gear surplus from NASA and FIT. During its first year of operation, 16 students enrolled in its associate degree program in oceanographic technology.

The program flourished. Enrollment grew to 88, then 170, then 350. The facilities expanded from Melbourne to Cocoa Beach and ultimately Jensen Beach. HTI became the School of Marine and Environmental Technology (SOMET) offering both two- and four-year programs in oceanographic, marine and environmental sciences.

1966

Congress established the Commission on Marine Science, Engineering and Resources, also known as the Stratton Commission, tasked with developing a national action plan to place the U.S. at the forefront of ocean science and technology.

1968

The Hydrospace Technical Institute (HTI) was chartered as an affiliate of Florida Institute of Technology—developed in response to a Stratton Commission directive: "Expand support for ocean engineering and marine technician training ..."

The institute offered one degree, an Associate of Science in Oceanographic Technology.

1969

HTI acquired its first research vessel, a 50-foot shrimper named *Joie de Vivre*.



1970

HTI expanded to a 30,000-square-foot building on Atlantic Avenue in North Cocoa Beach, 5 miles south of Port Canaveral. In two short years, student enrollment had ballooned from 16 to more than 200. The fleet of research vessels grew to include the 65-foot *Aquarius* (pictured) and the 28-foot *Pisces*.

1972

Florida Tech purchased the defunct St. Joseph's College campus, 84 acres on the shores of the Indian River in Jensen Beach. The former HTI became the core of the School of Marine and Environmental Technology (SOMET) in Jensen Beach. The curriculum expanded to include four two-year degrees for technicians and two four-year degrees for technologists.



Acquiring Jensen Beach

In April 1972, Florida Tech learned of the closing of St. Joseph's College in Jensen Beach. The university successfully acquired the 84-acre site with 2,900 feet of frontage on the Indian River, approximately two miles north of the St. Lucie Inlet. The facility offered modern classrooms and laboratories, dormitories for 400 students, dining facilities for over 300, a library, a large auditorium, a lecture theatre, a 25-meter swimming pool and large recreational facilities, including baseball, volleyball, handball, tennis, archery and sailing.

Hands-on Training

All Jensen Beach programs were renowned for their hands-on, applied curriculum. Students of all disciplines were as likely to take welding and diesel mechanics as they were to take biology and calculus.

"It was very diverse," said **Scott Olsen '86**, who graduated from the bachelor's program in oceanographic technology. "With that background, I was a jack of all trades. It gave you that diversity to relate to all the pieces of the puzzle."

The most successful graduates, he says, were those who went on to pursue a graduate degree, building upon the comprehensive foundation of their undergraduate program.

It is written that more NOAA officers came from FIT-JBC than any other college in the U.S. Alumni also went on to become leaders in engineering, ocean sciences and environmental fields.



In the End

Financial challenges led to the Jensen Beach campus closing in 1986. Current students were able to complete their studies at the Melbourne campus. Others chose to leave FIT for other universities.

The campus property remained in limbo for many years. Eventually a portion was sold to developers, while the remainder was acquired by Martin County.

“The Jensen Beach campus is now a county park. Some of the original buildings still stand. What used to be the dormitory became the Brookdale assisted living facility.

When FIT first arrived in Jensen Beach, I took the position as resident dorm director, and my wife and I settled in. Since I was just out of the Marine Corps, married and older than most of the students, I guess they thought I could keep things under control. Not sure that worked out quite the way everyone expected, but we had a lot of fun for a few years.

So, now that I'm nearing retirement, I'm thinking we could end up at Brookdale. There would be some symmetry to that.”

—Charlie Vallance
who enrolled at HTI in 1970, stayed on as an instructor after graduation and later served as department head for the UT program



1973

The Jensen Beach Campus was formally dedicated on Feb. 16, 1973, with 366 students enrolled. While generally known as the Jensen Beach Campus, the program was known as the School of Marine and Environmental Technology (SOMET) from 1973–1976

1976

The Underwater Technology program launched and included two divisions: scuba diving and surface-supplied diving.

1979

The campus was renamed the School of Applied Technology at Jensen Beach from 1979–1984.

1984–1985

The Jensen Beach Campus included the Evinrude School of Marine Technology and the School of Applied Technology.

1986

By the time the Jensen Beach Campus closed in 1986, it offered a much greater variety of degree programs than when HTI opened in 1968.

1997

A portion of the Jensen Beach campus property was sold to developers, and the remainder was acquired by Martin County and developed into Indian RiverSide Park and later included the Mansion at Tuckahoe, formerly used by the Jensen Beach Campus for administrative and student activities.

LEGENDS and LORE

Jensen Beach alumni shared memories with many common themes—from the picturesque locale to the close-knit camaraderie. Here's a snapshot of some of the unique and beloved aspects of FIT-JBC.

SMALL WORLD



"I remember working in the Gulf of Mexico marking pipelines and doing sub-bottom profiles. Three ships. Ended up having 4 JBC grads (1 diver and 1 tender (UTs) and 2 OTs). For coming from such a small school, that was pretty amazing."
—David Lundy '83

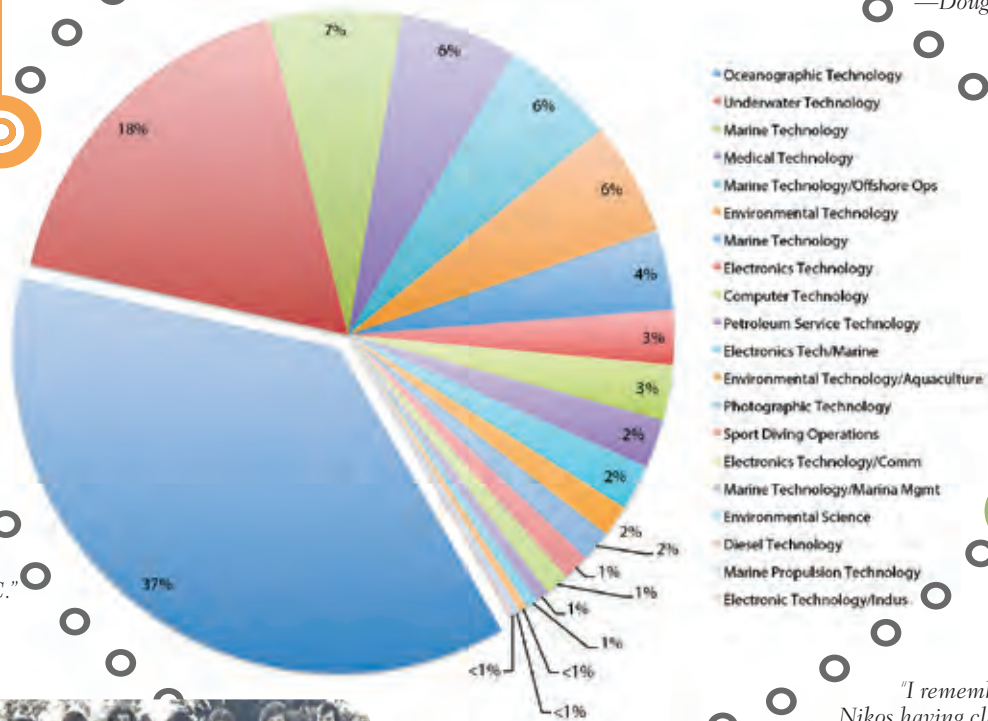
THE CAMPUS & COMMUNITY



- » Spectacular view + Sprawling campus
- » Poaching citrus from the neighboring Evinrude property
- » Great beaches
- » Outdoor fun—fishing, boating, waterskiing, surfing, soccer, warm day and cold nights, canoe trips, concerts, camaraderie
- » Beautiful palm tree-lined entry street
- » Campus pool = Paradise

"The first week at the campus I was pleasantly surprised at the number of other surfers from around the USA who were attending the JB campus. I had one of the only cars, so I became a popular guy and we would all pile into my van and go to the beach and surf!"
—Douglas Feindt '76

ASSOCIATE DEGREES AWARDED



"The FIT Jensen Beach Campus was the perfect spot for a beach loving, watersport fanatic who wanted to play collegiate soccer and was also looking for something different when it came to a college education. I found everything I was looking for and more at FIT-JBC."
—Richard Lynch '83



Called the Spurs because of the Sand Spurs that grew rampantly on the soccer field behind the dorms.

- » NAIA Division II soccer team, competing against other colleges like Flagler, Stetson, Florida Southern, FIU, the University of Miami and, even, the Melbourne campus.
- » Intercollegiate Tennis and Rowing

"I remember Nikos having class out under the oak trees in the courtyard on nice days. Also, he was a good shot with chalk pieces if you dozed off in class!"
—Kathy Laufenberg '86

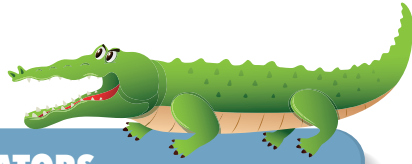
- » Small classes
- » Same professors through all four years
- » Applied education, not just textbooks



"50% lab time for each class meant actually doing stuff, not just reading about it!"—April Stirling '84
"Scuba diving, machine shop, welding and diesel were required courses."
—Craig Mansel '80

ATHLETICS

THE EDUCATION



ALLIGATORS

"I remember staggering to the pool about 6 a.m. one morning (student job to clean the pool) about 90% still asleep, and as I put the vacuum in the pool, something catches my eye ... just a 6-foot gator. I was 100% awake then. I think FIT-JB was an educational experience unlike any other."
—David Lundy '83



- » Concerts in the "Bowl"
- » Quarter Beer Night at The Rat
- » Toga parties
- » Spring Fling
- » Frisbee golf
- » Aquaculture Fish Fry
- » Attempt to set the world record for underwater backgammon

STUDENT LIFE

"We would go to the The Rathskeller, i.e. The Rat, on campus to play pool, foosball or just to listen to some live music and toss a few beers back. The bar was located underneath the student center, which we all felt was haunted. I saw something very strange there one night after hours when I had squeezed in upstairs to get my mail."
—Todd Constance '85

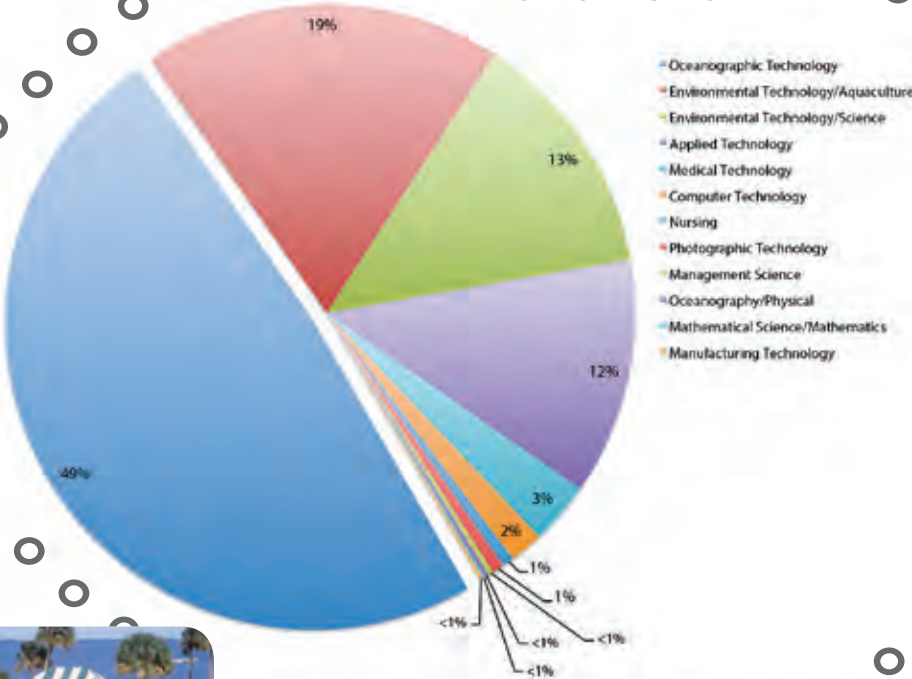
DIVING



- » Bathtub Reef
- » Trips to the Bahamas, Grand Cayman, The Keys
- » Beach dives at the jetty

