In This Issue

Departments
- President’s Perspective ........... 4
- Two Cents ................................ 5
- On Campus ................................ 6
- Day of Giving ............................... 8
- Etc. ............................................. 12
- Athletics .................................... 16

Features
- ASD: Is It Ever Too Early to Act? Ivy Chong, director of autism services and training at The Scott Center for Autism Treatment, discusses early indicators of autism and findings that offer much-needed hope for families. 15
- We Are The Panthers Student-athletes, alumni and illustrious athletics director Bill Jurgens reflect on what it takes to be a Florida Tech Panther. 18
- The Campus Aesthetic Examined through the lens of tone and texture, line and pattern, this photo essay explores the little noticed elements that unite the campus aesthetic. 22
- JPK Award Winner, Sunita Williams Astronaut Sunita Williams, 95 M.S., selected by NASA to fly the first commercial space vehicles destined for Mars by 2030, exemplifies the ideals of the Jerome P. Keuper Astronaut Sunita Williams ’95 M.S., selected by NASA to fly the first commercial space Distinguished Alumni Award. 30
- 2014–2015 Honor Roll of Donors 39

Alumni News
- Homecoming 2015 26
- From the FTAA President 28
- AlumniNotes and On the Road 32
- Spotlight: Hannah Medd 37
- News from the FTAA Executive Director 38

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Florida Institute of Technology Today | 3
Dear Florida Tech Alumni and Friends,

The new academic year is in full swing. I’d like to highlight a few areas that I’m particularly proud of as we begin 2015–16.

First, we’ll complete construction soon on the Harris Student Design Center. Thanks to a $1 million gift from Harris Corporation, the newest building on campus will offer College of Engineering and College of Science seniors completing capstone design projects an unparalleled work environment. The 11,500-square-foot structure, located on the south side of campus, will offer students high bays, welding stations and great collaborative space as they complete their design projects.

Meanwhile, the accolades for our campus continue to come in. We were just named one of the nation’s 50 most entrepreneurial research universities, according to Forbes magazine. Forbes calculated this based on the number of alumni and students who’ve identified themselves as founders and business owners. We’re one of just two Florida universities in the 2015 rankings, and we rank ahead of the other Florida school—the University of Miami.

Finally, as our Panthers prepare for their third football season, we’ve announced plans to rename Palm Bay Magnet High School’s stadium as Florida Tech Panther Stadium. The agreement with Brevard Public Schools means new stadium signage including a “P” on the turf at midfield … “P” for Panthers and the high school Pirates. I hope to see you at a game this season.

Have a wonderful fall!

Sincerely yours,

A.J. Catanese, Ph.D., FAICP
President & Chief Executive Officer

Flanked by President Catanese and Executive Vice President and COO T. Dwayne McCay, legendary Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin signs the agreement to establish the Buzz Aldrin Space Institute at the university. Opening this fall and led by Aldrin, the institute will promote the settlement of Mars through research.

President Catanese and Sara Catanese at the gala to launch Aldrin’s ShareSpace Foundation at Kennedy Space Center.

President Catanese, Bill James, Dallas Cowboys Legend Tony Dorsett, Cecilia James and Marilyn Scott, Captain Scott’s wife, at the Inside the Huddle Banquet.

Vincent Russo ’88, President Catanese and Joe Pucci at the 2015 Tri-State FIT Alumni Reception, which took place after a Trenton Thunder baseball game.

James E. Johnson ’94, ’96 Ed.D., ’98 Ph.D., writes: “I do not recognize the guys in the picture, but I think the boat is the one that the environmental science department had. Attached is a picture of me using it (RUSTY VAN EPPS took the picture) in the St. Johns River in 1983— you can see the fiberglass patterning and the height is about right. Fond memories of sampling in bugs, heat and darkness!”

Thank you,

Bill Wymard ’76
Marine Biologist
Director of Operations
Aquarium Adventure Store

ENCHANTING AQUARIUMS

As an alumnus and graduate (B.S. Biological Sciences, Marine Biology 1976), I enjoy reading the Alaska Tech magazine when it arrives.

I was intrigued by the article in the Spring 2015 edition, “Enchanting Aquariums” by Associate Professor Kevin Johnson discussing and showing aquariums on campus and being cared for by Kate Beckett.

It was FIT and my education there that inspired me to start the Aquarium Adventure Store concept and franchise (www.aquariumadventurecolumbus.com). The article was spot on and I was glad to see the info presented.”

Thank you,

Bill Wymard ’76
Marine Biologist
Director of Operations
Aquarium Adventure Store

SUMMERS AT SEA

Paul T. Stone ’80 writes: “I believe the photo on the back of this month’s Florida Tech Today is of student Bob Gorman and instructor Ruth Buzzie taken in the Indian River Lagoon out in front of the Jensen Beach campus.”

Flanked by President Catanese and Executive Vice President and COO T. Dwayne McCay, legendary Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin signs the agreement to establish the Buzz Aldrin Space Institute at the university. Opening this fall and led by Aldrin, the institute will promote the settlement of Mars through research.

Astronaut Sunita Williams ’95 M.S. poses in Florida Tech’s Panther Plaza with President Catanese during a 2008 visit to campus when she addressed students in Gleason Performing Arts Center. See new story about her on page 30.

We welcome your input on the magazine. Have a comment about something you’ve read? Want to share a memory about your FIT days? Email us at fltechtoday@fit.edu.

For more information on your official class ring, please visit us online or call 1-866-225-3687.
Catanese Announces Retirement Plans; McCay Named Successor

President and CEO Anthony J. Catanese announced on June 17 that he will retire from the university’s top leadership post next year, after 14 years of service. Catanese will officially conclude his tenure as president June 30, 2016.

“Serving as the president of this wonderful university has been one of the proudest accomplishments of my career,” Catanese said. “Florida Tech’s rise to prominence is truly exciting, and certainly ongoing. This is a very special place, made so by the people—the faculty, staff, students and alumni—who care deeply about the university and its mission.”

PHILLIP W. FARMER, board of trustees chairman, announced that executive vice president and COO T. DWAYNE MCCAY has been appointed to succeed Catanese as president and CEO.

