

Campus Observer

January 14, 2009 A Newsletter for the Florida Tech Community Vol. 10 Issue 1

Cleveland, Jackson Honored with Pioneer Award

Weona Cleveland and the Rev. Henry R. Jackson Sr. received the Julius Montgomery Pioneer Award during Florida Tech's commemoration of the life and achievements of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 7.

Winston Scott served as keynote speaker at the event.

Cleveland worked 15 years as a journalist for the *Melbourne Times* and *Florida Today*. Her previously published stories of local history filled two book collections, *Melbourne—A Century of Memories* and *Crossroad Towns Remembered*.

For 20 years, following her retirement in 1987, she continued to write a column geared toward local Brevard County history and conducted Melbourne Chamber of Commerce historical walking tours.

Jackson is a former president of the Melbourne Branch of the NAACP. In the 1960s, he was a key activist in integrating Melbourne public parks, a shopping center, golf course and theater. Owner of Henry R. Jackson Sr. Real Estate Agency, Jackson also spent 33 years in the U.S. Air Force.

He is currently senior pastor of Bethel AME Church and CEO of Bethel Community Development Inc. in Pompano Beach, Fla.

Melbourne resident **Julius Montgomery** was one of Florida Tech's first African American students. An associate of Florida Tech founder **Jerry Keuper**, Montgomery was a technician and co-worker of Keuper's at RCA at Cape Canaveral in the late 1950s.

United Way Contributions Exceed Goal

Florida Tech's United Way campaign raised more than \$63,000, surpassing this year's goal by about \$8,000.

"I want to thank everybody for all of their support of United Way. This was a really outstanding campaign," said **Tim Hollingsworth**, who co-chaired the campaign with **Carey Gleason**.

President **Anthony J. Catanese** said that in today's economically challenging times

the services funded by United Way are needed more than ever. "Florida Tech is committed to supporting the United Way and furthering the agency's reach into our community. Our donations help to change lives," he said.

After announcing this year's total during the campaign wrap-up on Dec. 3, Catanese drew the names of **Charles Colley** and **Suzanne Kozaitis** as raffle winners for faculty and staff members who gave at least \$120 per year (\$10 per month). They each received \$200 gift certificates from Best Buy.

A bonus drawing was held for those who participate in the campaign by giving at least \$2 per pay period or \$52 per year. The following people received a United Way one-day holiday: **Rimy Jassal**, **Gayle Duncombe**, **Nellie Zook-Tamiroff**, **Kristie Kwong**, **Dawn Lacy**, **James Reynolds**, **Heather Melbourne**, **Becky Crook**, **Betty Rizzo** and **Linda Khan**.

Ten people also won campus meal tickets: **Matthew Wood**, **John Reynolds**, **Deborah Carstens**, **David Carroll**, **John Trefry**, **Travis Jones**, **Richard Turner**, **Lyn Chilcote**, **Ilona Mueller** and **Leslie Funck**.



Back row, from left: Carey Gleason; Rob Rains and Susan McGrath of United Way, Anthony J. Catanese, John Barranti, Susan Chasteen. Front row, from left: Tim Hollingsworth, Ken Stackpoole, Terry Oswald and Linda Ward

New Florida Tech University Relations VP Ready to Lead

Wes Sumner wants to make sure that more people understand the benefits of a Florida Tech educational experience. As the university's new associate vice president for university relations, building public awareness of the institution's outstanding programs and people is a key responsibility.

"Universities are, essentially, about people—and Florida Tech has dedicated faculty and staff making important contributions in teaching, learning and research. I look forward to helping to share that message far and wide," said Sumner, who serves as university spokesperson. He also will oversee the offices for communications, marketing, creative services, athletic communications and the WFIT radio station.



Wes Sumner

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Faculty and Staff News

College of Engineering

Tom Belanger received \$47,000 from the National Estuary Program/St. Johns Water Management District for the “Indian River Lagoon On-site Sewage Disposal System Contaminant Loading” study.