"Three years of diving once/week, wreck dives, surveying the river, all kinds of cool stuff. I interned down in Turks & Caicos at the Trade Wind Industries (TWI) conch farm they ran with PRIDE (preservation of reefs and islands from degradation and exploitation). TWI was for-profit out of Miami; PRIDE was more Peace Corps-oriented. We helped the locals re-seed the banks with baby conch we hatched out in the lab ... daily diving. Many FIT Jensen Beach students went there—fond memories."
—April Stirling '84

BACHELOR DEGREES AWARDED



SKIN DIVER MAGAZINE AD
Inspired many applications



"When I arrived on campus, I knew I was at the right place because every other window had a wetsuit hanging out."
—Scott Olson '86

HURRICANE DAVID

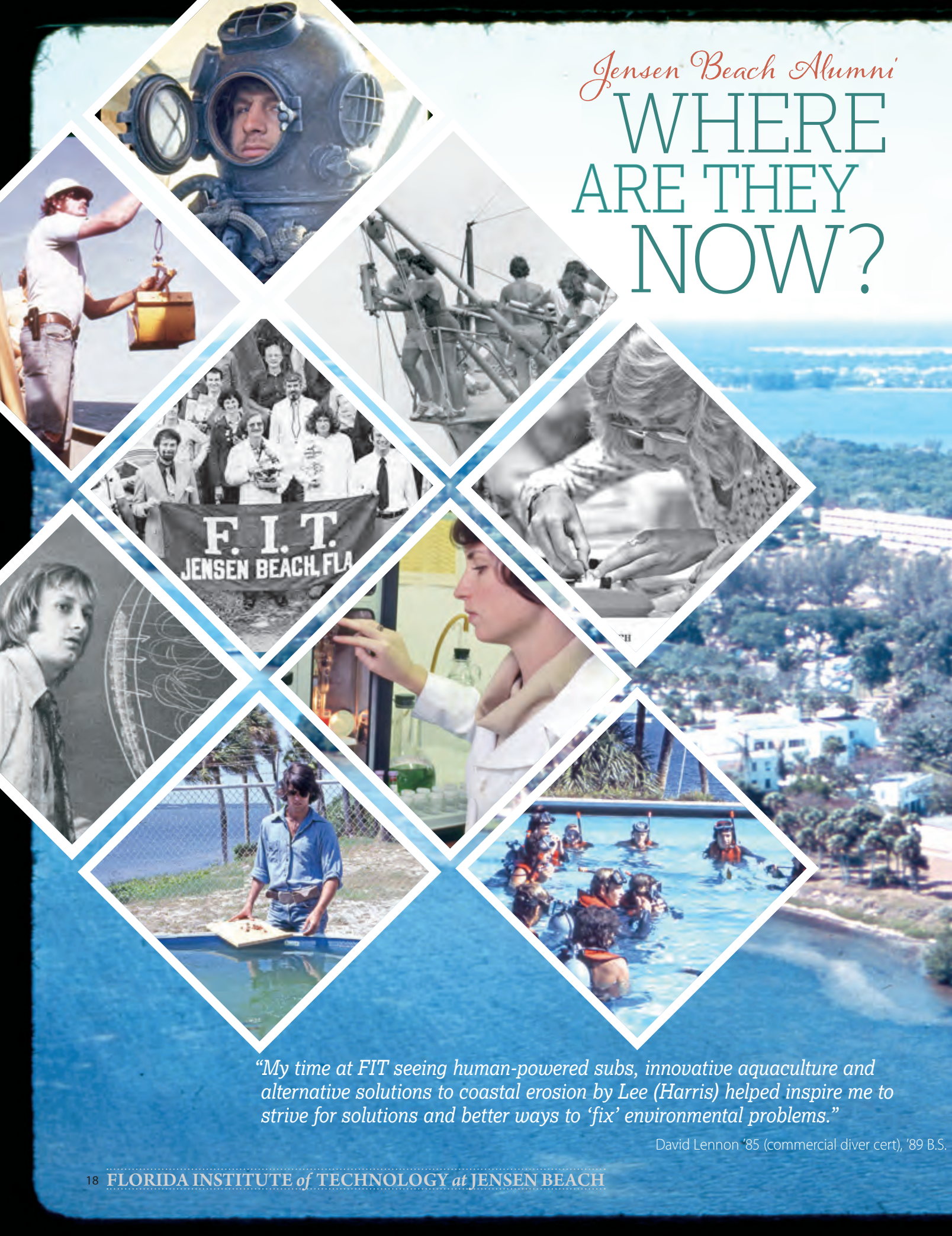
» Staying in a hotel due to dorm damage

Announced closing of the campus the same day as the Challenger disaster: Jan. 28, 1986

"I was one of the last who graduated from FIT Jensen Beach ... am very proud of it. BLACK TUESDAY, the day A LOT of us watched the Challenger disaster, in real time, standing outside, and knowing ... without saying a word. We all had seen many shuttle launches, was kind of routine over the years, but for some reason we witnessed this, outside, in the sky... and we all knew, without saying a word. Then, the meeting in the afternoon, in the Chapel of all places, announcing the closing of our beloved campus ... BLACK TUESDAY! For someone who loved our Jensen campus, it was surreal and devastating at the same time."
—Terri Long '86

BLACK TUESDAY

Jensen Beach Alumni
**WHERE
ARE THEY
NOW?**



"My time at FIT seeing human-powered subs, innovative aquaculture and alternative solutions to coastal erosion by Lee (Harris) helped inspire me to strive for solutions and better ways to 'fix' environmental problems."

David Lennon '85 (commercial diver cert), '89 B.S.

The hands-on, broad-based approach of the Jensen Beach curriculum has laid the foundation for many graduates to pursue diverse careers in engineering, ocean sciences, environmental studies and more. Here is a roundup of respondents to Florida Tech Today by field.



Ken Ammon '75 is president of Ammon Water Resource Engineering, LLC in DeLand, Florida. He previously spent 20 years as the deputy executive director of ecosystem restoration with the South Florida Water Management District and held other engineering leadership positions in Florida.

Mike Cassidy '84 owns Piedmont Surveyors in Lynchburg, Virginia. After graduation, he worked as a commercial diver and underwater bridge inspector in North Carolina before transitioning to land surveying.

Frank Deeney '77 is an engineering consultant primarily focused on post-tension reinforced concrete structures.



Tracy (Howie) Boothby '85 is an environmental educator at Hobe Sound Nature Center. Her husband Dave '83 owns Perfect Ponds, an aquatic garden business in Fort Pierce.

Mike Goralski '84 is an environmental consultant and ecologist with Goralski & Associates in Tallahassee, Florida. Preoccupation: outdoor activities, scuba diving and air-cooled Volkswagens.

Patti Gorman '83 continues a 28-year career at the South Florida Water Management District. She currently serves as the supervising scientist for the program called RECOVER (REstoration COordination VERification), which oversees all of the science that supports all aspects of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program.

Jeff Holland '84 is a limnologist and deputy manager for Reedy Creek Improvement District Environmental Laboratory, working in fishery and wastewater management. Reedy Creek is the municipality serving the Walt Disney World properties.

Terri Long '84, '86, is an environmental engineer with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Air Division. She has two sons.



After graduation, **Tamara Mayer '86** worked as a technician with FIT professor Joe Gilio's environmental consulting firm, Wetlands Management Inc. She later worked as a fish farmer in Sun City, California, and as the keeper at the House of Refuge on Hutchinson Island. Today, she is an environmental consultant based in Jacksonville, Florida.

Kathy (Dahlstrom) Laufenberg '86 is the design engineering manager for 787 Dreamliner in Charleston, South Carolina. Previously, she served as an engineer at Kennedy Space Center for 23 years, working in thermal protection, structures, hydraulics and then technical leadership positions culminating as associate chief engineer for shuttle ground operations.

Ann Micklos '87 continues a 30-year career at NASA, beginning as a thermal protection engineer (working with dear friend Kathy Laufenberg), then airframe lead for the Space Shuttle *Columbia* (on her 20th mission, the vehicle was lost), then lead TPS engineer for *Columbia's* reconstruction effort. For the "return to flight" effort, she served as project manager overseeing the structure and thermal modifications to make the space shuttle safer. She is

Sherry Rone '85 is the chief of environmental engineering and technology for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District. She holds a master's in environmental engineering from Johns Hopkins University and previously worked as a scientist for the state of Maryland and the U.S. Navy. "There is not a section of the Chesapeake Bay I have not sampled. I've spent most of my career working on or around islands."

Jeff Schmid '86 is the environmental research manager for the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, a nonprofit organization dedicated to environmental policy, advocacy, research, education and wildlife rehabilitation to protect southwest Florida's water, land and wildlife. He previously served as a research fisheries biologist for the National Marine Fisheries Service.

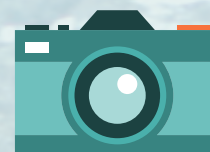
Kim Taplin '86, '89 B.S. (Melbourne), '01 M.S. (Melbourne), is the program manager for the ecosystem restoration branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, working to restore the Everglades.

Elizabeth (Betsy) Wolf '82 works for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game conducting field research on salmon, herring and bivalves.

currently a mission assurance engineer with NASA Launch Services, working with SpaceX, Atlas V and Delta rockets. She holds a master's in aeronautical science.

Ken Smith '77 is completing 39 years as a propulsion engineer and engineering manager for The Boeing Company. He processed and launched all 135 space shuttle missions.

Larry Worley '86, '90 M.S. (Melbourne), is a real estate investor and vice president/corporate sales manager for Superior Energy in Houston, Texas. His career began with Schlumberger Oilfield Services spanning a variety of posts from field engineer to area manager across multiple countries from Egypt to Denmark. He later worked for TDW Offshore and then as president of Deepsea Engineering in Houston.

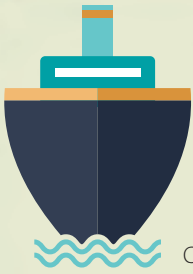


Jeremiah Jenner is a School Board Certified photography instructor for Broward County Schools. He was recently featured on episode 41 of the "Understand Photography" show. Find his work online at jeremiahjenner.com.



Kevin Lundy '83 is an IT consultant. He is a beach bum and avid runner who recently completed a team relay race around Lake Ontario. In November, he will participate in a team relay race from Melbourne through Jensen Beach to Miami.

Brian Taylor '86 is a software developer, any software, any language, any machine/platform. He enjoys being a grandpa to five.



Don Barthelmess '80 has been a professor of diving technology and program director at the highly acclaimed Marine Technology Program at Santa Barbara City College since 1989. Previously, he worked full time as a submersible pilot and diver for International Underwater Contractors Inc. of New York.

Culminating a 38-year career in the offshore seismic industry, including expat assignments in China and England, **Jeff Cunkelman** '78 closed out that chapter as executive vice president of Umbilicals International (UI) based in Houston, Texas. UI designs and manufactures custom umbilicals for the seismic, diving and deepwater control systems industries. He now lives in Eagle Lake, Texas, where he spends his time maintaining the "ranch" when he's not fishing or golfing.



Donn Eyman '75, Dave Clarke '75, Jeff Cunkelman '78 and Jeff Goodman '79

Barry DuBrosky '83 is a retired marine technician. These days, he enjoys making earrings out of sea shells found locally in Jensen Beach.