“Dr. Catanese has been the right leader at the right time in the evolution of Florida Tech,” Farmer said. “His legacy will be one of unparalleled growth and success. We have every expectation that Dr. McCay will extend that success, providing important continuity while exploring new areas of achievement.”

Over the next year, Catanese and McCay will work closely with the board of trustees to coordinate a transition process. Catanese plans to serve as a university research professor.

“Dr. Catanese makes no small plans,” McCay said. “His vision has been a guiding force in the initiation of sprites, a curious luminous phenomenon that happens 25 to 50 miles above thunderstorms. It’s long been thought that atmospheric gravity waves play an important role in the initiation of sprites, but until now, no convincing arguments supported that idea. The team’s model for predicting sprite formation matched data gathered on a recent aircraft observation mission that captured sprite activity with high-speed cameras. The results of their study were published in Nature Communications in June.

Enriching Research

UNDERSTANDING LIGHTNING SPRITES

A new study led by professor HONGYU LU has improved our understanding of sprites, a curious luminous phenomenon that happens 25 to 50 miles above thunderstorms. It’s long been thought that atmospheric gravity waves play an important role in the initiation of sprites, but until now, no convincing arguments supported that idea. The team’s model for predicting sprite formation matched data gathered on a recent aircraft observation mission that captured sprite activity with high-speed cameras. The results of their study were published in Nature Communications in June.

MODERATING PREDICTIONS FOR FLORIDA SEA LEVEL RISE

Research published in Florida Scientist by professor GEORGE MAUL concluded that a more tempered approach to predicting sea level rise in Florida is needed for future coastal planning. Maul says the public’s understanding of sea level rise (SLR) in Florida is inconsistent due to widely varying models that predict SLR ranging from a few inches to over six feet during the next century. Maul’s research shows that atmospheric factors create a more reliable trend based on historical observations.

BALLOON’S-EYE VIEW

Associate professor JOHN SHERNER tracked schools of tarpon in the Gulf of Mexico by using a camera 50 feet above the water attached to an 8-foot balloon on the research vessel Hervy Bellows. Seeking to locate the fish’s spawning sites, the balloon was a clever solution for greater air time since UAVs have limited battery power. The data along with long-term sampling efforts is intended to steer offshore driftnet away from crucial tarpon habitat.
DECEMBER 1, 2015

DayOfGiving.fit.edu

What is Day of Giving?
Thanksgiving is a day of thanks, followed by Black Friday and Cyber Monday. Now a national movement, Giving Tuesday, celebrates the spirit of giving back. Over the last three years, Giving Tuesday has grown in popularity as individuals, friends and families come together to support causes that are important to them.

What is Florida Tech’s Day of Giving?
Florida Tech will be making history in its first ever Giving Tuesday on Dec. 1, 2015! Florida Tech’s Day of Giving will be an interactive and exciting online extravaganza energizing alumni to show their support of their alma mater!

It’s a Universitywide Throwdown!
You will be able to help your favorite area of the university win prize money as they compete in universitywide challenges. The Botanical Garden, the Museums, the Library, weVENTURE, Continuing Education and WFIT are participating too!

Get Involved Now!
Countdown to the throwdown starts now—go to DayOfGiving.fit.edu to learn more about how you can get involved NOW to make Florida Tech’s first Day of Giving a rousing success! There are thousands of charities participating in Day of Giving, but only one is YOUR alma mater.

Get Involved On Dec. 1!
The goal on Dec. 1 is to secure as many gifts of any size from as many alumni as possible during this 24-hour time period. A live leaderboard will thrill with every real-time gift made from anywhere around the world!

#ParticipationMatters

As proud alumni, show that you care on 12/1

BE AN AMBASSADOR
Are you a proud Panther?
Are you a social media rock star?
Do you want to make a big impact on FIT?
Then be a #DayofGiving ambassador!

We want to hear how much you enjoyed your time at Florida Tech and the impact your education has made on your life. Then we want to share it with the world.

Contact kamidon@fit.edu

#TeamCOA
#TeamCOB
#TeamCOS

#TeamCOPLA
#TeamCOE
#TeamAthletics

#ParticipationMatters
An Estuary Affair

The Indian River Lagoon Research Institute’s reception and dinner previewed the work being done by FIT faculty to assess the health of and highlight the challenges facing the Indian River Lagoon.

Alumni, faculty, staff and friends gathered on May 18 to hear updates on the science behind the Indian River Lagoon’s health from the faculty of the Indian River Lagoon Research Institute (IRLRI) at Florida Tech. The IRLRI is a collaboration of Florida Tech engineering and science faculty teamed up with local organizations to bring about a sustained improvement in the health of the Indian River Lagoon. Nearly 100 conservationists, environmentalists and friends of the lagoon gathered for a reception and dinner that included an introduction to the IRLRI and a status report on the lagoon, including muck dredging, nutrient run-off, fish habitats, and micro-organism and barnacle growth.

The first Indian River Lagoon technical symposium organized by the institute, Sound Science Promoting Sustainable Engineering, will take place Sept. 25–26 on the Florida Tech campus. For more information, visit research.fit.edu/irlri.

PI KAPPA ALPHA RECOGNIZED FOR CHAPTER EXCELLENCE

Florida Tech’s Zeta Sigma chapter of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity has once again earned the Raymond L. Orians Chapter Excellence Award from the Pi Kappa Alpha International Fraternity. The award recognizes outstanding achievement and overall chapter excellence for 2014–15, distinguishing Zeta Sigma among the best of the fraternity’s 211 chapters nationwide.

WBC REBRANDED, EXPANDS REACH, MISSION

The Florida Tech Women’s Business Center was rebranded weVENTURE, reflecting a growing regional network of business centers across Central Florida, including locations in Melbourne, Rockledge and Orlando. weVENTURE seeks to raise the profile and influence of women entrepreneurs through its network of business centers and also offers programming and resources geared toward increasing financial fluency, achieving access to capital, providing targeted and strategic business mentoring services and inspiring young entrepreneurs.

