



Campus Observer

August 19, 2009

A Newsletter for the Florida Tech Community

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Couple's Bequest Endows Astronomy and Astrophysics Programs

After remembering family members in their will, James and Sara Ortega left the balance of their estate, valued at approximately \$2.5 million, to Florida Tech. Ortega, who died in October 2008, outlived his wife Sara by just one week.

Ortega was already well known to the university. In 2004 he donated \$150,000 to augment funding for what today is the Ortega 0.8-meter reflecting telescope, the largest research telescope in Florida.

In June 2009 the university received more than \$600,000 of the bequest to initiate the Ortega Endowment for Astronomy and Astrophysics, which will benefit the Department of Physics and Space Sciences.

Terry Oswalt, department head, spent much time with Ortega in recent years. He said, "Although he was a professor at the University of Virginia for many years, Dr. Ortega felt his gift would have a much greater impact on Florida Tech. The legacy will benefit students and faculty here for generations to come."

Funk Center to Open with 'Coat Couture'

The Ruth Funk Center for Textile Arts, the only textiles center in the state of Florida, will open its doors to the public on Saturday, Aug. 29, at 10 a.m.

Dedicated to furthering the understanding of cultural and creative achievements in the textile and fine arts, the center will preserve, maintain, display and interpret an international collection of textiles through public exhibitions and educational programs.

The opening exhibit, *Coat Couture: Inspiration to Creation*, will feature the contemporary creations of the museum's benefactor, Trustee **Ruth E. Funk**, and a selection of traditional textiles from the permanent collection. A Florida Tech trustee, Funk is a former art educator, life-long artist, collector and author.

The exhibit is curated by the center's director **Carla Funk** (no relation) and **Thea Rusch**.

Coat Couture: Inspiration to Creation will be on exhibit through Dec. 12, 2009. Hours are Tuesday–Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free.

For more information, call ext. 8313, e-mail cfunk@fit.edu or visit <http://textiles.fit.edu>.



Ruth Funk

New Professor to Create Ph.D. Program in Human Factors

Guy Boy, a permanent member of the French Air and Space Academy, has been named a university professor in the College of Aeronautics and will develop a Ph.D. program in Human Factors in Safety-Critical Systems. Boy also continues his appointment at the Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition (IHMC) in Pensacola where he is a senior research scientist.

At the university, Boy will teach undergraduate and graduate courses in cognitive engineering and human-centered design. He will also advance research opportunities for the college and beyond.



Guy Boy



**President Catanese's
State of the University
Address**

Sept. 3, 2 p.m.

Gleason Performing Arts Center
All faculty and staff are invited.

Logo Use to End

As the 50th anniversary celebration comes to a close, use of the 50th anniversary logo will be retired effective Sept. 26. This applies to all materials that may contain the 50th logo—from paper products to giveaway items, promotional banners, etc.

Please return to your standard use of the university signature or panther logo as appropriate.

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Faculty and Staff News

Psychology and Liberal Arts

Radhika Krishnamurthy was elected 2011–2013 president of the Society for Personality Assessment (SPA). A national professional organization with international members from diverse countries, SPA is dedicated to the advancement of high-quality personality assessment in professional psychology. Krishnamurthy begins her two-year term as president-elect in September 2009.



Radhika
Krishnamurthy

Angela Tenga presented “Inscribed narratives of a circumscribed life: how life imitates fiction in Stephanie Meyer’s *Twilight*” at the Twilight Symposium in Fords, Wash., in June.

A manuscript by **David Wilder**, with **Carelle Harris '05**, **Byron Wine '05**, **Nicki Postma '08** and **Sarah Casella '09**, was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Organizational Behavior Management*. The manuscript identified items and activities employees might be willing to work for as part of a performance improvement program.

Jamie Younkin presented a paper at the 44th International Congress on Medieval Studies. It was titled “An unlikely gathering: the other author in Ambrosiana P165 sup.”



Jamie Younkin

College of Engineering

Richard Ford was a winner in the National Flute Association’s (NFA) Jazz Flute Big Band Competition, earning him the right to play at the 37th NFA Convention in New York City Aug. 14. He was among flautists attempting to break the Guinness World Record for largest flute ensemble, led by Sir James Galway.



Richard Ford

Syed Murshid and **Muzaffar Shaikh** presented two papers at the 2009 International Association of Science and Technology for Development (IASTED) Conference held in Banff, Canada, in July. Both papers pertain to the wireless and optical

communication portion of the conference. Co-authors are graduate students **Abhjit Chakravarty** and **Raka Biswas**.