Andrea Hrusovsky '86 retired as a full commander after nearly 30 years with NOAA Corps. She spent two years at sea aboard the Malcolm Baldrige in the South Pacific and Antarctic, earning a NOAA Working Diver certification. After leaving the ship, she went to flight school and became the first female pilot in the NOAA Corps in more than 20 years. She flew full time from 1999 to 2006 for multiple NOAA programs, then served as assistant manager of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, then deputy director of the National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center (NOHRSC). She worked several more years as an FTE civilian before retiring completely this summer.

Joe Lanza '84, '85, is head of the Active SONAR Branch of the Naval Undersea Warfare Center in Newport, Rhode Island. He is also the founder and chairman of Cedar Island Environmental, an organization dedicated to promoting ecologically important knowledge for the environment and people of Cedar Island in Clinton, Connecticut.

David Lennon '85 (commercial diver cert), '89 B.S., is co-founder of the Reef Design Lab, pioneering better artificial reef design for aquatic habitat enhancement, restoration and green engineering of coastal infrastructure. One of his company's designs was voted among the top 10 inventions of 2015 by *Popular Science*. "We were the first to use construction 3-D printers to build reef units, which we believe is definitely the way of the future," he says.

After earning a master's at the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, **Riyad M. Mucadam** '86 worked in water resources and solar PV electrification with NOAA, UNDP, FEMA and USDA projects. He served as the U.S. Department of State's senior advisor on climate change to the Office of the President, Marshall Islands, and returned to doctoral studies in his late-40s, earning a Ph.D. in biophysics nanoscience. He describes his journey as the road less traveled, from Armenia to Samoa and many places in between. Today, he also holds the title of grandpa.

Robert Mulcahy '79 is president of Marine Resources Inc. He previously served as chief operating officer for CSA Ocean Sciences, a marine environmental consulting firm, based in Stuart.

Scott Olson '86 is project manager for SeaRobotics, working with autonomous marine vehicles. His love of being in the ocean started as a child watching Jacques Cousteau and came to fruition at FIT-JBC. After graduation, he worked with tourist submersibles in Grand Cayman and Canada before a lengthy career at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute as a sub-pilot and several years in Deep-Sea Salvage with the U.S. Navy.

Dennis Russell '83 is manager, U.S. Navy Inspector General, Naval Surface Warfare Center in Panama City. Preoccupation: Travel and water!

Charlie Vallance '75 is the president and CEO of Underwater Engineering Services Inc., a leading specialty engineering, commercial diving and civil marine contractor operating worldwide.

Leonard Whitlock '73 is the general manager of CSnet International, which provides broadband oceanographic, metrological, seismological and hydrographic data services to the scientific community, government and industry. He was as a scuba instructor at FIT-JBC and previously worked with manned submersibles at Harbor Branch, as a diver medical technician with Oceanering International and set a record-breaking experimental dive to 2,250 feet at Duke University.



After travelling the world as a diver and treasure hunter, **Todd Constance** '85 has settled in Kiev, Ukraine, teaching conversational English at a private Ukrainian school.

Douglas Feindt '76 earned his captain license in 1978 and worked for the U.S. Navy A.U.T.E.C. project in the Bahamas for 10 years as a boat captain doing classified Navy testing. After leaving the Bahamas with his wife and three children, he moved to New Smyrna Beach and started Captain Foods in 1994.



John Holman '85 has served with the Port St. Lucie Police Department for 25 years. He began his career as a Martin

County firefighter and today is a sergeant on road patrol. He and his wife have two sons.

After an early career in recreational diving in Bonaire and serving as a boat captain in the Bahamas, **Thomas Jahn** '83 returned to school for a nursing degree and later a master's in anesthesiology. He is the co-chief anesthetist for Treasure Coast Anesthesia Group working with Martin Health System in Stuart. He remains an avid diver and loves traveling.

Brenda Stiles '83 is a laboratory specialist in clinical research for Clinical Research Management Inc., a company that oversees infectious disease studies for emerging pathogens. She writes, "I work with



a large cast of Ivy League graduates, and I can say with some assurance, when it comes to lab knowledge, they got nothing on me! FIT was perfect for me; the small class size and instructors who had worked in the trenches made all the difference."

"We did the first Ebola studies in Africa. Here I am with Dr. Jerry Brown, TIME Magazine's 'Person of the Year' (2014) for his work during the Ebola crisis, funded by the Gates Foundation and managed by my company." Brenda Stiles '83



John Der Sahagian

'84 has owned Fun Yet Charters, a fishing charter business he started in Little Torch Key, Florida, since 1988. www.funyetcharters.com

JD Duff '78 went from working at a dive store, The Scuba Club (www.thescubaclub.com), in West Palm Beach to managing it to now owning it over the course of 37 years. He's been able to travel the world and visit places most people only dream about, multiple times! Find his underwater photography and videography at www.JDDuff.com.

Kim Gissendanner '81 is a project manager with Salmons Dredging Corp. in Charleston, SC. He has worked with several different diving companies, including Wiswell Inc., Aquatic Marine Systems and Glenn Underwater Services as well as seven years as a commercial diving instructor at International Diving Institute.

Tom Ingram '76 is president and CEO of the Diving Equipment and Marketing Association (DEMA), a nonprofit trade association for the recreational diving and snorkeling industries. After graduation, he served as a scuba instructor, surface-supplied division head and sport diving operations program department head at

FIT-JBC. He started the first four-year degree in recreational diving management at Barry University in Miami. He was also director of technical marketing for Scubapro and marketing manager for Aqua Lung Diving.

Drew Richardson '78 is president and CEO of the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) Worldwide, the world's largest recreational diver training and educational organization. He earned his doctorate in education from Nova Southeastern University. Richardson served as a scuba instructor and sport diving operations division head at FIT-JBC. He has dived and worked extensively, including all seven continents and both polar regions. Notably, he worked as an under-ice test diver in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institute and the U.S. Navy Experimental Diving Unit (NEDU) under 7 meters of ice in Antarctica for several seasons.

Eric Simon '79 is still working in the diving world. He and his son Richard own Manta Industries, a diving equipment company.



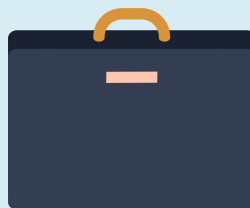
"I spent seven years at the American Institute for Foreign Study. The past 10 years, I've been at Semester at Sea. But it all started in Jensen Beach." Vince Schaff '90

Darlene (Powers) Chernoff

'84 is a utility billing administrator for the Town of Round Hill, Virginia. She previously worked as a support engineer and contract accountant for IBM Federal Systems and as a systems analyst for GTE Government Systems.

Rex Cheskaty '81 is the corporate director of global operations for Armstrong Global Holdings in Stuart, Florida. He enjoys golfing and global travel.

Richard Lynch '80, '83, is a partner with Lynch, Traub, Keefe & Errante, P.C. in New Haven, Connecticut, practicing in the areas of administrative hearings and adjudication, criminal law and workers' compensation.



Wally Saitta '84 is a plans examiner for the Land Development Division for Greenville County, South Carolina. He enjoys visiting his grandchildren and working with wood. Current project: Building a garage apartment for his son and daughter-in-law.

Vince Schaff '90 is the assistant vice president of enrollment for Semester at Sea, a study abroad experience aboard a ship that takes students around the world in 110 days visiting 10 countries. After completing his degree at the Melbourne campus, Schaff worked as an admissions counselor at Florida Tech. He later moved on to international admissions with Teikyo University in Japan, then Seton Hall and Montclair State in New Jersey. After traveling to more than 70 countries, he settled down, started a family and transitioned into study aboard recruitment.

"I started working for Outboard Marine Corporation (OMC), which tested boats and engines out of the Stuart facility, while I was still attending FIT. After getting my offshore marine technology A.S. degree, I picked up a job on Andros Island, Bahamas, as a marine tech at the Atlantic Underseas Test & Evaluation Center (AUTEC). As a marine tech, I worked on all sorts of boats/ships and tested and retrieved armaments on the Navy test range using the deep ocean region known as the Tongue of the Ocean (TOTO). After a year of being a glorified deck hand with access to some of the best scuba spots on the third largest barrier reef in the world (the Andros Wall), I came back to the Jensen Beach Campus to finish my four-year degree in Applied Technology then returned to OMC, where I test drove boats for a year before making the decision to go to law school."

Richard Lynch '80, '83

This special section describes the Underwater Technology diving programs at the Jensen Beach Campus from the mid-1970s to the mid 1980s. It is the intent, and hope, that this abbreviated history of the program will be a living document with additional input provided by those individuals who played a role in this unique educational program. Countless hours of phone conversations and hundreds of emails, plus editing assistance, were provided by many individuals in the construction of this mini-history. Great care was taken to ensure its accuracy, but as with any historical document, there may be unintended errors. The contributors to this document apologize for any inaccuracies, as well as the possible omission of the names of individuals who played a role in these programs.

FOREWORD

As the primary selected writer, I wish to acknowledge the tremendous collaborative effort, and contributions made from every living faculty and staff member who could be contacted. Without this team effort, this article could never have been written. In alphabetical order, they are: Don Barthelmess, Ph.D., who coordinated all graduate inputs; Dudley Crosson, Ph.D., who provided the information discussing the Diver Medical Technician aspects; David Dinsmore, M.Ed., who originally suggested writing a history and provided a wealth of information and overall editing assistance; Bob Evans, MBA, MHR, who provided many details of the 22-week and UT degree programs during the programs' later years; Tom Ingram, MBA, CAE, who assisted in the write-up of the Sport Diver Operations program; Frank Irwin, who provided many critical details; Dick McCoy, B.S., who helped fill in information on the early days of the program; Leon Morrison, who was the equipment expert and a history provider of the final days of the programs; Drew Richardson, MBA, Ed.D., who was the main contributor of the Sport Diving Operations program section; Rick Valentine, B.A., Capt. USN (ret.), who provided much useful input; and Charlie Vallance, MBA, who significantly contributed to the history of the whole program, especially the early days.

This article is dedicated to the students, instructors and administrators who gave their all to make the FIT/UT diving programs among the very best in the country.

—Douglas Soule, MBA, Capt. USNR (ret.)

AN EMERGING FIELD

The quest for exploration and production of oil and gas in the ocean began in fairly shallow-water sites off the coast of California in the early 1950s. Over the next three decades, the oil and gas industry continued to push technological limits to explore and reclaim oil and gas from deeper and deeper locations. In many ways, the incredible technological advancements that occurred in the aerospace industry during the 1960s were similar to those taking place in the global offshore oil and gas sector. The same could be said about the diving industry. Diving work was now routinely conducted at depths of 500 feet and deeper requiring specialty gas breathing mixtures, highly specialized tools and sophisticated topside technical support. Such work, referred to as "Saturation Diving," involves the use of pressurized chambers. These chambers, known as "Deck Decompression Chambers" (DDC), provide living quarters for divers at the same pressure as the underwater worksite. Divers are transported to and from the underwater worksite via a detachable bell that is mated and unmated to and from the DDC. Early on, the demand for these diving services was immense, but the supply of well-trained commercial divers to do this dangerous and difficult work was visibly absent.

The Underwater Technology (UT) Program at the Jensen Beach Campus was systematically constructed to help meet this demand and soon established a reputation as one of the very best commercial diver training programs in the country. It would also become an innovative program that provided training for emerging newer hyperbaric technologies and medical disciplines.

Keith Ellert '79:
"Looking back, we were taught the science of REAL DIVING by some of the best of the best. I am humbled to have been part of that experience."



Early days scuba instructors Charlie Vallance, Dick McCoy and Drew Richardson.

BUILDING THE FOUNDATION

It all began in 1970 with ex-NASA engineer and certified scuba instructor Jim Woodberry, who accepted a position to teach scuba at the Hydrospace Technical Institute (HTI) in Cocoa Beach. Woodberry soon hired two students at HTI (Charlie Vallance and Len Whitlock) and an ex-commercial diver named John May as assistant instructors. By 1970, several trade school programs had been established to train commercial divers with the skills to meet the needs of the offshore oil industry. The first academic programs began in California and Washington—offering commercial dive training combined with the educational requirements for an Associate of Science degree.