This summer, the Renee Foosaner Education Center hosted 592 campers over the course of eight weeks of Pop Art Summer Camp. Students learned about printmaking, acrylic painting, assemblage, drawing, and mixed media while studying the work of pop art icons like Andy Warhol, Robert Rauschenberg, Jasper Johns, Robert Indiana, Jim Dine, Roy Lichtenstein, James Rosenquist and Larry Rivers. The culmination of their experience was the Student Art Exhibition on Aug. 6–7.

1. Camp staff included two Foosaner staff members, eight art instructors and more than 20 volunteers. Set up for the exhibition totaled 115 man-hours.
2. Artwork displayed on 40, 12-foot panels was on view for 842 exhibition attendees, including student artists, their families and the general public.
3. Campers took 16 visits across the street to the Foosaner Art Museum for docent-led gallery tours.
4. In total, campers used 23 gallons of scholastic grade American paint, three reams of 60-lb. white drawing paper and 650 gallons of water. (Under OSHA standards, the museum collects its rinse water.)

Learn more about the Foosaner Art Museum’s year-round art classes for children and adults at www.foosanerartmuseum.org.
Florida Tech hosted over 100 summer camp programs—a campus record.

Sigma Tau Gamma became the eighth member of Florida Tech’s Greek Life community this year. Commonly known as Sig Tau, the chapter made its debut as the fraternity’s Epsilon Omega chapter.

The Robert D. and Patricia E. Kern Family Foundation has made a grant of $276,000 to accelerate the transformation of FIT’s undergraduate engineering students through a culture and curricula that instills the entrepreneurial mindset. This grant elevates entrepreneurial engineering to a core value within the university and ensures the entrepreneurial mindset is an integral part of the engineering program. “Florida Tech has committed significant resources to cultivate an entrepreneurial focus in the Colleges of Engineering and Business,” said Executive Vice President and COO T. DWAYNE MCCOY, “and the grant from The Kern Family Foundation puts FIT in the forefront of engineering education as we intentionally and systematically develop an entrepreneurial ecosystem across the campus.”

FIT Joins Kern Entrepreneurial Engineering Network

A grant from The Kern Family Foundation will profoundly advance engineering education at FIT, making it more timely and relevant to today’s graduates as they embark on their careers.

The Kern Family Foundation formed KEEN (the Kern Entrepreneurial Engineering Network) in 2005 to assist private colleges and universities in the KEEN network. Other members include Notre Dame, Boston College and University of Michigan, among others. “Having the shared resources of the KEEN network to fundamentally shift engineering education from a product focus to an end-user focus,” added Glicksman, “is an incredible opportunity to add to the already evident success of our graduates.”

Principal investigators BESHOY MORKOS and CHIRADEEP SEN, along with Glicksman, and in partnership with the Bisk College of Business, will lead a team of 18 faculty and 90 students to guide the process across all nine of the departments of the College of Engineering.

“The Kern’s personal history is so evident in the KEEN program philosophy,” noted SUSAN STONGE, senior vice president for development. “Robert Kern was a young engineer who developed a successful start-up which formed the business we know today as Generac. When the Kerns sold their business, it was important to them to fund a catalyst for change, and in very short order, FIT students will be an essential part of that change.”

Established in 1998, The Kern Family Foundation is a prominent, strategic foundation based in Wisconsin that invests in the rising generation of leaders. —Sara Smith

FIT AMONG MOST ENTREPRENEURAL

For the second consecutive year, Florida Tech is one of the nation’s 50 most entrepreneurial research universities, according to Forbes magazine. It is one of just two Florida universities in the 2015 rankings, and at No. 33 is ranked ahead of Notre Dame, Boston College and University of Michigan, among others.

GRANT FUNDS LAGOON RESEARCH

The Educational Foundation of America has made a grant to the Indian River Lagoon Research Institute of Florida Tech to compile a collective picture of the Indian River Lagoon informed by data from multiple researchers, in order to prioritize remediation projects and direct efforts and expenditures for remediation.

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Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is one of the most prevalent neurodevelopmental disorders, with an estimated one in 68 children, occurring across all racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups. ASD is more prevalent in children than cancer, diabetes, spina bifida and Down syndrome. A growing body of research suggests that autism can be accurately diagnosed by age 2 and is stable over time. There is hope, but caregivers and professionals must act early. Extensive evidence has shown early intensive behavioral intervention significantly improves a child’s developmental outcomes—with applied behavior analysis or ABA being the ‘standard approach’ for decreasing autism symptoms and teaching new skills.

According to a recently published prospective study, parents’ concerns as early as 6 months of age can predict autism spectrum disorder in high-risk siblings. Although symptoms exist and developmental milestones are missed, caregivers who observe signs of an emerging disability are often counseled, by pediatricians and other professionals, to wait (some insurances will not cover diagnosis until 18 months). However, research in the past decade shows promise for identifying symptoms as early as 6 to 12 months. These early symptoms include diminished or no response to his/her name; reduced “spontaneous” social orienting (i.e., shifting eye gaze back and forth during interaction); reduced social “liveliness” during parent-child interaction; and impaired joint attention (e.g., ability to respond to or initiate interest with caregiver toward the same object or event through nonverbal means).

Despite these advances in detection, families often do not pursue interventions until many months or years after symptoms are first observed. However, we know that early treatment, guided by a qualified clinician, starting at a significantly younger age, can mitigate the severity of the symptoms and, in some cases, the child is virtually indistinguishable from his or her peers by the age of 3 or 4 years. Recently, researchers at the New England Center for Children have found that toddlers between 18 and 24 months make the most dramatic gains. These findings offer much-needed hope to families and indicate there is the possibility of the same dramatic results in the treatment of infants. For more information regarding warning signs, diagnosis and treatment, visit www.thescottcenter.org or www.autismadvisor.org.

Ivy Chong is the director of autism services and training at The Scott Center for Autism Treatment and associate professor in the College of Psychology and Liberal Arts. She holds a doctorate in behavior analysis from Western Michigan University and is a board certified behavior analyst and licensed psychologist.
Allen Paves Unprecedented Path to Professional Ranks
Former Florida Tech catcher leaves imprint on Panther program

It’s often said that college is the time you learn the most about yourself as an individual, but upon his arrival as an under-the-radar recruit from Chaminade High School in St. Louis, Missouri, in 2012, former Florida Tech catcher Austin Allen never imagined his name would go down as one of the greatest in program history.