Shengyuan Yang’s “Mechanical tension contributes to clustering of neurotransmitter vesicles at presynaptic terminals” was published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Office for Advancement

Carey Gleason was invited to participate in the Peabody Professional Institutes’ Summer 2009 Program at Vanderbilt University. She attended the Institutional Advancement Leadership program in June.



Carey Gleason

Security

Carlos Jones’ book, *The Dragon Empress*, has been published nationally and internationally. He describes the novel as “high-impact martial arts fantasy” and has a contract in the works to create a video game from the book.

Fresh Faculty Faces

Fourteen new faculty members greeted students on Aug. 17, the start of the 2009–2010 academic year. New faculty are:

Gabriella Baika, assistant professor of languages, College of Psychology and Liberal Arts; **Albert Bleakley**, visiting associate professor of construction, College of Engineering; **Guy Boy**, university professor, College of Aeronautics;

Samuel Doss, assistant professor of marketing, College of Business; **Amitabh Dutta**, associate professor of finance, College of Business; **Nathan Hosburgh**, librarian, Evans Library; **Keturah Mazo**, visiting instructor of humanities, College of Psychology and Liberal Arts; **Anene Nnolim**, visiting assistant professor, College of Business; **Luis Otero**, assistant professor of engineering systems, College of Engineering; **Ashley Romans**, librarian, Evans Library; **YoungJu Sohn**, assistant professor of humanities, College of Psychology and Liberal Arts; and **Rebecca Weber**, librarian, Evans Library.

Additionally, **Ivy Chong**, program director, Scott Center for Autism Treatment, was promoted to assistant professor; and **Barbara Paulillo**, director of Community Psychological Services, was promoted to associate professor.

July MVP



The July Most Valuable Panther was **Veronica Giguere**, associate director, Academic Support Center. Congratulations, Veronica!

To nominate a staff or faculty member for this award, send your letters to MVP Committee Chair **Leslie Savoie** at lsavoie@fit.edu.

Chefs Win Bronze at International Conference

For the fourth time in five years, Food Services chefs have returned with bronze medals from an annual culinary competition. In June they took honors in the International Taste of the World Chef Culinary Conference, an American Culinary Federation-sanctioned event, held at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Jon Skoviera, SUB Café chef de cuisine; **Scott**

Cooper, Evans Dining production chef; **Cynthia Tony**, SUB Café banquet chef; and **Carmelo Quijano**, Evans Dining production chef, made up the Florida Tech team. They competed among 14 teams from all over the United States and Canada.

Their first challenge was to plan three courses using foods from a mystery basket and to finish the dishes in two hours. They needed to use some of everything in the basket. The team completed and “plated” a ceviche salad, sliced roast beef with asparagus risotto and caramelized red and gold beets. They also put together a braised short rib quesadilla to meet a buffet item requirement.

“We were critiqued on many factors,” said Skoviera. “These included how the team worked together, cleanliness, knife skills, flavor and appearance.”

They spent a week in Amherst. Besides competing, they took classes and attended lectures in international cuisines.

“It felt great to win,” said Skoviera who has logged four such competitions. “It was very tough this year compared to last year. The odd ingredients and time to prepare them were factors. They purposely push our limits of what’s possible.”

He said there are no plans to incorporate these dishes into menus at any of the campus eateries.



The Bronze Medal winners, from left: Scott Cooper, Cynthia Tony, Carmelo Quijano and Jon Skoviera

Transitions

New Hires

Sedina Bush, Online Learning; **Steven Spaulding**, Registrar; **Dan Tremblay**, Facilities; **Donna Granda**, Advancement; **Paul LaPete**, Erika **Cheney**, Facilities; **Konstantin Gamayunov**, Physics and Space Sciences; **Donald Owens** and **Daniel Golembiowski**, Security; **Michele Scott**, Financial Aid; **Nicholas Ceferatti**, **John Stevens II** and **Charles Phelps**, Information Technology; **T. Jane Clary**, Florida Tech Consulting; **Ryan Tenney**, College of Aeronautics; and **Michael Mehalick**, Grounds.

Promotions

Deborah Werner, Campus Service; **Tamara Gray**, College of Aeronautics; **Haydee Huertas**, Evans Library; and **Janet Von Bank**, Telecommunications.