Woodberry realized that a similar associate degree program located closer in proximity to the Gulf of Mexico oil industry could be highly successful and constructed a plan to develop what would ultimately become the Underwater Technology Associate Degree Program.

Once the concept was approved by HTI, Woodberry immediately set out to procure startup funding and equipment. He also began constructing a curriculum outline based partially on the existing West Coast college programs, but also from responses to questionnaires sent to diving companies in the Gulf of Mexico region. In 1972, FIT's acquisition of the recently closed St. Joseph's College in Jensen Beach was finalized. This new branch campus was ideally suited for marine sciences programs. All of the previous HTI programs were transferred to the Jensen

Beach location and HTI was dissolved. Woodberry and his assistant instructors, minus Whitlock, relocated to Jensen Beach.

The upfront costs required to start the UT Program were significant and required funding beyond that available through the university. Woodberry secured a significant financial grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to hire additional staff and faculty and purchase needed equipment. The grant was in response to the Undersea Medical Society's National Plan for the Safety and Health of Divers in their Quest for Subsea Energy, which was supported by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, NOAA and the Department of Energy (DOE). Later, NOAA's Office of Sea Grant provided additional funds to FIT for the conversion of a U.S. Navy LCM 6 into a suitable surface-supply diving vessel. Several commercial diving companies in the Gulf of Mexico region also donated significant equipment, including a diving recompression chamber for treating diving accidents, air compressors, welding machines and a variety of commonly used diving helmets for surface-supplied diving.

The establishment of the UT Program was a joint venture between FIT, government and industry and an excellent example of collaboration to achieve a common goal.

ROLLING OUT THE PROGRAM

As the creator of the UT Program, Woodberry was designated department head. In late 1975, two divisions were formed—scuba diving (SDD), lead by Charlie Vallance, and surface-supplied diving (SSDD), lead by Jim Wooly. Drew Richardson, Tom Ingram and Dick McCoy were hired as scuba instructors, while John May and Rick Paulzin served as SSDD instructors. Leon Morrison, a diver with substantial knowledge and experience in all facets of diving and equipment, joined the SSDD as an equipment technician.

Marketing ads in sport diving publications announced the associate degree program and attracted enough qualified applicants to completely fill the inaugural class in the winter quarter of 1976. Basic scuba certification was an admission prerequisite. The UT academic program, although modified as it matured, consisted of typical educational courses required for an Associate of Science degree plus hands-on training required to be a professional diver.

The Curriculum

Student curricula in the first year consisted of scuba and surface-supplied diving, three English courses including technical writing, mathematics, oceanography, photography, rigging and seamanship, engineering drawing and blueprint reading, electricity, two diesel engine courses,

welding, chemistry, and recompression operations. The second year curricula included several courses in advanced diving, diving physiology, compressor maintenance and repair, diving equipment repair, machine shop practices, additional welding, diving-related emergency medical training, hydraulic and pneumatic systems and underwater tools, ocean structures and oceanography, underwater inspection and repair, underwater cutting and welding, two courses in mixed gas diving, diving systems-fabrication techniques, a lecture series with industry leaders and two technical electives. Electives included Underwater Ultrasonic Non-Destructive Testing, Diver Medic Certification, Underwater Explosives, and North Sea Diver Certification. These classes were either regularly scheduled as quarter-long courses or offered between quarter breaks or during the first week of the off-quarter in a condensed full-week format.

Initially, UT classes began in the winter quarter to avoid any possible disruption from hurricanes. Later, it was changed to the normal FIT schedule with classes starting in the fall quarter in order to better synchronize the availability of federal student assistance grant programs for UT students. The campus pool was the platform for initial advanced scuba training. Open water dives were conducted in the ocean near West Palm Beach using a chartered dive boat. Students in the first UT class completed their surface-supplied air diving training courses in a harbor in Fort Pierce. All necessary diving and emergency equipment, including a double lock recompression chamber, was available to support diving operations.



LCM moored for open ocean diving

The Equipment.

As with any new and equipment-intensive program, the surface-supplied diving portion of the program had some challenging times. It was apparent that the program was missing a critical capital asset—a diving vessel. As aforementioned, NOAA helped locate, deliver and outfit a diving boat platform that could adequately and safely train divers in offshore conditions on both air and mixed gas. They arranged a lease contract for an LCM 6 (Landing Craft Mechanized) landing craft from the U.S. Navy and assisted in the delivery of the vessel to Jensen Beach from Virginia. NOAA also provided assistance with the extensive alterations performed on the hull, plus the installation of the double lock recompression chamber and emergency backup high pressure air banks below decks. Hydraulic systems to power underwater tools, a three-point anchoring

system and a winch with a swing davit to raise and lower divers on a stage from the deck were also installed. Two donated diesel-driven air compressors for primary air supply and a generator finished the system. Four permanently mounted diver station control consoles were installed on the main deck and used to control and distribute breathing gases of air and helium and oxygen mixes at depths down to 300 feet and pure oxygen at shallow decompression stop depths.

Having met all marine surveyor standards and certifications, the LCM went into service almost immediately, providing students with real-life offshore and remote river diving experience in a variety of conditions. It also exposed them to the rigors of mobilizing a vessel, and setting up and breaking down dive stations while in transit, observing three-point mooring operation, piloting and general boat handling in a variety of weather and sea state conditions.

A 20-foot-deep by 15-foot-wide square concrete training tank was built near the southeast end of the pool complex in the summer of 1977. This “Deep Tank” would become heavily used for a variety of classes. However, after conducting the first underwater cutting and welding course, the tank required extensive cleaning. A donated circular 12-foot-wide by 8-foot-tall modular metal tank with glass viewing ports was located and assembled on the east slope of the “Deep Tank” to conduct training.

Additional Instructors

Early in 1976, the SSDD began recruiting instructors with dive training and equipment repair experience. David Dinsmore, a U.S. Army Diving Officer and Army Liaison Officer, was hired as an SSDD instructor and soon became division head. He recruited Doug Soule, a Lieutenant and U.S. Navy Diving Officer, and Frank Irwin, a Navy Diving Corpsman and instructor, to join the program as SSDD instructors. Soule’s first assignment was to develop the course outline and lesson plans for the first Mixed Gas Diving course. Irwin provided medical support and expertise at managing potential diving-related injuries in the program and taught recompression chamber operations and air diving courses.

Since a new UT class began every year, the department hired more instructors to manage the additional course offerings. These included Dudley Crosson, a paramedic instructor and diving officer at Miami Dade Community College with Underwater Emergency Medical Technician experience; Art Noble, an engineer and seasoned commercial diver with saturation diving experience; Rick Valentine, a student at Florida Atlantic University and previous mixed gas-qualified Navy First Class Diver; and Joe Casper, a recent graduate of the first UT class. Additionally, Jim Griffin was hired as a scuba instructor and Bob Evans, a

previous Divers Training Academy graduate and Army/Navy diver with commercial diving experience, was brought on as an equipment technician.

Program Refinement

As the program matured, efforts began to fine tune the SSDD operations, including improvements to the consistency of instructional objectives, instructional quality control, attention to diving safety and in-water training rigor. Additionally, student scheduling and counseling received more focused attention. Dinsmore took the lead on these efforts, while Soule became SSDD head.

Starting in 1978, Dinsmore, Soule, Valentine and Noble began expanding their personal knowledge of commercial oil field diving in the Gulf of Mexico—taking summer jobs in the industry. Each instructor brought back knowledge and experiences to provide higher-quality, relevant instruction to their students.

Diver safety was always a primary focus. Ron Allison served as the first UT diving physician. He was followed by Bob Soule, an emergency medicine physician with previous offshore commercial diving experience, who supervised the management of several patient recompression treatments on campus. David Bright, a local physician who expressed an interest in this emergency service, was sponsored by FIT to attend the Navy Diving Medical Officer course in Bethesda, Maryland. He returned fully certified to provide barotrauma medical services and contractually served as the on-call diving medical physician.

Hands-On Projects, Industry Tools and Networking



One team celebrating the completion of their project.

Many challenging projects were conceived and integrated into the curriculum. For example, a segment of the final surface-supplied air diving course incorporated organizational, teamwork and supervisory training under demanding conditions.

In the Underwater Seminar course, students gained exposure to senior diving company executives who served as guest lecturers for each class session. Additionally, second-year students had the opportunity to attend the annual Association of Diving Contractors (ADC) conference in New Orleans.

Students also gained exposure to the newest industry tools. For example, when a revolutionary underwater cutting rod became embraced by the commercial industry,

Simon Fowler '85 (Reminiscing on the passing of Art Noble): “I had a couple of moments off the coast of Scotland and Cornwall that could have ended it for me without having NO PANIC drills he would run on us.”

Kim Gissendanner '81: “My two years at FIT were some of the most formative years of my life. All of the instructors were challenging and mentoring. I learned a lot from all of them with their own unique teaching styles. Many of my fellow students shared my passion, and we made friendships that have lasted even through today. There was a camaraderie there that I haven’t experienced since.”

the vendor was contacted and agreed to supply rods for courses and provide instruction as part of the Underwater Cutting and Welding course.

The Underwater Hydraulics and Pneumatics course involved both academic training of hydraulic and pneumatic systems and the hands-on use of a variety of underwater tools. Parker Hannifin Company provided the training course Fluid Power for the academic portion of the hydraulics segment.

Rick Jones worked in Louisiana for one of the premier underwater video equipment manufacturers. He volunteered to visit JBC for several years until his tragic scuba diving death in 1984. He provided excellent academic and pool instruction to UT students on the most commonly used video systems in the Gulf and inland diving companies.

Beyond Oil

In an effort to expand the exposure of non-oil industry underwater work, Bob Massey, who had owned a diving/salvage company, was hired to teach several courses on topics including salvage, diving inspection and repair, inland diving work, and underwater demolition. He later replaced Charlie Knoeller (the original LCM boat captain) when it was repositioned to Link Port in 1986.

Mixed Gas Dives

Open water mixed gas dives took place usually between 100 to 150 feet of water 8 to 12 miles off the coast of Ft. Pierce inlet. Diving depth was often determined by the location and current strength of the Gulf Stream. Two divers would descend on a stage platform operated by a hydraulic winch. Because the current was often strong, occasionally the divers were not even allowed to leave the stage to perform a project. Sufficient bottom time necessitated a staged decompression ascent with stops using a variety of breathing mixtures at specified depths.

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE IN SPORT DIVING OPERATIONS



Instructor training course graduates Sport Diving Operations program.

In the late 1970s, the recreational diving industry was experiencing rapid growth worldwide. Dive resorts, live-aboard dive vessels, retailers and dive businesses of all kinds needed trained professionals who could successfully combine a knowledge of the diving business with the skill set to instruct and lead recreational divers.

In 1980 the Sport Diving Operations Associate of Science degree program commenced, offering students a highly technical education that included underwater and teaching skills as well as business instruction. Drew Richardson served as the division head.

Like everything at the Jensen Beach campus, the program emphasized hands-on training with sufficient theory and academics to produce graduates with a strong foundation in the operations and business of diving with optimal employment prospects.

The Sport Diving Operations Program provided students with approximately 45 open-water training dives, a majority of which took place in and around south-central Florida, including the clear waters of the Gulf Stream near Palm Beach. Reef systems, existing in 20 to 120 feet of water, provided a wide range of easily accessible dive experiences. Students were exposed to a variety of diving conditions and could earn a variety of certifications including sport diver, advanced open-water diver, divemaster, assistant instructor, scuba instructor, wreck diver, rescue diver, deep diver, search and recovery diver, night diver, scuba equipment repair, and underwater photography, including videography.