Before any sort of stardom, Allen enrolled as a freshman after transitioning from Kirkwood, Missouri, with plenty of apprehension in hope of just making an early impression on both his coaches and teammates.

“I was nervous,” Allen recalled. “I just wanted to be able to help the team in any way possible. Whatever M Merc (MATT MERCURIO) and Coach B (GREG BERKEMEIER) wanted me to do, I was going to do it. I knew it was going to be a challenge from the get-go, but going back to the whole recruiting process, I knew I made the right choice coming to Florida Tech. Looking back, I wouldn’t change that decision for anything. It made me the baseball player and the person I am off the field today.”

The left-handed hitting catcher ended up earning his way into the lineup, making 39 starts as a freshman, but admittedly had plenty to improve on—and improve he did.

Fast-forward three years and Allen was popping up on nearly every major league team’s radar. Not shy of the attention he received from scouts, Allen belted 11 home runs this past season, tying his previous totals from his freshman and sophomore campaigns combined. In addition, the 6-foot-4 standout secured the Sunshine State Conference batting title with a .421 average and broke the school record for doubles with 25.

A culmination of hard work and extraordinary dedication to the game, Allen’s life changed on June 9 when the San Diego Padres selected him in the fourth round, No. 117 overall, in the MLB Draft. The pick not only opened the door to the professional ranks, but made him the highest player drafted in Panther program history.

Previously, JONATHAN BARKSH was the program’s highest draft choice, having been selected in the seventh round by the Toronto Blue Jays in the 2006 draft. World Series Champion THE WAKEFIELD was an eighth-round pick in the 1988 draft by the Pittsburgh Pirates.

“I get chills over it, it’s crazy,” Allen said of being drafted. “I want to be remembered as a good baseball player, either, but also a good person that always did the right thing for the team and gave it his all every single day.”

Now playing for the Tri-City Dust Devils, the Class A Short-Season Affiliate of the Padres, Allen is keen to notice that the level of competition has ramped up across the board, but still reverts back to what he learned in his playing days in Crimson and Gray for guidance.

“To have confidence in everything I’m doing,” Allen mentioned about what he’s taken with him out west. “It was an adjustment going from high school to Florida Tech, both in the classroom and on the baseball field, and it’s been an adjustment going from Florida Tech to the San Diego Padres organization. Confidence is one thing I hope to instill in other people and also maintain myself. It’s important to believe in yourself. Even when someone says you can’t do it, prove them wrong.”

Allen insists he intends on returning to Melbourne and ultimately finishing his degree in business administration, but while he’s out chasing his dream, don’t expect Panther fans to forget about him anytime soon.

“I want to be remembered as a competitor,” he said. “I went out there every single day trying beat somebody, trying to come out on top. It was about all getting that win for the team and Florida Tech.”

Just a kid from a suburb outside St. Louis, Allen has built a bond that can never be broken and now leaves behind a legacy that’ll forever make Florida Tech his second home.

—Jameison Carter
It takes heart. Determination. Drive. Commitment. It takes investing in the present, as well as the future. A challenge? That’s an opportunity to succeed, not an obstacle that can’t be overcome.

That’s the sense we get from talking to Florida Tech athletics director BILL JURGENS and several student-athletes about what being a Panther is truly all about.

“We have to know that it’s not going to be a super-easy road, and that we have to be able to look at everything put in front of us,” junior softball pitcher RACHEL PENCE said. “It’s a very academically challenging institution. It takes a lot of determination and knowing what you want and how you’re going to get there; knowing you have professors and staff who are totally willing to help you with whatever you need.”

Pence and her softball teammates created quite a buzz around campus last season, not only reaching the NCAA Tournament for the first time in school history, but also going to the NCAA Super Regional.

But that wasn’t the only success the Panthers had on and off the field. This past spring, Florida Tech set a record when 134 student-athletes were named to the SSC Commissioner’s Honor Roll—including 36 who had a perfect 4.0 GPA.

The men’s varsity eight won the Dad Vail championship. Men’s swimming had its first-ever All-American (NIR BARNEA), while the women saw DAR RAZ become the first Sunshine State Conference Gold Medalist in school history.

Player of the Year in Gulf South Regionals, there was definitely a buzz and excitement and anticipation among all the athletes,” Pence said. “I don’t even remember how many texts and hollers I got from across campus saying, ‘Good for you guys!’”

That success led to a good feeling, all right. But rather than resting on those laurels, this year’s teams are already gearing up to make this upcoming school year even better.

On what it takes to be a Panther:

“All I’ve ever wanted is for the student-athletes to have pride that they’re a Panther at Florida Tech,” Jurgens said. “Looking at it from a student angle, there’s a strong commitment to academics, athletics. Athletics at Florida Tech are geared to assist the students in both areas.

Our first line for support for the student-athletes is coaches, and I have a chart I gives out 12 leadership principles for coaches. Each category has a breakdown box with other ideas to go with the topic. They’re not numbered on my chart, but I’m doing it here:

1. Planning
2. Continuous daily improvement
3. One-on-one communication
4. Competition
5. Teamwork
6. Recruiting/hiring
7. Teaching life-long skills
8. Structured environment
9. Character/integrity
10. Caring/concerns
11. Role Model
12. Competency

We’ll continue to strive so that their successes mean a lot to them, their accomplishments mean a lot to us and they’re proud to have been a part of Florida Tech athletics, being a Panther.”
WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A PANTHER — AS DEFINED BY TWO INDISPUTABLE GREATS

Tom Bohrer ’86
Head Coach, Boston University
Men’s Rowing
XXV Olympic Games Silver Medalist, Men’s Four Without Coxswain 1988
U.S. Rowing Male Athlete of the Year 1989
FIT “Outstanding Owlman” 1985
FIT Hall of Fame 1992

“Be a panther I think of integrity. Whether it was a coach, an equipment manager: doing a job well and another athlete from a different sport, all wanted what was best for the university. They put the university above themselves and that led to an environment of people working as a team vs. working for their own interest. I felt this as a student and now as an alumna, I see this is as being stronger. “When I got back from the 1988 Olympics, I was watching a tape of the NBC broadcast and right before the start of the race the announcers were giving the lineups for each boat. They had my picture up and underneath the picture it said ‘Florida Institute of Technology.’ “At that moment, I felt a great amount of pride that I rowed at FIT, and I thought of all the people at FIT (Coach Jurgens, Freshman Coach Eric Smith, professors and my former teammates) who helped me get there. It was not about the Olympics...but I got there that was important.”

