

Campus Observer

February 11, 2009

A Newsletter for the Florida Tech Community

Vol. 10 Issue 2

White House Recognizes Lail as a Top Young Scientist

Brian Lail, assistant professor of computer and electrical engineering, earned a prestigious Presidential Early Career



Brian Lail

Award for Scientists and Engineers. The award, which comes with research funding of \$200,000 annually for five years, is the nation's highest honor for professionals at the outset of their independent scientific research careers.

Lail was one of 67 researchers from universities across the country to earn the annual award, which is made through nominating federal departments or agencies—in Lail's case, the Department of Defense. He received the award on Dec. 19 in a White House ceremony.

With research interests in applied and computational electromagnetics, Lail has conducted studies in the areas of electromagnetic coupling and shielding, antennas and electromagnetic analysis.

Established in 1996, the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers honor the most promising researchers in the nation within their fields. Nominated are scientists and engineers who are at the start of their independent careers and whose work shows exceptional promise.

Trustee Donates \$1.5 Million for Major Scholarship Fund

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



Phillip W. Farmer

The program, a full four-year scholarship, will provide all tuition and university fees, a room in Harris Village's Farmer Hall and the regular university meal plan. Starting in the fall of 2009, an incoming student will be selected until four students will be enrolled as Farmer scholars by the fourth year.

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

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

"This most recent example of Mr. Farmer's generosity will go a long way to bring the best and brightest students to Florida Tech and will help allow us to compete with the nation's top universities," President Anthony J. Catanese said.

Art History Expert, Author, Shares Kimono Knowledge Feb. 19

Japanese dress expert and essayist Annie Van Assche is the featured guest at two premier cultural events on campus as part of the university's annual textiles celebration, "Uncommon Threads," Feb. 19 and 20. This year's theme is "The Kimono."



Annie Van Assche

Assche will present a complimentary evening lecture on Feb. 19. She then will lead a discussion during a luncheon symposium and kimono display on Feb. 20.

The Feb. 19 lecture, "The Kimono and Western Dress in the Early 20th Century: A Revolution in Fashion," will be held at 7 p.m. in the Gleason Performing Arts Center. Reservations are not required.

The lecture will highlight the infatuation with the kimono among Parisian fashion designers like Poiret, Vionnet and Chanel in the early 20th century. Literally writing the book on the kimono, Van Assche published *Fashioning Kimono: Dress and Modernity in Early Twentieth-Century Japan*.

The Feb. 20 luncheon symposium, which begins at 10:30 a.m. in the Hartley Room, offers an opportunity for participants to meet Van Assche and hear her discuss the stunning kimono from Florida Tech's own collection, donated by Norma Canelas Roth. The nationally renowned collector and member of the Florida Arts

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Faculty and Staff News

College of Engineering

Tom Belanger received \$90,000 from the National Park Service to assess the coastal water resources and watershed conditions in Mosquito Lagoon.

Fred Ham was elected by the International Neural Network Society (INNS) to serve a three-year term (2009–2011) on the INNS Board of Governors.

Steven Jachec received \$150,000 from the Office of Naval Research for his work on simulating internal waves in straits.

A paper by **Veton Kepuska** was accepted for publication; co-authors are faculty members **Deborah Carstens** and **Patrick Converse**. The paper is to be published in the *Journal of International Technology and Information Management*.

Manolis Tomadakis was invited by the U.S. College Counselor of the Anatolia American College in Thessaloniki, Greece. He spoke to five International Baccalaureate classes about study opportunities at Florida Tech.



Manolis Tomadakis

College of Psychology and Liberal Arts

Kathleen Bartlett presented a paper at the 7th Annual Hawaii International Education Conference. Also published in the conference proceedings, it is titled “GED Success in Three Weeks or Less: A Response to Intervention Model for Adult Learners.”

A Q&A with **Ivy Chong** on autism was published in *Space Coast Medicine* magazine.

Cindi Courbat was press coordinator at the annual National Religious Broadcaster’s (NRB) Convention at the Opryland Convention Center in Nashville, Tenn. She moderated a media panel on disaster-related news and presented an



Ivy Chong

educational workshop, “Rethinking the Role of Mass Media During Disasters,” for NRB members and media representatives.

Bill Gabrenya presented “Cybersex: Looking for the Cultural Dimension” as part of the Humanities and Social Sciences Lecture Series of Jacobs University in Bremen, Germany.

Graduate student and adjunct instructor, **Rolanda Hatcher-Gallop**, has been named one of 12 finalists in the “4 Under 40—Celebrating Brevard’s Next



Rolanda Hatcher-Gallop

Generation of Leaders” for 2009. The recognition gala is being held on Feb. 20. Florida Tech is one of several sponsors for the event. Hatcher-Gallop was also the editor of *Campus Observer* for the November and December 2008 issues and January 2009 issue.