The program included two non-diving fields of study considered essential to the development of a well-rounded and comprehensively trained sport diving professional: business and seamanship. The business sequence included theory and practical course work in general business fundamentals and dive-specific marketing and retailing techniques. The seamanship courses included the fundamentals of repair, maintenance, handling and navigation while providing an opportunity to accumulate hours toward a captain’s license. Students also had the ability to individualize their program allowing them to include studies in celestial and electronic navigation, marine communications and a number of other fields.

The Sport Diving Operations degree program was unlike anything else in the world and received critical acclaim by the recreational diving industry. The true mark of success was the fact that graduates were able to find diving employment in academic, scientific, retail and resorts jobs internationally.

UT SURFACE-SUPPLIED DIVISION INNOVATIONS

Diver Medical Technician

As the UT program matured, it became more innovative and cutting edge. In the 1970s, the need for medical technicians specializing in the emergency treatment of diving accidents was recognized primarily due to the remote locations of the work and the specialized knowledge required to manage diving-related injuries. This specialty was branded early on by the commercial industry as Diver Medical Technician (DMT).



Barry Nichols, UT Saturation Diving Life Support Technician (LST)

The first iteration of the UT Program to meet this need included 250 hours of emergency medical training provided in two courses that followed the guidelines established by the Undersea Medical Society. Successful completion resulted in an official Underwater Emergency Medical Technician Certificate of Achievement. In 1985, the National Association of Diving Medical Technicians (NADMT) was founded for the sole purpose of recognizing a Diver Medical Technician specialty and establishing the guidelines for training. In 1989 the National Board of Diving and Hyperbaric Medical Technology (NBDHMT) became the medical sanctioning authority for diving (DMT) and related medical specialties such as Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy.

Dudley Crosson was one of the first NADMT- and NBDHMT-approved instructors. The FIT UT program, among several other training organizations, was also one of the original programs to be approved to provide NADMT (Diver Medical Technician) training. Crosson, having worked closely with the NOAA Diving Program to establish the first non-commercial diving organization DMT program, was a tremendous asset to the UT Program by running the DMT courses and teaching other courses in the UT curriculum. Thanks to the efforts of NOAA and Crosson, both scientific and commercial diving students were able to participate in NADMT training. The DMT certificate was instrumental in providing graduates with more career options.

Diving System Fabrication

Based on their summer experiences in the industry, several instructors developed a new hands-on course in Diving System Fabrications. The course taught students to identify, assemble and repair all components of typical advanced diving systems. During the four-hour final exam, students were given a box with most—but not all—of the needed components accompanied by a diagram and a panel that needed to be assembled and plumbed to make the system operational. Students needed to identify and

order the missing parts by part number from an available catalog, assemble the regulators and valves, and connect the tubing. The finished product was connected to an air supply, checked for leaks and graded for proper function.

Non-Destructive Testing

In the early 1980s, diving companies were increasingly being hired to inspect the structural integrity of aging offshore platforms. Likewise, inland companies were being contracted to do the same, especially for aging bridges. Non-destructive testing (NDT) methods being used above water began to be adapted to the underwater environment. The UT program recognized this new required skill set and arranged for Sonic Instruments Inc. to provide students with ASNT Level II certification training. An NDT specialty certification course in Magnetic Particle NDT was later offered as well. These courses were considered qualified electives in the program.

22-WEEK DIVER TRAINING PROGRAM



Mud Monster Project for both UT and 22-week programs.

Although the UT Department had been routinely running specialty classes during the summer break, it was clear the administration wanted to do even more with the UT program. National student college enrollments were declining, and JBC was no exception. Woodberry announced that the school wanted the UT Department to start a non-degree trade school diving program that would be run partially during the off quarter of the two-year associate degree program. Data showed that the demand for this type of training was still very high. Instructions were given to figure a way to maximize the use of all personnel, equipment and facilities to run the program from existing capital assets. The scuba portion was pretty easy to do, but the SSDD was another story. The staff worked hard designing a course curriculum that would be feasible and strong enough that graduates from a trade program would not tarnish the reputation of the two-year program. Lee Keller, Gary Playford, Harold Aschenbrenner and Bob Evans served as instructors. Work-study students were also an invaluable resource.

The 22-week program rolled out smoothly as scheduled with full enrollment and proved to be a highly respected program for those seeking entry-level jobs in the diving industry.



Gissendanner, UT grad, 110 ft water reservoir gates inspection.

PRESTIGE AND PARTNERSHIPS

Government agencies, private companies, lawyers involved in diving accident litigation and even individuals occasionally contracted special training or consulting services from the UT Department.

FIT trained the divers assigned to recover the solid rocket boosters (SRBs) after each launch during the height of NASA's Space Shuttle Program. Divers had to live boat dive 110 feet to the bottom of the booster case in ocean conditions to insert a huge plug in order to be able to dewater the SRB and tow it back to shore to be refurbished for reuse.

FIT/UT occasionally was contracted to provide expert reviews of diving accident reports or provide inspections and detailed reports of findings of diving equipment involved in diving-related accidents under litigation.

Private companies also contracted FIT/JBC for training services. For example, Perry Oceanographic in West Palm Beach contracted FIT/JBC to conduct special Ramset Underwater Stud Gun training for its engineers.

The JBC had a standing contractual agreement with the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant located north of the campus to provide support for any diving-related accident or sickness arising from diving work at the power plant. The faculty and UT staff treated several power plant diving injuries. In addition to maintaining readily available diving injury treatment assets and personnel to handle any student/staff diving-related injury, JBC also served the general public by making the triple lock recompression chamber complex available for treatment of any decompression sickness or gas embolism injury.

The UT Program developed a stellar reputation and was visited by diving company owners, diving support companies, various governmental agencies and even representatives of foreign governments.

By 1984, the two-year Sport Diving Operations degree program had already earned a reputation as a unique and outstanding program. During an instructor training program, top ranking directors of both the National Association of Underwater Instructors and the Professional Association of Diving Instructors visited to observe and learn more about the program. These two diver certifying agencies dominated the training of divers worldwide.

SIGNIFICANT PERSONNEL CHANGES

After many years of passionate dedication from the basic concept to the maturation of the UT program, Jim Woodberry left JBC to pursue new challenges in early 1983. Charlie Vallance, the most senior and a highly qualified member of the UT staff, assumed the department head position. Drew Richardson, the most senior instructor in the Scuba Diving Division became division head. Dick McCoy resigned from his scuba instructor position in 1982. Art Noble left the program in 1983 but returned as an instructor in 1985. Harold Aschenbrenner also left the SSDD in 1983.

Tim Tealey, dean of the FIT/JBC had been a strong supporter of the UT program from the beginning at HTI and skillfully executed the transition of all HTI programs to JBC. He always kept his finger on the pulse of the UT program. He steadfastly admired and supported the ethos of the UT program. It was a very sad day in 1984 when his wife came to the staff offices to tearfully tell of his medical condition forcing him to resign as dean of the JBC. Several months later, Marion Rice was hired as chancellor of FIT/JBC.

Dave Dinsmore and Doug Soule resigned in the summer of 1984. Joe Casper and Drew Richardson resigned in 1985. Tom Ingram became division head for scuba diving and department chair for Sport Diving Operations. Bob Colomy, a previous superintendent at Subsea International, was hired in early 1985 as an instructor and a newly created position as Director of Commercial Diving Instruction. Bob Evans was promoted to program head of the 22-week program. Several new instructors were hired to fill the vacancies, including Kerry Dillon, John Therrien and Dave Malizia. Graduates Tim Szesny and Ed Lis served as equipment technicians.

The last person to voluntarily leave the program was Charlie Vallance, who left in early 1986 to pursue local commercial diving opportunities. Bob Evans was promoted to UT department head and helped steer the ship on a true course until the UT program was terminated in June 1987. The challenging job of meeting all educational objectives and keeping all equipment in safe and fully operational condition, with all diving programs running concurrently, remained the same.

Dan Vale (aka DSD) '79: "We learned the value of teamwork, a respect for the traditions of working in the deep sea and the responsibility to look after the man on the bottom. His life was in our hands as he toiled in the dark, murky depths ... We all supported one another as we muscled the mid-water flange project, or wrestled the infamous "Mud Monster" to the mat ..."

Melissa Clark Bouvier '81: "As I review my life at this time, what stands out the most is the close-knit community we had. All my jobs were due to relationships formed at FIT-JBC."

DISMANTLING THE UT PROGRAM

Dismantling of the JBC began when Chancellor Rice announced on Dec. 11, 1985, that the FIT board of directors had decided to close the JBC and put it up for sale. All courses of instruction at JBC would cease as of June 1986. Currently enrolled students in degree programs not completed by June 1986 could continue their studies at the main FIT campus in Melbourne starting in the fall of 1986. All FIT/JBC faculty were given termination notices effective upon the completion of their current contract period.

A *Skin Diver* advertisement for the two-year UT program was scheduled to run for six consecutive months starting in the January 1986 edition. Ironically, the ad generated more inquiries than any other ad ever run of the program and created a lot of disappointment and confusion from those expressing interest in enrolling.

FIT academic dean Andrew Revay and director of JBC programs Robert Heidinger were assigned to assist the transition of all JBC programs to the Melbourne campus. These two individuals went to extraordinary lengths to help with the transition and the relocation of all Underwater Technology and Sport Diving Operations capital assets. They remained attentive to the needs of the programs and provided assistance for the remaining UT and Sport Diving Operations students until they completed their programs. Many within the UT program had transferred to another similar program or to a different degree program at FIT. Some left FIT altogether after the closure was announced.

Bob Evans, Dudley Crosson, Bob Massey, Leon Morrison and Bob Bernhardt were the only employees of the commercial diving aspect of UT Department to transition to Melbourne. Tom Ingram and two newly hired scuba instructors, Thomas Jahn and Richard Brantley, transitioned to the main campus to complete the Sport Diving Operations program. All UT capital assets except the LCM and the triple lock recompression chamber were transferred to FIT main campus in Melbourne during the summer of 1986.

Adequate facilities were arranged at the Melbourne campus to teach all scheduled courses except those requiring open water diving. The LCM was repositioned at a leased berth at Link Port in Fort Pierce, situated about midway between the JBC and FIT main campus. The triple lock recompression facility remained in place at JBC and served as a constantly functional treatment center asset until all Underwater Technology diving programs were terminated. Open water diving classes still used the Mud Hole in the intracoastal waterway and the Ft. Pierce Inlet

to access the open ocean for offshore air and mixed gas diving. Other diving classes were conducted remotely in lakes or rivers near Melbourne. Students in the Sport Diving Operations were still able to conduct open water dives with the assistance of dive charter operators. The Sport Diving Operations program relied heavily on current students with divemaster or assistant instructor credentials to provide adequate student safety on all dives.

In June of 1987, the final class of the 16 remaining students of the two-year Underwater Technology program and the remaining 145 students in the two-year Sport Diving Operations program graduated. All of the UT Department faculty/staff that made the transition to FIT ended their employment in June of that year with the exception of Morrison who stayed on for a couple of months to dispose of all the remaining capital equipment from the program except the triple lock chamber and the LCM.

It is not known what ever happened to the triple lock chamber or LCM, but some say there have been sightings in the wee hours of the morning of the LCM sailing out to sea with a ghostly resemblance of Jim Woodberry sitting in the captain's chair and the flag flying at half-mast.

JBC UT DEPARTMENT LEGACY

The diving programs at the JBC were often considered diamonds in the rough at JBC when in fact they were crown jewels of diving training programs. Although fairly short lived, the 22-week commercial diver training program and the two-year degree in Sport Diving Operations were also hugely successful and helped meet a need for highly trained personnel specifically identified by the commercial and sport diving communities. All of the three different programs were staffed with hard-working, exceptional people who worked together as a team and always displayed a passion to provide students with excellent education and real-life skills that would set the stage for their potentially highly successful careers. Simply put, what made all of these programs special was the fact that the students who chose the JBC diving programs were highly motivated and hungry to learn.