“Most of our team is returning this year, and I think we all have the collective mindset that if you’re not going to buy into what we’re doing, it’s not going to work,” graduate student and men’s soccer player TREVOR COLLINS said.

“That atmosphere that we’ve created is good, not just for soccer, but for athletics at Florida Tech.”

Junior linebacker CHRIS STAPLETON stayed in town this summer, not only for an internship at Northrop Grumman, but also so he could get more work in for next season. He wasn’t the only one. “I’ve been in a full weight room before with guys all around me, and we were just working,” he said.

While the players are setting the tone, so are the coaches and the rest of the Florida Tech administration. “It all starts at the top, where the leadership and commitment of PRESIDENT ANTHONY J. CATANESI has allowed Florida Tech athletics to flourish like never before,” Bohrer said.

Florida Tech had 10 sports when Catanesi arrived in 2003. Now, the Panthers boast 22. Jurgens, who has served as the school’s athletic director since 1976, is the ultimate Panther.

“My job is to do all I can to assist the coaches in helping our student-athletes do well and providing them with any kind of assistance or help,” Jurgens said. “We’ve got a very good coaching staff here. They do a good job in assisting us in carrying out our mission.”

The players themselves play a role in that, too. New players need mentoring, to be shown the Florida Tech way of doing things. Pence found that in teammates TAYLOR SMITH and BROOKE SMITH. For women’s basketball player TIESHA FLAGER, it was JASMIE BROWN.

When Stapleton arrived on campus, however, those players didn’t exist. Everyone was new, just like the program. Now, after having played two seasons of football, he intends to be that guy who serves as a leader to the younger players.

“It’s a role I’m definitely more involved in with the next year of guys because I want to be able to invest myself in the next generation of Panthers and making sure this is somewhere I want this program to go,” Stapleton said. “It’s something I want to see done, and I have a pretty big opportunity to really make a difference in the program. I want to come back and see some Florida Tech national championships.”

Collins, a Melbourne High grad who went to Jacksonville University and Florida before arriving at Florida Tech, wants to see the men’s soccer program continue to grow and to recapture the energy that surrounded the team at the end of last season when it played in front of a packed house.

“Get there, it’s going to take players focusing together on a common goal and making sure they take pride in their work. In other words, being a Panther.”

“That’s an important part to me, and it’s something I’m trying to spread through our team so that, after I leave, it’s something that’s more like a legacy and that this program continues to grow.”

Though she spent her summer at home in Jacksonville, Pence said she and her teammates were still able to keep in touch through group text messages.

“That only helped extend the team atmosphere where players could push each other, inspire each other and, if necessary, hold each other accountable.

“We have all these goals, all these expectations, but they’re really hard to do by yourself,” Pence said. “Thinking about those things is almost overwhelming, but you have other girls around you who are like, ‘No, we can do it.’

Knowing that I want to do something for my mate, and loving my teammate, I’m going to bust my butt for her. That’s another characteristic that we want to build into the program—just loving your teammate through whatever. That doesn’t mean being your teammate’s best friend all the time. It means being able to pull the best things out of your teammate.”

Flagler, who admitted she felt a little homesick when she first arrived at Florida Tech, now says the campus feels like home. From Coach Reynolds, whom she looks up to, to the support she and the women’s basketball team have received throughout her time in Melbourne, the senior has had a wonderful experience.

“The support we have in the community—everything there is about work ethic and just positive,” the forensic psychology major said. “My friends go to other schools and they hate it. Some

“I get no greater satisfaction than when I talk to an alum, and they tell me some of the best days they ever had were being here at Florida Tech; and then, of course, seeing what they’ve accomplished.”

—Bill Jurgens

Paulette King-Morin ’94
Owner and Founder, Littlemos Productions, Independent Film Company
Scoring Average (28.3 ppg) NCAA Division II Record, 1992–93
Florida Tech Field Goal Percentage Record (.550), 1992–93
Played and coached the Jamaican National Team
Two-Time All-American
FIT Hall of Fame 1999
Sunshine State Conference Hall of Fame 2000
Top Player of the First 25 Years—Sunshine State Conference

“It requires teamwork, dedication, determination and a passion for what you do. Work hard, do your best and learn to recognize opportunity. Enjoy the moment and leave your mark. Most importantly do not be afraid to take the shot.

Once upon a time, there was a little girl in Jamaica who would dream of coming to America. She had a passion for life, a drive for success and a willingness to work hard. Most importantly that little girl was willing to take the shot.”
The Florida Tech campus is a living and learning environment of exceptional harmony and beauty—a tapestry of natural and manmade textures, architectural intricacies and verdant vistas. Examined through the lens of tone and texture, line and pattern, this photo essay explores the little noticed elements that unite the campus aesthetic.
Natural Textures

INFLORESCENCE (BRANCHED FLOWER PANICLES) OF Archontophoenix cunninghamiana / KING PALM STAIR RAIL | EVANS HALL

Agave desmettiana / DWARF AGAVE DECORATIVE BLOCK | ALL FAITHS CENTER

Kalanchoe beharensis / DWARF VELVET KALANCHOE PARK BENCH | OLIN QUAD

Opuntia / PRICKLY PEAR

Phoenix canariensis / CANARY ISLAND DATE PALM PARKING GARAGE RAMP NEAR COLUMBIA VILLAGE

FOOTPRINTS ON THE PATH | BOTANICAL GARDEN

STAIR RAIL | PAIRS HALL

SHA0 TIE-YA CHINESE CLOCK

Manmade Textures

Apioe decumbens / DWARF PALM

Kalanchoe beharensis / DWARF VELVET KALANCHOE

Opuntia / PRICKLY PEAR

Phoenix canariensis / CANARY ISLAND DATE PALM

DECORATIVE BLOCK | ALL FAITHS CENTER

PAIK BENCH | SUN DECK

BAD RELIEF | RAW BUILDING

PARKING GARAGE RAMP NEAR COLUMBIA VILLAGE
Join us for a celebration of Florida Tech and its Alumni! November 5–7, 2015

THURSDAY NIGHT, NOV. 5
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 NIGHT, NOV. 6
6 p.m.–1 a.m.
FIT HOMECOMING FEST
See previous page

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, NOV. 7
10 a.m.
HOMECOMING PARADE – Main Campus
11 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
HOME COMING COOK-OUT AND TAILGATE PARTY
Panther Den and Varsity Training Center Practice Field
1 – 4 p.m.
FOOTBALL GAME
FIT vs. West Georgia – Florida Tech Panther Stadium Shuttles provided to the stadium.