Radhika Krishnamurthy rejoins the editorial board of *Psychological Assessment*, an American Psychological Association journal, serving a two-year term as consulting editor. She also continues as consulting editor for *Assessment* and associate editor of the *Journal of Personality Assessment*.

Kristi Sands Van Sickle was elected to serve a three-year term on the American Psychological Association’s Committee on Rural Health beginning January 2009.



Kristi Van Sickle

Frank Webbe published “The Status of Computerized Cognitive Testing in Aging: A Systematic Review” in *Alzheimer’s & Dementia: the Journal of the Alzheimer’s Association*.

A manuscript by **David Wilder** was accepted for publication; co-authors are graduate student **Jessica Sparling**; alumni **Jennifer Pan-Skadden ’08 M.S.**, **Gracie Beavers ’08 M.S.**, **Nicki Postma ’08 M.S.**, **Erica Severtson ’06,**

Jeanne Donaldson ’08 M.S. and former faculty member **Pam Neidert**. The manuscript, to be published in the journal *Education and Treatment of Children*, describes a study that evaluates a method for teaching young children what to do when lost in public.

College of Science

This March **Richard Turner** becomes president of the Florida Academy of Sciences, a six-year commitment. Turner spent the past two years as president-elect, will be president for two years, then remains another two years as immediate-past president. He was president once before, 1985–1986.



Richard Turner

University College

A paper by **Scott Maley**, Patuxent River site, will be presented at the 13th Australian International Aerospace Congress in Melbourne, Australia, and will be published in the conference proceedings. The paper is titled “Open-Source Development of an Automated Maintenance Environment (AME) for Lower Cost, Collaborative Implementation of CBM+.”

Russell Rhine, Patuxent River site, published “Disallowances and Overcapitalization in the U.S. Electric Utility Industry” in the *Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Review*.

Jay Billings, Redstone Arsenal site, went above and beyond when he spent three months learning ballroom dancing and raising funds for an extravaganza modeled on TV’s “Dancing with the Stars.” He competed and raised \$5,000 for the event, which supported health programs at local schools.

Athletics

Chris Hackett, assistant men’s basketball coach, published “Create Mismatches, Gain Separation by Using Effective Ball Screens” in *Winning Hoops*, a coaching newsletter.

Sponsored Scholar

Since fall 2008 Florida Tech has sponsored a Young Adult of the Month Award at each of the Melbourne-Palm Bay Chamber of Commerce monthly breakfasts. In January, Noel Turner, a sophomore at Satellite Beach High School, was honored. He will receive a Florida Tech scholarship each of his four years if he chooses to attend the university.

Pictured, from left, are Ken Stackpoole, Florida Tech senior vice president for advancement; Noel's brother Patrick Turner; Noel's mother Janet Turner; Noel; and Noel's father Leonard Turner.



Florida Tech to Explore "Smart Growth" March 3-4

Florida Tech will address smart growth and environmental sustainability at its sixth international, interdisciplinary forum, "Sustainability 2009: The Next Horizon," March 3-4 on campus. The forum is a collaborative effort of the College of Business, College of Science and Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME).

"We will focus on practical solutions to emerging sustainability issues from business, science and socio-political viewpoints," said **Gordon Nelson**, dean of the College of Science.

Forum themes include climate change and adaptation; tourism and economics; sustainability, technology and innovation; how climate change will impact how we grow in Florida; and renewable (sustainable) energy.

Complete information on the event and online registration are available at <http://411.fit.edu/sustainability>. Information is also available from **Linda Ward** at extension 7573 or via e-mail at lward@fit.edu.

February MVP



Van Horn is pictured here with Rich Aronson, new head of the department of biological sciences.

The January Most Valuable Panther was **Dee Dee Van Horn**, biological sciences.

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

Employee Transitions

Promotions: Michael Beckert, Gleason Performing Arts Center; Pam Purdy and Cheryl Harris, Sub Café; Walter Todd, Facilities; Sarah Mohler, Robert DeBonis and Myles Jenkins, Grounds

New Hires: Ashley Rivera and Chanel Caruso, Sub Café; Pranav Patel, Chemistry; Haydee Huertas, Library; Donna Mulally, Security; Maritza Roman, Evans Dining

Art History Expert, Author, Shares Kimono Knowledge

Continued from page 1

Council gave 30 pieces of late 19th and early 20th century Japanese textiles to Florida Tech. This will be the first exhibit of many of these garments. A champagne reception, silent auction and gourmet lunch will follow the discussion.

For more information, or tickets to the symposium, contact **Tama Johnson** at (321) 674-6152. Be forewarned, the luncheon tickets sell out fast each year.

