

# Campus Observer

April 8, 2009

A Newsletter for the Florida Tech Community

Vol. 10 Issue 4

## The Tournées French Film Festival Returns for the Fourth Year

For the fourth year, Florida Tech will host the Tournées French Film Festival in the Gleason Performing Arts Center, April 10-26. The event, a showcase of contemporary, critically acclaimed French cinema, will offer five films.



The first movie, *La Môme (La Vie En Rose)*, will be shown on Friday, April 10, at 7 p.m. A 2007 drama, the film portrays the legendary French chanteuse, Edith Piaf, played by Marion Cotillard, who received a best actress Oscar for her portrayal.

Set for Friday, April 17, is the 2006 award-winning thriller *Ne Le Dis A Personne (Tell No One)* at 7 p.m.

The next showing is on Sunday, April 19, at 4 p.m. with *Le Voyage Du Ballon Rouge (Flight of the Red Balloon)*. This 2007 drama is inspired by Albert Lamorisse's classic 1956 short "The Red Balloon."

Screenings will continue on Friday, April 24 at 7 p.m. with *Ne Touchez Pas la Hache (The Duchess of Langeais)*. This 2007 drama set against the French Restoration, traces how a passionate affair of the heart curdles into cruelty and obsession.

The final film, *Le Scaphandre et le Papillon (The Diving Bell and*

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## New Creative Writing Institute Set for May

The Department of Humanities and Communication introduces the 2009 Creative Writing Institute. The institute, open to the campus community and the public, offers many classes in different genres of creative writing.

Classes will include fiction (beginning and advanced) and science fiction writing, mystery, poetry, and script- and screen-writing, as well as writing for the mass media. There will also be class-time, or one-time lectures on writing historical fiction, writing for independent film, fantasy and horror writing, and writing for adolescents and comic books. All classes will be taught by college professors and published writers.

This year's keynote speaker is Philip Deaver, writer-in-residence at Rollins College. His address is free to all. He will launch the week's activities on Sunday, May 17, at 2:15 p.m. in the Gleason Performing Arts Center. Deaver is the 13th winner of the Flannery O'Connor Award for short fiction for his book, *Silent Retreats Baseball*.

Classes will be held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, May 18, 20 and 22, starting at 9 a.m. and continuing throughout the day until 10:30 p.m.

The fee is \$99 for one three-day class; \$49 for a second class; and \$29 for a third class. One-time lectures are \$49 each. For more information, visit <http://411.fit.edu/cwi> or send e-mail to **Delilah Caballero** e-mail [dcaballe@fit.edu](mailto:dcaballe@fit.edu) or call extension 7248.

## First Male Honored at Women's History Month Awards

This year's National Women's History Month ceremony at Florida Tech presented awards to five deserving recipients on March 24.

The first Green Ribbon Award honored Cari A. Curri, founder of Kalias Med Spa and Wellness Center, which opened its doors on March 2007. The center, a green materials-renovated hardware store, is working on its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification.

The Green Ribbon Award for Women honors an individual who is taking the lead to save our planet and shown leadership in preserving the natural environment and innovation in their business practices.

For the first time ever, the **Joan Bixby Award** was presented to a male staff member **Ken Droscher**, associate vice president for advancement and director



Ken Droscher is the first-ever male to win the Joan Bixby Award. With him, from left, are Marjorie Beckett, Women's History Awards coordinator, and Donn Miller-Kermani, committee member.

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# Faculty and Staff News

## College of Engineering

**Kunal Mitra** received the American Society of Mechanical Engineering (ASME) Fellow Award. The Fellow grade of membership recognizes exceptional engineering achievements and contributions to the engineering profession. As a Fellow, Mitra is one of only approximately 3,000 Fellows out of over 100,000 ASME members.

**Syed Murshid's** invited article on new developments in silicon photonics will be published in the April issue of *Laser Focus World* magazine.

**Ashok Pandit, Howell Heck,** and doctoral student **Nawazish Ali** recently made a presentation to the City of Palm Bay and Friends of Turkey Creek on their findings in monitoring the Turkey Creek sump and two other cross-sections. This work was conducted through Florida Tech Consulting.

**Muzaffar Shaikh** attended the third International Conference on Modeling, Simulation, and Applied Optimization in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. The conference was sponsored by the American University of Sharjah.

## College of Psychology and Liberal Arts

A manuscript by psychology professors **Eb Blakely** and **David Wilder**, with psychology graduate **John Schadler '08**, was accepted for publication in the journal *Behavioral Interventions*. The manuscript describes a study, which evaluates a procedure to decrease problem behavior in individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities.

**Bill Gabrenya** has been elected to a four-year post as secretary-general of the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology (IACCP). Gabrenya is also the editor of IACCP's *Cross-Cultural Psychology Bulletin*.