Synergistically, all of the instructors and staff shared a common vision—to train the best professionals in the country for rewarding careers in a variety of diving and other hyperbaric-related occupations.

Additional Thoughts from UT Grads

Jeff Mosteller '82: "From 1999–2004, I was the technical director of hyperbaric medicine at Edward White Memorial Hospital. Edward White was one of three astronauts who died in the Apollo One fire that occurred in a 100% oxygen environment. So... here comes me bringing two Perry Sigma Plus monoplace chambers to Edward White Hospital—chambers that treat patients with 100% oxygen environment!"

When I discovered who Edward White was, I lost a week of sleep and vowed it would never be my legacy to have a fire in a 100% oxygen environment ... needless to say, my staff and I were razors for safety. When I left, the director of plant services gave me the mission patch from Edward White's historical spacewalk. It hangs on the wall everywhere I work to remind me to stay vigilant."



Jeff Mosteller, UT grad, operating a monoplace HBO chamber.

Rick Thompson: "We were fortunate to experience the FIT/UT program when we did. Looking back at the quality of instruction we received, we sure were provided an education by the best of the best."



Frank Irwin, UT instructor, visiting UT grad Don Barthelmess, program director at SBCC.

Don Barthelmess '80: "I began FIT straight out of high school in 1979. I made many friends and enjoyed a camaraderie that is only seen in the military. I was most impressed by our instructors. There were a team of them, and each brought a perspective and experience that helped mold and shape our attitudes toward diving."

Todd Constance '85: "Changed my life forever ... the best instructors in the world made a difficult specialty almost easy."

Fran Murello '79: "FIT was the beginning of many firsts for me. I was the first in my family to graduate with a college degree. I then went on to accumulate three more. I went to FIT with a purpose—to become a diver and test the limits of what I can do. I feel I accomplished my goal, working in the Gulf and along the Atlantic coast. As time moved on, I moved into the non-diving working world and got into the information technology business. No matter where I ended up or what the challenges were, I could always draw on my FIT education. If I could dive in a mud hole and assemble a pipe and flange project, I could figure my way through a corporate meeting. If I could survive a blow up in that same mud hole, I knew I could persevere whatever life threw at me. I felt confident in my abilities to stand up to any and all challenges."

In Memoriam

Jensen Beach Underwater Technology

UT Staff

**CHARLIE
KNOELLER, LCM
CAPTAIN**

BOB MASSEY

ART NOBLE

**JAMES
WOODBERRY**

Graduates

BOB BERNHARDT

**JOE CASPER,
UT GRAD/
INSTRUCTOR**

**KERRY DILLON,
UT GRAD/
INSTRUCTOR**

**RICHARD WYNN
MCCOY**

**ROBERT
"MONTY"
MONTGOMERY**

DOUG RUTLEDGE

SCOTT WIKER

HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE HEARD OF MAPQUEST? EVERYONE.
THE MAGNITUDE OF THIS ANSWER MAKES OUR NEXT JEROME P. KEUPER
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD WINNER SPEECHLESS.

Jim Thomas: Futurist, Florida Tech DNA

JIM THOMAS '72 is an operations and finance executive guru whose proven leadership has led two IPOs, including MapQuest. Working on the early stages of the computer game and internet industries and now being on the leading edge of another transformation in the automotive industry as the vice president of corporate development for Rivian, it can be said that Thomas is our futurist.

Thomas is known for visualizing and understanding how changes in innovation can create new or reinvent industries. What didn't seem possible just a few years ago is mainstream today. Thomas understands why Florida Tech is ranked one of the top entrepreneurial colleges in the U.S. according to *Forbes* magazine. He believes it was a natural evolution of our initial founding to educate the pioneers of the space industry.

Thomas says, "it's the Florida Tech DNA. FIT continues the entrepreneurial drive as evidenced by creating one of the first online education programs, the innovative approaches to treat autism and involving students in real hands-on research."

He believes college is a place for total personal growth—educational, social and spiritual. It is a place to try new things and fail. Learning from failures and

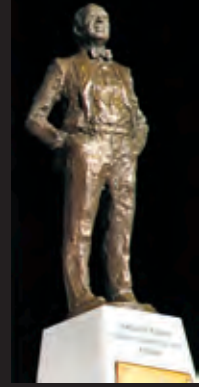
how to bounce back can enhance personal fortitude more than success. Both the Florida Tech leadership and faculty strive for success and accept failure as part of the learning experience.

"For me the on-campus experience was like the R&D lab for my future life," shares Thomas.

Florida Tech can thank Thomas and his friends for the first Homecoming in 1972. Being vice president of the student government, he experienced firsthand how group collaboration for innovative ideas can be born.

Thomas deems the basis for developing your lifetime network begins in college. He joined Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity his freshman year. He touts six of his dearest friends who share not only a brotherhood but a propensity to be entrepreneurs. **JOE CARUSO** '73, '75 M.S., owns a minor league baseball team, **DAVE FORCE** '73 guided SeaWorld zoological operations for over 34 years, **DAVE BEALL** '72, '75 MBA, implemented nuclear energy across the U.S., **CHIP HEFLICH** '73 pioneered the infrastructure of the internet and streaming video, and **ROGER RYALL** '72 launched and grew a retirement community. Clearly, they all participated in the R&D lab of personal growth at Florida Tech.

“For me the on-campus experience was like the R&D lab for my future life.”



The true measure of a university's greatness can be found in the achievements of its alumni. Florida Institute of Technology has established a worldwide reputation for developing leaders and innovators across diverse fields, from academia to private industry to government. In that stratum of "the best of the best," FIT alumni have gained their unique distinction through successes in their professions, service to the university and contribution to their communities.

The Jerome P. Keuper Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes an alumnus whose career accomplishments honor the university's legacy of excellence.

This year's recipient is Jim Thomas who will be presented with the award at the Homecoming Awards Gala on Nov. 4.



Whether in the classroom or as part of a student activity, Thomas credits Florida Tech with learning the value of team work. He equates his proudest moments at MapQuest as the team working tirelessly with monumental effort to their goal of mapping to an entirely new medium accessible by multiple devices.

Each year after the launch of MapQuest, Thomas presented at several conferences. He started each talk asking the question, "How many people have heard of MapQuest?" In the first couple of years, about 20 percent raised their hands. By the third year, at a travel convention with more than 1,000 people in the audience, every hand shot straight in the air. The power of the internet launched an emergent company into a household name. These events are nothing less than shocking for Thomas.

For Thomas, being a Panther means a great education, lifelong friendships and learning to strive for worthwhile initiatives in life. He challenges students and alumni alike to create highly motivated, intelligent, creative and forward-thinking teams. These are the components Thomas has witnessed that make successful organizations.

"Jim Thomas is a testimonial to Jerome P. Keuper's entrepreneurial spirit and represents the best of the best," said **BINO CAMPANINI**, vice president for alumni affairs. "We are proud to be presenting him this award at the Homecoming Gala."

—Stephanie Bacon



Featured Events: *Nov. 1-4, 2017*

THURSDAY NIGHT, NOV. 2, 2017

5 p.m.
MEG O'MALLEY'S PRESENTS FIT HOMECOMING 5K RUN/WALK
 Downtown Melbourne
Cool tech shirts, goody bags and a post-race party at Meg's with food, drinks and music.



FRIDAY, NOV. 3, 2017

6 p.m. – 1 a.m.
FIT HOMECOMING FEST featuring **The Fratellis**
 Downtown Melbourne



SATURDAY, NOV. 4, 2017

11 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
HOMECOMING COOKOUT AND TAILGATE PARTY, Panther Den and Varsity Practice Field, Florida Tech campus



1-4 p.m.
FOOTBALL GAME VS. WEST GEORGIA – Florida Tech Panther Stadium
 Shuttles provided to the stadium

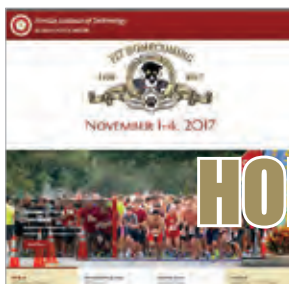
6:30 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Homecoming Awards Gala



All Weekend:
 Cloth as Community: Hmong Textiles in America, Ruth Funk Center for Textile Arts. Opens 10 a.m. Friday and noon on Saturday

The History of Space Photography, Foosaner Art Museum Opens 10 a.m. Friday and Saturday and 1 p.m. on Sunday



FIT HOMECOMING FEST



Great Gig for Homecoming Fest, Be There!

Classic jam—The Fratellis playing “Chelsea Dagger”—a rock ‘n’ roll gig in an old speakeasy, the deathless 2006 Top Ten single. Da da da dah, da da dah, da da dee dee dee dum, the catchy infectious tune remains iconic.

Bino Campanini, vice president for alumni affairs, signed the Fratellis to play Florida Tech’s free concert in Downtown Melbourne as the only U.S. concert on their 2017 world tour. With more than a decade in the recording studio, the ongoing ubiquity of their music and desire to keep playing creates another stage for an incredible Homecoming Fest 2017.

REGISTER NOW AT:

HOME.COMING.FIT.EDU



Jon Fratelli took a moment to answer some questions for *Florida Tech Today*.

On the Fratellis tour webpage, Homecoming Fest is the only listed U.S. concert. Do you plan to schedule additional U.S. dates?

We do plan to tour the U.S. next year. Those dates should be announced pretty soon.

FIT Homecoming Fest is a free concert in Downtown Melbourne for our students and alumni. Of course, we welcome the public to the concert. We think shutting down “main street” is a fun venue for a concert. Have you ever played in a similar venue?

We’ve actually played a few main streets in our time, so I think it’s a great idea. The truth is that an audience makes a show, so no matter the venue—if the audience is “alive” on the night, then the gig is usually great.

Your shows are known for the contagious kinetic, energetic vibe—where does that come from? And what can the Florida Tech students and alumni expect from your Homecoming Fest? How do you decide what you will play in a set?

Where that vibe comes from is anybody’s guess, but to me it’s just an enthusiasm for the job in hand. As long as that enthusiasm is there, then it will transmit. Our band comes with no bells or whistles. We get by on that enthusiasm and a respect and appreciation for our audience. Without an audience, the whole thing is DOA. We just try and communicate that appreciation. Our set lists kind of write themselves—though as time goes on, certain songs come and go and come back again depending on our mood at that particular time.

You mentioned in an interview that “I Wish I Was Blind” by Bruce Springsteen made you emotional. Do you get emotional about any of your songs?

I said that! Sounds true, preferring blindness to the pain of seeing your old lover with a new flame is bound to bring tears. I have shed one or two tears upon writing some recent songs.

Are you working on anything new for another album?

We’ve just finished recording the next album in the U.S., which will be released early next year I think.

ALUMNI NEWS



News from the desk of
Andy Kirbach '90

Florida Tech Alumni Association President

DEAR ALUMNI, STUDENTS, PARENTS AND FRIENDS,

Fall at Florida Tech: I believe 2017 will be the best yet! My enthusiasm for this New Year is unrivaled from years past. Panther Pride is a real movement and participation is its own reward. As part of our commitment to support Florida Tech, the Florida Tech Alumni Association (FTAA) worked on strategic activities that closely align the alumni goals with those of the university. We are seeking to add value to the student experience and also contribute to the culture of philanthropy.

Looking back on my time on the alumni board and as a student, the importance of the student's experience becomes clear. Florida Tech's students are our future. The quality of the university experience has a direct impact on students' relationship as alumni. Homecoming weekend and Grad Bash have become large events that have further showcased the connection between Florida Tech, students and alumni.