Campus Calendar

Feb. 17-20

Engineering Week

Competitions and events organized by engineering society student chapters
For information, call extension 6162

Feb. 19-20

Uncommon Threads Textile Celebration "The Kimono"

See story on cover

Feb. 19

Tuskegee Airmen Presentation

4:30-6 p.m., Gleason Performing Arts Center, free
For information, call extension 7619

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

Feb. 27

Astronomy and Astrophysics Lecture

Why People Believe Weird Things

Terry Oswalt, Department of Physics and Space Sciences
8 p.m., F.W. Olin Engineering Complex, Room EC 118, free
For more information, call extension 7207 or visit www.fit.edu/aapls

March 7

Botanical Fest

8 a.m.-4 p.m.
North side of Crawford Building
For more information, call extension 6162

March 13

17th Annual Sporting Affair

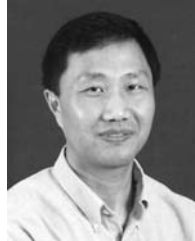
Athletic scholarship fundraiser
Shotgun Start Golf Tournament
Hole-in-One \$1 Million Shoot-out
Tennis Tournament
6th Annual Chopper Dropper
Cocktail reception at early dusk
1 p.m., Suntree Country Club
For more information, call extension 6220 or visit www.chopperdropper.com

Professors Earn NASA, NSF Grants

Physics and space sciences professors **Ming Zhang** and **Ningyu Liu** received grants from NASA and NSF. This brings new external funding just for January to \$674,000 for the department, which has \$10.8 million in active grants.

Zhang was awarded a three-year, \$434,000 NASA grant to study the outer heliosphere. Among those working on the team is **Hamid Rassoul**. Zhang and his team will use cosmic rays to probe the outer heliospheric environment.

Liu seeks to explore and solve the mystery of lightning's origin in thunderclouds under a \$240,000 grant from the National Science Foundation. Liu and his team, which includes professors **Joseph Dwyer** and **Hamid Rassoul** and graduate student **Burcu Kosar**, will develop advanced physics-based computer simulation models of the thunderstorm environment.



Ming Zhang



Ningyu Liu

Over 350 Join Beach Clean Up Effort

Heather Cudmore, director for study abroad, organized a Space Coast beach cleanup initiative for the National Day of Service in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Over 350 volunteers participated in the event including the Florida Tech chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. Volunteers combed the sands of Indialantic, Patrick Air Force Base, Satellite and Cocoa beaches for litter and debris.

Cudmore hopes to organize the MLK Day event every year and is already organizing a beach cleanup again on April 18 in conjunction with Keep Brevard Beautiful's Trash Bash Day. For more information, visit www.keepbrevardbeautiful.com.

Deadline Looms

The Academic Information Technology Committee (ACITC) is receiving applications through Feb. 13 for the next round of Professional Development Grants (minigrants) to fund faculty and staff educational technology projects. Apply online at www.fit.edu/faculty/grants.php or contact **Kurt Winkelmann** at kwinkel@fit.edu for more information.



Florida Institute of Technology
High Tech with a Human Touch™

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From the President's Desk



Anthony James Catanese

Florida Tech is proud of its outstanding athletics programs, where our students, coaches and supporters make the difference. Last year was very good for our Panthers, as our teams enjoyed new levels of accomplishment.

In golf, the men's team earned an invitation to the NCAA Division II South/South Central Regional tournament for the first time in program history. The Panthers fared well, finishing seventh overall.

The baseball team earned its first trip to the NCAA Division II South Regional tournament in 16 years in 2008 as the Panthers claimed a two-games-to-one series victory over Lynn University in the final weekend of the regular season to advance.

The men's basketball team saw its first 20-win season in more than a decade during the 2007-08 campaign and was ranked as high as 11th in the nation. The Panthers started the season on an incredible 12-0 run heading into conference action.

For the first time in program history, the women's soccer team advanced to the NCAA Division II South Region tournament in the fall of 2008. In a thrilling first match, the Panthers took Florida Southern into a 1-1 tie that came down to penalty kicks. The Crimson and Gray defeated the Mocs to make it to the second round. There, sadly, the team's season ended, but not without a good fight.

We have high expectations for 2009 as well. The men's and women's basketball teams are winding down their conference schedules with both Panther basketball squads in a battle for position in the Sunshine State Conference standings. In addition, Tech's baseball, softball, tennis and golf teams have kicked off their seasons with rowing not far behind, starting in March.

Not only do the Florida Tech programs produce winning athletes on the field and court, but well-rounded and community-minded students as well. Recently, 11 Panthers participated with other Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) members from around the conference in volunteering at the Give Kids the World Village in Kissimmee, Fla. The Village is a non-profit resort for children with life-threatening illnesses.

Thanks also to all of you for your support of our athletic programs. Win or lose, we have an outstanding university community that stands behind our Panther Pride.