Tom Belanger

Susan Earles and **Ivica Kostanic** received an additional \$45,000 for a total of over \$85,000 in funding from Analex/NASA KSC to model the effect of lightning on launch vehicle electronics. The goal of the research is to create lightning models to improve the lightning simulation capability of the EMC team at NASA KSC.

Yahya Sharaf-Eldeen and **Pei-feng Hsu** are the principal investigators on a \$67,000, one-year project funded by the Florida Power and Light Co. to assess the performance of air-source, Heat Pump Water Heaters (HPWH) for residential and small commercial markets. Sharaf-Eldeen is also the principal investigator on a \$50,000 project funded by the 2008 Florida Renewable Energy Grant (FREG) program and Progress Energy Florida Inc.



Yahya Sharaf-Eldeen



Pei-feng Hsu

that focuses on assessing the potential for small-scale wind power in Florida.

Fred Ham gave a talk on “Performance Comparisons of Partial Least-Squares and RBF Neural Network Infrasound Event Classifiers” at Boston University’s Cognitive and Neural Systems Department, a world-renowned neural science research facility.



Fred Ham

Marius Silaghi co-authored “A Distributed Generative CSP Framework for Multi-Site Product Configuration,” which won the Best Paper Award at the 12th International Workshop on Cooperative Information Agents (CIA 2008) held at Czech Technical University in Prague, Czech Republic.

Geoffrey Swain gave a talk on “Performance Criteria for Silicone Fouling-Release Surfaces” at a NACE International, Southern Florida Section meeting held at Florida Atlantic University, SeaTech, in Dania Beach, Fla.

College of Psychology and Liberal Arts

Pat Converse co-wrote the article “A tale of two tasks: Reversing the self-regulatory resource depletion effect,”



Pat Converse

published in the *Journal of Applied Psychology*.

College of Science

Laszlo Baksay was named a Fellow in the American Physical Society. Election to Fellowship is limited to no more than one half of one percent of the membership.

Andrew Knight netted nearly \$150,000 in contracts from the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA). His project involves designing novel metal-based drugs that will act as broad spectrum therapeutics to defend against biological warfare agents. He is working with graduate students in chemistry **Christa Simmers**, **Aaron Funk** and **Christian Agatemor**; postdoctoral associate **Ria Yngard**; and undergraduate student **Laura Congiardo**.



Andrew Knight

University College

Joseph Z. Szendi presented “Convergence in Accounting Standards: Insights from Academicians” at the 20th Asia Pacific Conference on International Accounting Issues in Paris, France. He was also invited to give a presentation of his research to the MBA Accounting classes at the Institut d’Économie Scientifique Et de Gestion (Institute of Scientific Economy and Management) in Lille, France.

TWITCHY Performance

The musical talents of President **Anthony J. Catanese** and his all-faculty band, TWITCHY, were showcased during the recent College Players production of *Up the Down Staircase* in the Gleason Performing Arts Center. TWITCHY is an acronym from members’ names.

TWITCHY is, from left, **Jamie Younkin** and **Alan Rosiene**, Humanities and Communication; **Winston Scott**, College of Aeronautics; **Tom Waite**, College of Engineering; President **Anthony J. Catanese**; **Ivica Kostanic** and **Fred Ham**, Electrical and Computer Engineering; and **Cliff Bragdon**, University College.



New Street Signs Show the Way

Florida Tech is making it easier to maneuver around campus with the addition of 13 new street signs. Required by the City of Melbourne, the signs enhance campus safety by helping emergency vehicles navigate to exact locations on campus.

Facilities placed the red and white signs, anchored to decorative black metal posts, at parking lot entryways, driveways and intersections around campus. Street names include Florida Tech Drive, Panther Place, Psychology Place, Science Circle and Engineering Street.

President Anthony J. Catanese stands on the new Florida Tech Drive street sign on Country Club Road.