Which brings me to the FTAA's goal of contributing to a culture of philanthropy. I firmly believe that alumni and student support for Florida Tech—not only in engagement but also in giving—will provide a solid foundation for the university. The Edward H. Kalajian Professorship was created with its goal to attract the most prolific professors and thus students to excel from their classrooms. I am proud to be part of the alumni who donated to make the professorship a reality.

There are many ways to be active—please take a moment to like and follow our alumni Facebook page and share posts, join our LinkedIn alumni group, submit your latest achievement to alumni@fit.edu or donate during Day of Giving on Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2017.

Committed to increasing the value of our degrees!
#PantherPride

Go Panthers!
Andy Kirbach '90

YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Andy Kirbach '90 | President | Melbourne, FL | akirbach@gmail.com
Kim Bozik '87 | Vice President | Chandler, AZ | kim.b.bozik@intel.com
Rhodie Humbert '82 MBA | Secretary | Melbourne, FL | rhodiehumbert@aol.com
Brian Stahl '86, '88 M.S. | Treasurer | Satellite Beach, FL | brainmstahl@gmail.com
David Murphy '91, '01 M.S. | Member-at-Large | Winter Garden, FL | davemurphyrr@hotmail.com
Al Hagopian '89, '94 MBA | Member-at-Large | Indialantic, FL | Al.Hagopian@hds.com



Connect with Jensen Beach classmates online:

- FIT JBC Reunion**
- FIT Underwater Technology Alumni Association**
- I Remember FIT Jensen Beach Campus**

JENSEN BEACH UNDERWATER TECHNOLOGY ALUMNOTES

Although the careers of many graduates are not known, the following list of known graduate accomplishments in the diving and hyperbaric-oriented fields include:

ROGER BANKSTON UT, Recently retired as Director of Diving for SeaWorld Orlando

MARK BETHEA '79, Santa Fe Diving and Construction Co.

DALE BOLGER UT, Santa Fe Diving and Construction Co.

MELISSA CLARK BOUVIER '81, Divex, David Taylor Naval Ship Research and Development Center Diving Locker; HBOT Technician, Jo Ellen Smith Hospital, New Orleans, LA; University of California San Diego and Lady of the Lake Medical Center, Baton Rouge, LA; Currently RN at the VA Medical Center, Miami, FL

MAURICE BOUVIER '82, Oceaneering International 1982–1986, left the industry after sustaining serious decompression sickness (Bends) resulting in permanent nerve damage/disability

BROCK CHAMBERLAIN '80, Hyperbaric Safety Director, West Jefferson Medical Center

BILL DENAULT '78, FG Hall Hyperbarics Duke University; Gas rack operator for the Atlantis II, 2,250-foot record breaking experimental tri mix dive at Duke

KEITH ELLERT '79, SS Chevron Hawaii Salvage operations

SIMON FLOWER '85, Career North Sea Diver and NDT specialist

RICK FOX '79, Perry Oceanographics

JACK GLANVILLE UT, Vice President of Underwater Engineering Services Inc.

RICK GLENN UT, Owner of Underwater Services Inc., commercial diving company in Charlotte, NC, specializing in inspection and repair of hydroelectric facilities in the U.S. and South America

DAVID HATHAWAY UT, Owner, M&K Commercial Diving LLC

KEN HAYNES UT, David Taylor Naval Ship Research and Development Center

DANIEL HEALEY UT, Oceaneering International

NIGEL HODGSON '79, Santa Fe Diving and Construction Co.

STEVE HOLENSTEIN '80, Oceaneering International, Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) Technician

ROBERT HOWES UT, Brundrett Diving and Salvage Co., SS Chevron Hawaii salvage operations

LANCE HORN UT, NOAA Undersea Research Center, University of North Carolina at Wilmington

KEN JOHNS UT, Diving Safety Officer, NOAA Undersea Research Center, University of North Carolina at Wilmington

CHRIS KAUFMAN UT, NOAA Undersea Research Center, University of North Carolina at Wilmington

JOEL LUECK UT, Santa Fe Diving and Construction Co.

GARY LUSE '80, Taylor Diving and Salvage, career spanning many years as training coordinator

RANDY MACALEXANDER UT, NOAA Undersea Research Center, University of North Carolina at Wilmington

MARK MARQUIS UT, Career diver for Underwater Construction Corporation

RICHARD WYNN MCCOY '79, Long career with Oceaneering International, last position was Director of Emerging Subsea Technologies Deepwater Technical Solutions

PHIL MCDERMOTT '84, 30 years at Underwater Construction Corporation (UCC)

JEFF MOSTELLER '82, HBOT Operator, UCSD; Technical Director of Hyperbaric Medicine, Amsterdam, NY; Technical Director of Hyperbaric Medicine, Edward White Memorial Hospital, St. Petersburg, FL

FRANCIS MURELLO '79, LST Santa Fe Diving Houma, LA; Underwater Construction Corp (UCC), Essex, CT

BARRY NICHOLS '79, LST Santa Fe Diving and Construction, specifically selected because of FIT-JBC training to be one of the first team of commercial divers to dive (under 9 feet of ice) in the Antarctica; Antarctica Service Medal from the Department of the Navy

KNUT OEDING '84, 1 ATM Diving Jim Suit diving

RANDY PIPKIN UT, Navy Diver Senior Chief, Experimental Dive Unit (retired); HBOT, Bay Medical Sacred Heart Hospital

DOUG RUTLEDGE UT, Perry Oceanographics

JOHN RUTLEDGE UT, Santa Fe Diving and Construction Co.

GLEN SCHWEINSBERG UT, Santa Fe Diving and Construction Co.

JIM SIZEMORE '82, S&H Diving and International Oilfield Divers, air and mixed gas diver

TODD SMITH UT, NOAA Undersea Research Center, University of North Carolina at Wilmington

RANDY SPRINGER UT, HBOT Technician, Jo Ellen Smith Hospital, New Orleans, LA

MARK SHROEDER '79, CSA Ocean Sciences

DAVE SUTTON '79, Santa Fe Diving, Houma, LA; Antarctica Service Medal from the Department of the Navy

RANDY SUTFIN UT, OIM-C, Diamond Offshore Drilling Co.

RICK THOMAS UT, Santa Fe Diving and Construction Co.; President, Techfills LLC

RON TOMON UT, Construction Manager, Intecsea Co.

TROY IUEN '79, Chevron Hawaii Salvage

STEVE URICH UT, Instructor and Diving Safety Officer, NOAA Diving Program, Seattle, WA

DAN VALE '80, Hydrospace Marine Services, Bay of Campeche with Brown and Root; marine

Submit your AlumNotes to alumni@fit.edu
share your news!

construction, Ontario; air, gas and a 60-day 22 ata (693 feet) saturation dive as a DMT for Can Dive; diver support of natural gas drilling, Great Lakes; drilling support in Beaufort Sea (Arctic) and Hibernia (North Atlantic) and inspection and salvage work in Southeast Asia

MARK WALTERS '81, HBOT Technician, Lady of the Lake Medical Center, Baton Rouge, LA

TERRY WINEGAR UT, 30-year career Oceaneering International, including Offshore Manager

UT INSTRUCTORS:

DUDLEY CROSSON, Ph.D., surface supplied diving division (SSDD) instructor, earned his Ph.D. in physiology and started his wholly owned diving and aerospace consulting business Delta PTM.

DAVE DINSMORE, SSDD instructor, division head, special projects manager, is retired after 12 years as diving supervisor/operations director for the NOAA Undersea Research Center at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, and 15 years as the director of diving operations for the NOAA Diving Program at Seattle. He is the primary contributing author and technical editor of the 4th and 5th editions of the NOAA Diving Manual.

BOB EVANS, UT equipment tech, SSDD instructor, program head and department head, is retired after six years supervising commercial diving jobs and 16 years of government work.

FRANK IRWIN, SSDD instructor, is hyperbaric operator at the University of California San Diego (UCSD) and a Reno Center hyperbaric consultant.

CAPT. DOUG SOULE, SSDD instructor and division head, is retired as U.S. Naval Reserve Supervisor of Diving and Salvage Western Hemisphere, including supervisory, diving, salvage, documentary, training and other assignments in the western hemisphere, including the Ultrasonic NDT testing of the USS Arizona in Pearl Harbor. He served as commanding officer of Reserve Diving Detachment 522.

CAPT. RICK VALENTINE, USN (ret.), SSDD instructor, served 38 years in many strategically important afloat and shore-based Diving Commands, including COMSUBDEVGRU 1 performing special saturation diving support operations for the Chief of Naval Operations, Commanding Officer of COMSUBDEVRON 5 Diving Detachment, Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa. He retired as commanding officer of Naval Weapons Station Earle, N.J. ■

ON THE ROAD

Exeter College



Florida Tech students gathered together in Exeter College Chapel. The students enjoyed a presentation from alumnus Julian Field organized by the FTAA.

Reykjavik, Iceland



To see more reception photos, visit alumni.fit.edu and click on [Events>Photo Gallery](#)



Marteinn Stefansson, Bino Campanini, Baldur Bragason and Petur Guomundson

ALUMNOTES

1980s

VIC VERMA '87, CEO of 8x8 Inc., was a semifinalist for the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2017 Award in Northern California. The prestigious business awards program for entrepreneurs recognizes innovative trailblazers in more than 145 cities in 60 countries who are excelling in areas such as innovation, financial performance and personal commitment to their businesses and communities.

1990s



JO DAMATO'S '95 kids attended Aerospace Camp at the local GA airport, The Flying W (N14). She spoke about business aviation and what she does at NBAA. Her 12-year-old rocked her vintage FIT Aviation shirt for Throwback Thursday.



AUBIN GOPORO '96 joins the University of Tennessee Volunteers basketball staff as director of player

development. He will serve as program liaison to the Thorton Athletics Student Life Center, coordinate community outreach and service efforts, and serve as a student-athlete mentor for personal and professional development.



ALI FAISAL, AVP of development services, recently met with alumni **NAZIR UL HAQ '17**, **SHAKEEL IQBAL '01** and **MOHAMMAD AJMAL '92** in Karachi, Pakistan. Great to see alumni from all over the world getting together this summer!

2000s



Panther alumni **CHRIS FERNANDO '02**, **CHRIS MAROT '00** and **THOMAS LARKIN '07** enjoying some downtime after collaborating at business meetings with the Division of Aviation at NCDOT.



LAURA (FEJA) CANHAM '08 is the proud parent of Julian Canham.



RYAN (CLEGG) WATKINS '10 and her husband Matt welcomed their daughter Alexis. She's a future astronaut-in-training!

Submit your news:
alumni@fit.edu



MARIANNA SANSONE '17 and her mom graduated together this year. She is on her way to medical school. *Photo credit: EFRAM GOLDBERG*, Florida Tech Ph.D. student

In Memoriam

G. DENTON CLARK, trustee emeritus who supported the university since its earliest days and played a critical role in its founding, passed away Aug. 20. The retired president of RCA Inc.'s Canadian Division had been an original member of the university's board of trustees dating to its establishment as Brevard Engineering College in 1958. In 2006, the Florida Tech Alumni Association recognized Clark with its highest honor, the Lifetime Service Award, acknowledging his long-standing support of the university.



In Memoriam

LOUIS "LOU" DEGREGORY, a carpenter in Florida Tech's facilities office for 13 years before retiring in 2013, passed away May 19.

EUGENE F. TERKOSKI, former instructor of finance at Florida Tech, passed away July 9.

JEANETTE P. DISCHLEY, a former employee of Florida Tech, passed away July 19.

CHRISTIAN LAKE, a member of Florida Tech Men's Cross Country team and Men's Track & Field team, passed away in a tragic vehicle accident on July 19. He was a business administration major heading into his senior year.

"Student-athletes don't just come and go at Florida Tech," said Pete Mazzone, head cross country coach. "Christian will always be a part of the Florida Tech Cross Country family. Our team is deeply saddened by this tragedy."