In Memoriam

Rich Adams, Florida Tech professor of aeronautics from 1993 to 2001, passed away on May 1. He was named Outstanding Professor in the College of Aeronautics in 2000.

Adams went on to become a research psychologist for Booz Allen Hamilton after receiving his Ph.D. in human factors from the University of Central Florida. Most recently he was a research psychologist for the Federal Aviation Administration, flight standards division.

He will be missed by many.

Campus Calendar

Aug. 27

Special Announcement:

Nathan M. Bisk College of Business

11 a.m., Hartley Room, Denius Student Center

Aug. 28

Astronomy and Astrophysics Lecture

Matt Wood

8 p.m., F.W. Olin Engineering Complex, Room EC 118

For information, call ext. 7207

Aug. 28

Ruth Funk Center for Textile Arts Dedication

6 p.m.

Sept. 3

President's State of the University Address

2 p.m., Gleason Performing Arts Center

For all faculty and staff

Sept. 17

Humanities Lecture Series

Fighting the Insect Menace: A Historian and the Great American Mosquito Crusade

Gordon Patterson

7 p.m., Hartley Room, Denius Student Center

For information, call ext. 8082

Sept. 26

President's Ball

(End of Campaign Celebration for Major Donors)

6 p.m., Clemente Center

Oct. 23

Harris Center for Science and Engineering Dedication

2 p.m.

Oct. 30

Scott Center for Autism Treatment Dedication

Time TBA

Princeton Review Names Florida Tech a 'Best in the Southeast' Institution

The Princeton Review named Florida Tech a "Best in the Southeast" institution in its Web site feature 2010 Best Colleges: Region by Region.

The survey for this project asks students to rate their own schools on several issues. These range from the accessibility of their professors to the quality of campus food.

Robert Franek, Princeton Review's vice president, publishing, said, "We chose Florida Tech and the other terrific schools we recommend as our 'regional best' colleges primarily for their excellent academic programs.

"We choose the schools based on institutional data we collect from several 100 schools in each region, our visits to schools over the years and the opinions of independent and high school-based college advisers whose recommendations we invite. We also take into account what each school's customers—their students—report to us about their campus experiences on our 80-question student survey."

For more information, visit: www.princetonreview.com/best-regional-colleges.aspx.

Winning Name

Deb Cook came up with the winning name Bree Varda (get it?) for a loggerhead sea turtle who was outfitted with a tracking device and released on July 31 in the county's annual Tour de Turtles. Ashley Romans' name entry came in second.



Logo Use to End *continued from page 1*

Also, please note that the panther/sun logo has been revised. The new version features a rounded edge panther, rather than a straight edge.

Visit the Creative Services Web site to download this and other university logos: www.fit.edu/creative/logos.

As always, if you have any questions regarding logo usage, visit www.fit.edu/creative or call Creative Services at 674-8963.



Florida Institute of Technology
High Tech with a Human Touch™

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From the President's Desk



Anthony James Catanese

I love the fall semester. It's always a new beginning. The students and faculty are back and I hope they're all rested because the academic year, 2009–2010, promises to be exciting.

What's new this year?

We welcome new faculty, of course, building on our expertise in several areas, such as languages, human factors, marketing, finance, communications, engineering systems and construction.

Most obvious, physically, are the two brand new buildings that are about to open their doors and I know you can't wait to get inside for a look around. The Ruth Funk Center for Textile Arts, the only exhibit facility for textiles in Florida, is a showplace for color, texture and design. The center opens to the public Aug. 29 at 10 a.m.

By early September, we hope to move into the Scott Center for Autism Treatment so that we can help individuals with autism spectrum disorders and their families in a spacious, comfortable environment as well as provide training and conduct research. We're proud that we are meeting all the criteria for the center to become one of the few Silver LEED-certified buildings in the area, putting respect for the environment high on the list with all our other goals for the facility.

We're also offering new degrees this fall. The School of Psychology has begun a new Ph.D. program in applied behavior analysis (ABA). Also good news, we start the year with existing master's programs in ABA, organizational behavior management (OBM) and combined ABA/OBM with full accreditation by the Association for Behavior Analysis International. Additionally, math sciences offers the new B.S. in biomathematics, also known as mathematical biology.

And, reaching to the depths for excellence, our scuba dive program now operates under American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS) diving certification. This rigorous training, which produces scientific divers with top-notch skills, will allow us access to major grants that we could not qualify for in the past.

This will be a great year. I can feel it.