SATURDAY EVENING, NOV. 7
6:30 – 10 p.m.
HOMECOMING AWARDS GALA
– Clemente Center, Main Campus

For more information or to register visit: HOMECOMING.FIT.EDU

Check the website for event updates.

Florida Institute of Technology

Homecoming Fest
Featuring Matt and Kim
Duo Promise Dancing Frenzy For Free Live Concert
In Downtown Melbourne

Alumni Affairs caught up with indie-pop artist Matt Johnson, who co-founded the band with Kim Schifino, to chat about Homecoming Fest 2015.

“We are thrilled to add Matt and Kim to the Fest Headliner list—The Mighty Mighty Bosstones, Taking Back Sunday and SOJA. They bring an infectious onstage energy, and their shows are known for their party vibe. We expect to fill the streets of downtown Melbourne again this year,” said Bino Campanini, vice president of alumni affairs.

Matt and Kim is an American indie dance duo from Brooklyn, New York. The band started in 2004 and have played in tons of U.S. festivals like Coachella, Lollapalooza, Firefly. Ultra and hundreds of shows including Madison Square Garden. They’ve also won three MTV awards: an MTV VMA, an mtvU Woodie Award for “Lessons Learned” and a 2011 OMA award for Best Live Band. Their upbeat, stick-in-your-head track “Daylight” is certified Gold and on its way to Platinum, having sold over 900,000 copies.

Matt Johnson: A great time—a certain energy, I think that is what people really connect to—you may not realize that Kim is going to be jumping up and down on her drum set and occasionally standing on the audience hands. We give it everything we’ve got. We like to create the vibe of the show where people dance and jump around. Not standing and looking at your feet. The audience is part of the show—it’s about everyone.

Alumni Affairs: What can our students, alumni and community expect from a Matt and Kim concert?

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Featured Events:

All Weekend:
Light and Shadow: Contemporary Fiber Art by Hye Shin, Ruth Funk Center for Textile Arts • Opens 10 a.m. Friday, noon on Saturday
Evan Roth/Intellectual Property Donor, Foosaner Art Museum • Opens 10 a.m. Friday and Saturday, 1 p.m. on Sunday

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, NOV. 7
10 a.m.
HOMECOMING PARADE – Main Campus
11 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
HOME COMING COOK-OUT AND TAILGATE PARTY
Panther Den and Varsity Training Center Practice Field
1 – 4 p.m.
FOOTBALL GAME
FIT vs. West Georgia – Florida Tech Panther Stadium
Shuttles provided to the stadium.

SATURDAY EVENING, NOV. 7
6:30 – 10 p.m.
HOMECOMING AWARDS GALA
– Clemente Center, Main Campus

Check the website for event updates.
Calculating Quake Hazards

ALUMNI IS LEAD AUTHOR ON PUBLISHED STUDY.

The latest research into the little known, fault-riddled, underwater landscape off of Southern California and northern Baja California has revealed details about a tectonic train wreck in the Earth's crust with the potential for magnitude 7.9 to 8.0 earthquakes. The new study supports the likelihood that these vertical fault zones have displaced the seafloor in the past, which means they could send out tsunami-generating pulses toward nearby Los Angeles and neighboring San Diego.

Geologist MARK LEGG ’73 of Legg Geophysical in Huntington Beach, California, is the lead author of the new analysis accepted for publication in the Journal of Geophysical Research: Earth Surface, a journal of the American Geophysical Union. He is also one of a handful of geologists who have been trying for decades to piece together the complicated picture of what lies beyond Southern California's famous beaches.

By combining older seafloor data and digital seismic data from earthquakes along with 4,500 kilometers (2,796 miles) of new seafloor depth measurements, or bathymetry, collected in 2010, Legg and his colleagues were able to take a closer look at the structure of two of the larger seafloor fault zones in the Borderland, the Santa Cruz-Catalina Ridge Fault and the Ferrello Fault. What they were searching for are signs, like those seen along the San Andreas, that indicate how much the faults have slipped over time and whether some of that slippage caused some of the seafloor to thrust upwards.

What they found along the Santa Cruz-Catalina Ridge Fault are ridges, valleys and other clear signs that the fragmented, blocky crust has been lifted upward, while also slipping sideways like the plates along the San Andreas Fault do.

NOAA was working on complete high-resolution bathymetry of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone—the waters within 200 miles of shore—until the budget was cut, said Legg. That left out Southern California and left researchers like himself using whatever bits and pieces of smaller surveys to assemble a picture of what's going on in the Borderland, he explained.

“We've got high resolution maps of the surface of Mars,” Legg said, “yet we still don’t have decent bathymetry for our own backyard.”
Williams, who earned a master’s degree in engineering management, again makes history by being named one of the first astronauts in NASA’s Commercial Crew Program. This group of four astronauts will fly the next generation of space vehicles. It is the successor to the 30-year-long space shuttle program. The ambitious plan is to land the first humans on Mars by 2030 on privately built spacecraft.

“Space exploration makes us think outside the box. It makes us stretch our imaginations even farther. Technology is nothing without imagination and spaceflight imagination in the next generation is going to go really far. That is their challenge though, and we are just trying to give them the baby steps to get there,” said Williams in preparation for Mars.

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ON THE ROAD

London

David Tufft ’11, Sam Ormsby ’11
Christian Chan, Robin Chan ’93, Chris Payne ’91
Keri Beckwith, Andy Beckwith, Ken MacLeod ’85, Niaz MacLeod

FROM THE PAST

1970s

Wayne Heacock ’76 is looking forward to setting to Myrtle Beach, S.C. from West Chicago to spend more time with his kids and his two-year-old granddaughter.