Jason Munsch, head track & field coach, concurred. "Christian was a very positive person and always seemed to have a happy spirit. He will be greatly missed."



London

To see more reception photos, visit alumni.fit.edu and click on [Events>Photo Gallery](#)



Jeremy Wall, Paul Robertson, John McPhail and Marcus Richardson



David Tuftt, Dear Faithful, President McCay and Sam Ornsby

Remembering Kerry Dillon '86



Jensen Beach alumnus **KERRY DILLON** passed away on June 12, 2017, at his home in Stuart. Dillon leaves behind his children Lucas, 17, Isabella, 12, and his wife of 23 years, Ximena. The following remembrance by columnist Ed Killer is excerpted with permission from TCPalm.com.

Dillon was born in Charlotte, North Carolina, and grew up in Middleton, New Jersey. He first discovered the Treasure Coast when he moved to Jensen Beach in 1979 to attend Florida Tech. Not long after he graduated in 1986, he began working as a commercial diver.

Dillon was a lucky man. He loved what he did, so, as the old saying goes, he never worked a day in his life. While many of us head to our office to take our daily places in our cubicle behind a desk, Dillon's office was 100 or more feet beneath the waves surrounded by the warmth of the deep blue sea. He welcomed the daily mysteries of the sea and its creatures.

He owned Sea Rover Services. He was contracted by several artificial reef programs in Florida counties to provide detailed underwater surveys of reef sites. Regularly, he recorded condition of the structure, took measurements or made notes of changes and recorded the number and species of marine life using the reef. Of the four or five artificial reef deployments I've personally attended in waters offshore of Martin and St. Lucie counties, Dillon was on site for all of them.

Shortly after a tug boat, cargo ship or pile of concrete power poles slipped below the waves on its way to the sea floor, Dillon, in wetsuit and mask, would drop over the side of his iconic boat and head down to see how the material landed. It was his job to get photos and video, and verify the exact location of the structure. He was the man who would

provide the official GPS coordinates for the reef before they could be publicized and added to charts used by anglers and other divers.

His copious, detailed notes of more than 20 reef projects can be read on the Martin County Artificial Reef Program website.

Keith Mille, biological administrator for the artificial reef program with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, said Dillon was a loving steward of successful artificial reef systems in this region.

"While it's tough to think about artificial reefs along the Treasure Coast without Kerry, he leaves behind an incredible legacy of an incredible system of fishing and diving destinations to be enjoyed for future generations," Mille said.

Dillon's own words illustrated his enthusiasm for the undersea universe: "Recreational diving allowed me the youthful chance to discover the ocean's many wonders beneath the waves. Commercial diving gave me the opportunity to make an exciting, rewarding career of diving adventures from what was once a hobby. ... Regardless of which type of diving we choose, it's all about being underwater and exploring. So far there is nothing in cyberspace that can compare. Let's go diving!"



BE A PART OF THE TRADITION







Florida Institute of Technology

High Tech with a Human Touch™

For more information on your official class ring, please visit us online or call 1-866-225-3687.



balfour
balfour.com

©Balfour 1970-2013, all rights reserved.

CAMI043-13B 21414 BN05656-16

“I loved my experience at the Jensen Beach campus.”



“I knew I wanted to be an oceanographer in 7th grade. My goal was to get paid for surfing, or at least for being near the ocean. After being accepted at FIT/Melbourne, I became aware of the Jensen Beach campus and the associate degree option. I thought it made sense to go there instead, so if I didn’t like it, I’d still have the two-year degree. And, the surfing was better.

We had a close-knit group that proceeded through the curriculum together, and we helped each other. I’m sure many of us remember Joe Gilio trying to explain Coriolis acceleration. After several rotations, he was well entangled in the microphone cord—pretty funny!

After graduation, I did one year at Research Technology Institute in Durham, N.C. It was a great job, working with infrared imagery of the ocean, but it was too far to the beach. Then, I spent 31 years as a NOAA oceanographer. First at NOAA’s Atlantic Oceanographic & Meteorological Laboratory in Miami, where I served as chief scientist on dozens of research cruises. I was hired and initially worked for George Maul, who’s now at FIT. In 1998, I moved to a National Ocean Service field office, where I initiated and managed the Ocean Systems Test & Evaluation Program.

I retired from NOAA in 2010 and run a one-man consulting service, CoastalObsTechServices. I consult to NOAA (lead editor on a dozen manuals detailing the Quality Assurance/Quality Control of Real-Time Oceanographic Data, QARTOD); serve as the exclusive U.S. agent for Datawell, the premier manufacturer of wave buoys; and assist Old Dominion University in maintaining regional high-frequency radar surface current mapping systems.”

—Mark Bushnell ’75, ’77

“I was a student in oceanographic technology at the FIT Jensen Beach campus in 1978–80. It was the beginning of my second academic program, which propelled me into a satisfying 27-year professional career in the environmental field. I received a B.A. in Philosophy at UC Berkeley in 1975 but had grown interested in the marine sciences. Before FIT-JBC was even on my radar, I had the opportunity to be a long-term volunteer dive buddy in the Caribbean. I learned there were few jobs in marine biology; so, I thought, I’ll try oceanography.

I learned of FIT from a tiny ad in the back of *Skin Diver* magazine. I started in September 1978, at age 25, going to school with 18-year-olds. I planned to get a B.S. in OT. However, as my academic counselor and the head of the math department, Mimi Gerstell, came to know me, she encouraged me to do a two-year degree in OT and apply to MIT for a master’s in ocean engineering. (She had sent a number of FIT graduates with a four-year OT degree to MIT/Ocean Engineering for a master’s degree.) I asked Mimi how I would do that. She said, “you’ll take all the math and science courses for the four-year OT program, but you’ll do that in two years.” That sounded good, I liked the challenge, so that’s what I did.

I loved my experience at the Jensen Beach campus. It was the perfect situation—a small campus, small class sizes, good teaching—allowing me to dive into math and science in depth. I became a teaching assistant in the biology and chemistry labs, and later Mimi asked me to teach my own math class to UT students. Mimi Gerstell became a friend and my first mentor.

I interviewed at MIT in February 1980. I was a non-traditional applicant: I had a B.S. in philosophy and would receive only an A.S. in oceanography at FIT. As the professor questioned me doubtfully on each of my FIT courses, I read him the short description from the FIT course catalog. After hearing about each course, he nodded with satisfaction and checked it off on his evaluation sheet. MIT later admitted me and offered me almost a full scholarship, including a research assistant job. I enrolled in MIT’s Ocean Engineering program in September 1980 and graduated with an M.S. in May 1982. There were only three other women in the master’s program during that time. This was an opportunity I wouldn’t have had if it hadn’t been for FIT. I was grateful for the empowering experience of the Jensen Beach campus, which offered me an excellent education. And I was grateful for the mentorship of FIT’s Mimi Gerstell, who pushed me to consider a bigger challenge than I had imagined.”

—Deborah (Sides) Pontifex ’80

Continue Your Florida Tech Education – 100% Online

Florida Tech extends its *High Tech with a Human Touch* approach with convenient, 100% online graduate and undergraduate programs with the same high-quality, real-world education you'd receive on campus, paired with regular peer collaboration and faculty interaction.

Choose from a variety of programs in these in-demand graduate disciplines:

Accounting & Finance

Business Administration

Cybersecurity

Database Administration

Enterprise Resource Planning

Healthcare Management

Information Technology

International Business

Management

Marketing

Organizational Leadership

Project Management

Supply Chain Management



Florida Tech

Call **855-300-1469** today to speak with an enrollment services representative or visit **FloridaTechOnline.com/Alumni** to learn more.



facebook.com/FloridaTechOnline



twitter.com/FLTechOnline



instagram.com/FloridaTechOnline



Florida Institute of Technology

Office of Marketing and Communications
150 W. University Blvd.
Melbourne, Florida 32901-6975

SPECIAL EDITION: REVISITING JENSEN BEACH

in the blinding glare of the sun and water
we pause and reflect on days gone by
having passed this way the shadow of time
softens our memories and now
there are others where we once stood
soaking up the sun and enjoying a
life not unlike our own

from the yearbook: Leviathan 1976 Vol 3



**F.I.T. Jensen Beach—
from whence we came....**

On June 17, 1968, Congress enacted Public Law 90-454 establishing the Commission on Marine Science, Engineering and Resources. This group eventually became known as the "Stinson Commission" since it was chaired by Julius A. Stinson, then Chairman of the Ford Foundation. Their final report was released January 8, 1969 entitled "OUR NATION AND THE SEA: A Plan for National Action" and contained 123 recommendations designed to make the U.S. at the forefront of ocean science and technology. Some of their recommendations became reality: the formation of NOAA, for one, others more so; never stated a chance in the areas of government funding, for example. "Achieve the capability to explore depths to 20,000 feet by 1990 and utilize these depths by the year 2000."

But in that era of great expectations for the ocean, many of the Stinson Commission's ideas were deflected before their final report was compiled. One of the reasons: "Extensive support for ocean engineering and marine technician training." Because the Florida Institute of Technology to develop a training program for oceanographic technicians. Popular thinking at the time held that every F.I.T. working in marine science would require a supporting staff with up to 12 technicians.

In an effort to help in this anticipated manpower demand, F.I.T. formed HYDROSPACE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE (HTI) in September, 1968. While officially a division of FIT's Department of Oceanography, HTI was based out of an annex to the FIT campus in Jensen Beach. For example, it had one classroom, a machine shop, a photo lab, one

AGENDA FOR PRESS CONFERENCE AT ST. JOSEPH COLLEGE

2:00 p.m. - Tuesday, August 22, 1972, in Chapel at College in Jensen Beach.

1. Mr. Leuderbaugh to fly press representatives to Stuart from Daytona Beach, Orlando, and Melbourne, taking off from Melbourne at 10:30 a.m., landing at Whisman Field in Stuart at 1:30 p.m. and return after press conference.
- Following media will be on board: (See attached list)
- They will be met at the airport by:
 - Mr. Stapler - status wages
2. Following additional media will be represented: (See attached list)
3. Mr. Kees will prepare and distribute press kits consisting:
 - News release
 - Camera Guide
 - R. T. L. Development Brochure
 - F. I. T. Catalogue
 - H. T. I. Catalogue
 - St. Joseph Map
 - St. Joseph picture
4. F. I. T. representatives will include President Kruger, Vice President Miller, Vice President Simmons, Vice President Stapler, Dean Wilber, Dean Tesley, Dean Leuderbaugh, Mr. Clendenen, Mr. Dallegagne, Dean Ross, representing Dean Work.
5. Other guests will include Mr. Roland Merrill, representing Ralph Estrada (also see attached list).
6. Suggested Agenda:

FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
MELBOURNE, FLORIDA

September 9, 1968

TO: All Students and Parents of F.I.T. Jensen Beach Campus

As I am sure you now know, it will be necessary for Florida Institute of Technology to close its Jensen Beach campus following the summer term in August, 1968.

After a detailed study, a Committee of the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to close the campus for financial reasons. The Committee responded to financial losses over the past several years and severe losses in the current fiscal year.

Every student currently enrolled at Jensen Beach will be given the opportunity to complete the program in which they are now enrolled. Many will be able to complete their programs during the spring quarter and during an extended summer term on the Melbourne campus. We are making every effort to complete their work on the Melbourne campus as smoothly as possible. Members of the Melbourne administration, working in conjunction with the Jensen Beach staff, will be available to assist students with their specific questions.

This has not been an easy decision since we are all proud of our faculty, staff and our students as well as the high quality academic programs at the Jensen Beach campus. However, we have seen evidence all across the country that institutions of higher education must face economic realities if they are to survive and excel.

We are painfully aware that this action can be a traumatic experience for everyone especially the students and parents.

Sincerely yours,

 Jerome P. Kruger

MK-403-717