President's Award for University Excellence

The following people received the President's Award for University Excellence, which recognizes faculty and staff contributions to the life of the university beyond regular duties of employment.

Mike Beckert, Gleason Performing Arts Center

James Brenner, Chemical Engineering

Mary Dyer, University College

Rob Ghiotto, Facilities

Kevin Graham, Security

Cathy Irizarry, Vice Provost

Travis Jones, Library

Semen Koksall, Math Sciences

Cheryl Leblanc, Facilities

Sara Mayer, Student Life

John Milbourne, Facilities

Ilona Mueller, Library

Leslie Savoie, Institutional Research

Erica Spencer, Auxiliary Enterprises

Tom Stewart, Food Services

Elaine Taylor, Advancement

Robert Taylor, Humanities

Greg Tsark, Facilities

Dee Van Horn, Biological Sciences

Linda Ward, College of Science

Frank Webbe, College of Psychology

Scott Weber, Facilities

Terri Wright, WFIT

The awards process was a collaborative one, with nominations from the university's provost, vice presidents and deans.

New Florida Tech University Relations VP Ready to Lead

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Most recently, Sumner was director of district communications and public information for Brevard Public Schools.

Prior to that, he served at Georgia Southwestern State University in Americus for nearly six years and left as director of university relations. He has also worked in communications positions at Georgia Southern and Valdosta State universities.

Campus Calendar

Jan. 23

Astronomy and Astrophysics Lecture

Ball Lightning

Joseph Dwyer, department of physics and space sciences
8 p.m., F.W. Olin Engineering Complex, Room EC 118, free
For information, call ext. 7207 or visit www.fit.edu/aapls

Jan. 25

Free Jazz at the Panthereum
3–6 p.m.

For information, call ext. 7401

Jan. 27

2009 Donor/Scholar Reception

4:30 p.m., Hartley Room
Denius Student Center
For information, call ext. 6849

Jan. 28

Catholic Campus Ministry Workshop

Healing Your Family Tree

Fr. Michael Barry, member of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary
9 a.m.–5 p.m., All Faiths Chapel
Mass at 3:30 p.m., followed by healing service
\$35, includes lunch
For information, call ext. 8045

Jan. 28

Issues of Autism Workshop Series
Strategies for Creating Agreement in Special Education

Fran Warkowski, Scott Autism Center director
6:30–8 p.m., Hartley Room, Denius Student Center, free
For information, call ext. 8104

Feb. 3

Textile Arts Lecture
Kimono as Quilt

Yvonne Porcella, textile artist
7 p.m., Gleason Performing Arts Center, \$10 general public
Introduces Funk Textiles Gallery exhibit, "Fashioning Kimono," which runs through April 25.
For information, call ext. 6129

Feb. 5

2009 Faculty Showcase media demonstration

11 a.m.–3 p.m., Hartley Room
Denius Student Center
For information, call ext. 8202

Feb. 6–7

School of Psychology Anniversary Celebration
Meals, drinks, events and CEUs are free for School of Psychology faculty, staff students and alumni

Feb. 6, 6:30 p.m. Hartley Room, Denius Student Center
Reception and late registration, live harp music and hors d'oeuvres

Feb. 7 events include

- Four APA-accredited Continuing Education Unit (CEU) workshops, Gleason Performing Arts Center
- Outdoor BBQ luncheon, next to Gleason
- Live music with L.A. Surfband, Panthereum
- Celebration banquet with dance lessons and silent auction, Hartley Room
- For information or to register, visit <http://411.fit.edu/psy50>

Feb. 19–20

Uncommon Threads Textile Celebration

The Kimono

Feb. 19 lecture, "The Kimono and Western Dress in the Early 20th Century: A Revolution in Fashion"
Annie Van Assche, Japanese dress expert and essayist, fifth annual Ruth Funk Lecturer in Textiles
7 p.m., Gleason Performing Arts Center, free