1980s

Glen Wilcox ’76 MBA built a single seat, all-aluminum, Volkswagen-powered, experimental aircraft as a retirement project. The C1A was designed by a Pensacola, Fla., man, Dave Thatcher, and there are about 10 Thatchers flying worldwide.

Gerald Sadikoff ’82 owner of the engineering firm GBI Safety Inc. recently won the underwater engineering inspections for the Port of Miami as part of the Royal Engineering team. As a member of the ASCE Industry Leaders Council, he seeks to develop solutions to key challenges, specifically improving our nation’s infrastructure. He has been married to Marina for 36 years and has 5 children, the oldest being 10 and the youngest 9. He is living in Miami with his daughter Natasha wearing his Florida Tech T-shirt.

Bernard Bailey ’80 photo- books: Denise Boylanante’s 80 children Laurel and Stephanie at Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy graduation festivities.

1990s

Robert Ferguson ’88 M.S. recently retired from a senior level position after 46 years and now spends time traveling with his wife Sarah, taking care of his golden retriever Harley, working in his yard, and attempting to write three books.

Greg Lipinski ’92 pilot for United Airlines and his sons Owen and Gavin visit Lt. Colonel James Reeman ’92 (pilot for the Colorado Air National Guard and Delta Airlines) at Buckley Air Force Base.

2000s

Jeff Childs ’93, 16 M.S. and wife Madeline just welcomed their baby daughter, Layla Noelle Cheezum on May 22, 2015. She weighed 8 lbs., 15 oz. and was 20 inches long. Layla was born in Long Beach, Calif. She looks forward to one day visiting Florida Tech and seeing her daddy’s old stamping grounds!

Matthew Eggert ’01, director of technology and innovation at The Pratt Academy, was invited to join the community of Apple Distinguished Educators. He built a comprehensive training program for students to serve the Genius Bar at TFA and earn certification in Apple Hardware Support. He has a strategic vision to grow the 1:1 iPad initiative.

Florida Tech Today | 33
OLUMIDE OYEJOLA ’13 M.S. and his wife Neria welcome their second baby boy, Tayo. They live now in Naperville, Ill.

ALUMNOTES

ON THE ROAD

R. BLAIR HINKLE ’14, his wife Megan and big brother London welcomed Elizabeth Blair on Feb. 22, 2015. He is the Stormwater Program Manager for the Raleigh City Council Office.

KRISTLE AGANS ’14 recently moved to Baltimore and built their first home. She currently works with Dr. Thomas Keis beat at the Glaverton National Lab at UTMB Galveston Texas researching emerging infectious diseases in the Biosafety Level 4 Laboratory.

MAJOR BENJAMIN BENNETT ’13 M.S. and Pete visited the Punkva Caves in the Moravian Karst just east of Trenton, N.J.

OMARIO CAMPBELL ’09 and his wife Kayla welcome their daughter, Maryam, born on April 22, 2015. The family resides in Puerto Rico.

CHRISSIE MORGAN ’09 and her husband John welcome their son, Jack, born in January 2015.

OLIMIDE OYEJOLA ’13 M.S. and his wife Neria welcome their second baby boy, Tayo. They live now in Naperville, Ill.

GREG CAPLE ’01 M.S. is currently a research technician at UTMB Galveston Texas researching emerging infectious diseases in the Biosafety Level 4 Laboratory.

EACH WEEK, Florida Tech Today highlights newsworthy developments since graduation for our alumni.

IT’S A FAMILY AFFAIR!

MAJOR BENJAMIN BENNETT ’13 M.S. and his wife Neria welcome their daughter, Maryam, born on April 22, 2015. The family resides in Puerto Rico.
and will be working at Bank with Randstad Technologies. Recently accepted a contract at the reserve in Marineland, enjoying a few last moments with her husband Michael and became the department chair in computer technology, and became the department chair in computer technology. She joined Eastern Florida Tech with his degree in underwater technology, June 6, 2015, after a long illness. Upon graduation from Florida Tech in the 1970s and 80s, have passed away: Walter. Walter served as assistant registrar's office.

Calling All Panther Cubs!

If you’ve recently welcomed a Panther Cub to your family, contact us for your free apparel item.

Choose from a T-shirt, bib or onesie. Then send us a photo of your child in their Panther gear and an AlumnNote about yourself. We will proudly display it in Florida Tech Today.

For details, email alumnnotes@ft.edu

Lynn Dianno Reddick ‘14 MBA enjoys a few last moments at the reserve in Marineland, Fla., before moving away from Ormond Beach.

Bethany Boyer ‘14 was recently named the new program director for the YMCA in Greenville where she lives with her husband Michael and their daughters Brinnae and Emmas.

Joshua Sheppard ‘14 MBA and wife Natalie welcomed Olivia Sheppard into the world in Ormond Beach, Fla., before moving away from Ormond Beach.

David Churchin ‘16 has a passion for hand-carved duck decoys. This hobby started around 25 years ago, became a business almost one year ago. His decoys sell across North America and as far away as New Zealand.

Holly McRitchie ‘15 recently earned her doctorate in science education in the area of biology. She joined Eastern Florida State College in 2005, and became the department chair in computer technology, business, education, and engineering technology this fall.

Daniel Waller ‘14 MBA recently accepted a contract manager position with Boeing Technologies and will be working at Bank of America to provide project management support for key global risk initiatives. He has a passion for aviation and is an avid remote control pilot. He is currently working on an Extreme Flight Laser with a 60” wingspan to add to the fleet.

In Memoriam

Duane Hastings ‘70 M.S. died peacefully at home on April 12, 2015.

Robert “Monty” G. Montgomery, Jr. ‘59 passed away June 6, 2015, after a long illness. Upon graduation from Florida Tech with his degree in underwater technology, he lived in Louisiana and worked as a commercial diver in the Gulf of Mexico for many years. In 1995, he moved to Richmond, Va., where he met his wife, Mary, and began a long and successful career in the sale of building materials.

Andrew Wheeler ‘86 M.S. passed away June 29, 2015. He worked at NASA for more than 35 years and completed his master’s degree in computer science at Florida Tech.

Doral Martin ‘15 passed away June 18.

Peter John Krook, former associate professor of computer science at Florida Tech, in the 1970s and passed away July 7, 2015.


Walter and Mary Stumpf, both former staff members at Florida Tech in the 1970s and 80s, have passed away. Walter on Dec. 21, 2014; Mary on May 1, 2015. Walter served as assistant comptroller, and Mary worked in the registrar’s office.

I was inspired to start ASC by the plight of sharks in many parts of the world, with some regional populations declining below 90%. Many shark species are biologically vulnerable to overfishing with late maturity and low fecundity and cannot withstand high levels of fishing pressure. Sharks are also threatened by negative public opinion as communities do not typically protect what they are afraid of and do not understand.

Fueled by my natural curiosity, passion for the marine environment and fondness for the underdog, I decided early on that sharks would be my focus. Throughout my career as a biologist, I have been lucky enough to work with researchers, conservationists, policy-makers, commercial operators, academia and the public on the complex issue of shark conservation. This well-rounded experience plus my scientific background inspired me to form ASC with the philosophy that the sustainable management of sharks comes from a combination of strong science and effective outreach.

ASC currently has two programs: SharkStudies, which involves long-term monitoring of the zoogeography of sharks along the southeast coast of Florida and other areas. SharkSmarts is an outreach and education program that provides accurate information about sharks via multiple platforms to ensure the public stays informed about the threats facing sharks and engaged in actions to protect them.

Sharks face many threats, like habitat loss, pollution and overexploitation. The marine food web is incredibly complex, and each of the more than 400 species of sharks plays some role in keeping it in balance. Research has shown that sharks are important to the health of oceans, influencing reef health and productivity, as well as prey species population numbers and behaviors.

Media coverage of sharks can be harmful and frustrating at times. I have had to learn that much of the programming is under the entertainment category, which I accept, unless the programming attempts to blur the lines or focuses purely on the unlikely but sensational topics such as shark attacks. Many of us in the ‘shark community’ are frustrated by this simply because there are so many other great stories to tell, like cool shark adaptations (i.e., parthenogenesis, bioluminescence, endothermy, “walking”, etc.), how important sharks are to the ocean and coastal communities, or the different species that never seem to get air time like the Southern Sawtail Catshark or the Smalleye Lantern Shark. Despite later being blamed for the unfair and detrimental reputation for sharks, “Jaws” (the movie) actually inspired me and many people I know to work in shark research and conservation, so I believe even if the media coverage is inaccurate, it can lead to better understanding.
mark your calendar to support Florida Tech on Dec. 1.

Giving Tuesday, a day of philanthropy celebrating the season of giving, was introduced in the United States in 2012. Following Thanksgiving, Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Giving Tuesday has grown in popularity as individuals, friends and families come together to support causes that are important to them. Last year, donors gave millions of dollars to nonprofit organizations in the U.S. and abroad.

This year, Giving Tuesday falls on Dec. 1. If you choose to participate, consider making your contribution to Florida Tech. Your gift is 100 percent tax deductible, and a contribution of any amount has an impact on campus. Annual Fund dollars are used to create new opportunities for students, enhance the curriculum and retain top faculty. For more information, contact Kim Amidon at kamidon@fit.edu or 321-674-6141.

#GivingTuesday

Ad Astra

Ad Astra is a lifetime giving society that consists of individuals who have given a minimum of $10,000 to Florida Tech.

Anonymoi

Anonymoi are donors who give back that is judged and not the amount that is given. All contributions are important to Florida Tech.

Beth Ryba

Beth Ryba is an alumnus who has contributed $500,000 to Florida Tech.

Gail Riddle

Gail Riddle is a donor who has contributed $250,000 to Florida Tech.

Joe S. Riddle

Joe S. Riddle is a donor who has contributed $100,000 to Florida Tech.

Rachel J. Riddle

Rachel J. Riddle is a donor who has contributed $10,000 to Florida Tech.

Barbara L. Spear

Barbara L. Spear is a donor who has contributed $10,000 to Florida Tech.

Robert J. Spear

Robert J. Spear is a donor who has contributed $1,000 to Florida Tech.

Ron Spear

Ron Spear is a donor who has contributed $10,000 to Florida Tech.

Steve R. Spear

Steve R. Spear is a donor who has contributed $1,000 to Florida Tech.

Raymond A. Armstrong Sr., M.D.

Raymond A. Armstrong Sr., M.D. is a donor who has contributed $5,000 to Florida Tech.

Richard N. Banta Jr., M.D.

Richard N. Banta Jr., M.D. is a donor who has contributed $10,000 to Florida Tech.

Bennett Banta

Bennett Banta is a donor who has contributed $10,000 to Florida Tech.

Michael Banta

Michael Banta is a donor who has contributed $1,000 to Florida Tech.

Benjamin Banta

Benjamin Banta is a donor who has contributed $10,000 to Florida Tech.

Brian Banta

Brian Banta is a donor who has contributed $10,000 to Florida Tech.

Donald Banta

Donald Banta is a donor who has contributed $1,000 to Florida Tech.

Douglas Banta

Douglas Banta is a donor who has contributed $10,000 to Florida Tech.

John Banta

John Banta is a donor who has contributed $1,000 to Florida Tech.

Michael Banta

Michael Banta is a donor who has contributed $10,000 to Florida Tech.

Diane Banta

Diane Banta is a donor who has contributed $5,000 to Florida Tech.

E. Rose Beale

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William H. Beale

William H. Beale is a donor who has contributed $10,000 to Florida Tech.

Sarah Beale

Sarah Beale is a donor who has contributed $1,000 to Florida Tech.

William H. Beale

William H. Beale is a donor who has contributed $10,000 to Florida Tech.

Don Beale

Don Beale is a donor who has contributed $10,000 to Florida Tech.

Stevie Beale

Stevie Beale is a donor who has contributed $1,000 to Florida Tech.

Mark Beale

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Other Organizations

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Jerry Allen

Robert A. Anderson

Samantha J. Anderson

Sophie Marquis

Deborah F. Anderson-Myers

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