Feb. 20 Luncheon Symposium
Annie Van Assche discussion, kimono display
10:30 a.m., Hartley Room, Denius Student Center
For information or symposium tickets, call ext. 6152

Feb. 20

F.I.T. Aviation's Emil Buehler Center Grand Opening

3:30–5 p.m., Melbourne International Airport
Event coincides with Black History Month Celebration featuring Tuskegee Airmen

Ongoing

Evans Library

50th Anniversary exhibit extended

through Spring 2009, main floor
For more information, visit www.lib.fit.edu/pubs/librarydisplays

Fiedler is Top Panther Peddler

Tristan Fiedler is the fastest cyclist on campus, at least according to the university's first "Panther Peddler" race.

Fiedler beat out fellow competitors Rodd Newcombe, Mark Bush, Sara Mayer, Bill Shoaff and Bill Jurgens in the race.

"We all had a great time. I won a beautiful Office for Advancement canvas tote bag and a gift certificate to Revolutions Cyclery," said Fiedler, who peddled his recumbent bicycle across the finish line.

The event, coordinated by Melissa Klos in advancement's Office of Annual Giving, was a student-driven fundraiser where students sponsored the peddlers, who were faculty and staff. More than \$247 was raised.

"It was very well received by the Florida Tech community, and we hope to do this again next fall," said Rosalind Weiss, annual giving director.



Tristan Fiedler with Ken Stackpoole, senior vice president for advancement

Farmer Receives President's Medal

Phillip W. Farmer came to the university's fall commencement ceremony on Dec. 13 ready to deliver the keynote address.

He left with Florida Tech's most prestigious award, the President's Medal.

"Mr. Farmer has been singularly dedicated to the growth and success of Florida Tech for many years. He goes above and beyond the support one could ever hope for from an industrial leader and we are proud of his friendship," said Florida Tech President Anthony J. Catanese.

The President's Medal acknowledges individuals who have provided superior service, support and dedication to the university. There have been only 13 others honored with the medal to date.

Farmer, retired chairman, president and chief executive officer of Harris Corp., is chairman of the university's board of trustees and the executive committee.



Phillip W. Farmer

From the President's Desk



Anthony James Catanese

It was 2008, our Golden Anniversary year and, oh, what a year it was.

The year was typical in many ways—filled with celebrations, awards, honors, alumni doing us proud, new buildings going up, success on the sports front and stellar faculty research—but more so.

Our \$75 million building program continues to makes the campus a beehive of activity. First, among new projects, the Harris Village residence hall complex was ready in time for the fall 2008 semester. Near it on South Campus, the Scott Center for Autism Treatment and the Harris Institute for Engineering and Science have begun to rise. On North Campus, the Ruth Funk Center for Textile Arts is taking shape next to Evans Library.

We had a great 50th birthday bash at Homecoming when almost 700 participants celebrated. We enjoyed reunions and fundraisers, and a wonderful celebratory dinner with the Amazing Kreskin.

There was much to celebrate on the athletics front. Highlights included: For the first time in program history, the women's soccer team advanced to the NCAA Div. II South Region tournament and the men's basketball team saw its first 20-win season in over a decade and were ranked as high as 11th in the nation.

Throughout this year of extremely tight funding, faculty beat out stiff competition to earn major research awards. Some examples: Richard Ford received a \$1.85 million U.S. Army contract for his biologically inspired security research; Yahya Sharaf-Eldeen joined in \$1.31 million collaborative wind power research; and a \$768,000 State of Florida grant permitted the College of Business to start the Activity Based Total Accountability Institute to simplify and promote accountability and good decision-making among government leaders.

We also launched Florida Tech Online, offering degrees through distance learning and boosting our enrollment in associate, bachelor's and master's degrees.

And here is a major first: our own graduate, Ann Dunwoody '87 M.S., was sworn in as a four-star general, making her the first woman ever to achieve the highest rank in the U.S. Army.

Sounds great, but 2009 will be even better. As Al Jolson said, "You ain't seen nothing yet!"



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