At the annual Society for Personality Assessment conference in Chicago,

**Radhika Krishnamurthy** chaired a forensic applications scientific session

and presented a paper, "Convergent and discriminant validity of the MMPI-2-RF in child custody and criminal samples." Co-authors are graduate students **Tiffany Cummings** and **Kyle Goodwin** and alumna Deborah Day '85 M.S.

**Gordon Patterson** gave a presentation at the annual American Mosquito Control Association meeting in New Orleans on his mosquito control research.

## College of Science

A paper titled "Research progress in the electrochemical synthesis of ferrate(VI)" was published in *Electrochim Acta*, the journal of the International Society of Electrochemistry. Co-authors are **J. Clayton Baum, Virender Sharma,** and graduate student **Raymond J. Terryn.**

**Debasis Mitra**, working with **Kondo Gnanvo, Patrick Ford, Jennifer Helsby, Richard Hoch, Marcus Hohlmann** and **Rafael Peña**, published the journal article "GEANT4 simulation of a cosmic ray muon tomography system with micro pattern gas detectors for the detection of high-Z materials" in *IEEE Transactions on Nuclear Science*, 2009.

**Hakeem Oluseyi** presented an invited talk titled "Structure and generation of the Sun's transition region atmosphere" at the University of Wisconsin's astronomy department. He also gave an invited talk titled "Participation and research of African American astronomers and astrophysicists" at the American Physical Society meeting.

**Virender Sharma** published a paper titled "Nonylphenol, octylphenol, and bisphenol-A in the aquatic environment: A review on occurrence, fate, and treatment" in the *Journal of Environmental Science and Health, Part A*. Coauthors are graduate student **George Anquandah** and post-doctorate **Ria A. Yngard.**

**Zeeshan-ul-hassan Usmani**, computer science department graduate student; **Eyosias Yoseph Imana**, electrical engineering department graduate student; and **Daniel Kirk**, professor of aerospace and mechanical engineering, will present their paper titled "Virtual Iraq-simulation of insurgent attacks" at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Symposium on Computational Intelligence. The conference is in Nashville, Tenn.

**Matt Wood** presented a talk titled "Synthetic light curves of ultra-compact binary systems" at The Netherlands National Compact Binaries workshop in Nijmegen.

## Creative Services

The Office of Creative Services won two Silver ADDY Awards in the 2009

American Advertising Federation Space Coast contest. One award was for the 50th Anniversary tabloid piece that was distributed in Florida Today. The other was for the pink Uncommon Threads invitation. Honored were **Judi Tintera, Josh Culver** and **Christena Callahan.**

## March MVP



The March Most Valuable Panther was **Julie Shankle**, assistant director of online program administration. To nominate a staff or faculty member for this award, send your letters to MVP Committee Chair **Leslie Savoie** at [lsavoie@fit.edu](mailto:lsavoie@fit.edu).

## Campus Calendar

### April 10, 17, 19, 24 & 26

*Tournées French Film Festival 2009*

Presented by the Department of Humanities and Communication

Times vary, Gleason Performing Arts Center, free  
For information, call Carla Funk at extension 6129 or visit <http://411.fit.edu/filmfest>

### April 14

*Annual Business Ethics Conference*

Presented by the College of Business

Keynote speaker:

Dr. Ric Cusick, director of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics

7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Harris Corporation

Headquarters,

Phillip W. Farmer Customer Briefing Center

For information, call extension 7327.

### April 18

Department of Humanities and Communication

*Dante's Dreaming*

A multimedia production of imagination and illusion through sound

7 p.m., Gleason Performing Arts Center, free

For information, call extension 7320 or 6129.

### April 24

Astronomy and Astrophysics Public Lecture Series

*The Astro Missions in Ultraviolet Astronomy*

Sam Durrance, Department of Physics and Space Sciences

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

For information, call extension 7207 or visit [www.fit.edu/aapls](http://www.fit.edu/aapls).

## Sponsored Scholar

Melbourne-Palm Bay Chamber of Commerce Young Adult of the Month for March



Wes Sumner, Florida Tech associate vice president for university relations, congratulates Katherine Ann Smith.

## Celebrating Years of Service

The following employees were honored for their years of service at Florida Tech April 3 at the Gleason Performing Arts Center.

### Five Years:

Andrew Aberdein  
William Allen II  
George Anagnostopoulos  
Jack Armul  
William Arrasmith  
William Bailey  
Nancy Bloshcock  
Judith Brooke  
Deborah Carstens  
Brian Casey  
Gil Conrads  
David Cook  
Nancy Cook  
Mary Cromer  
Mary Cullember  
Joshua Culver  
Susan Earles  
Bruce Erhardt  
Carolyn Fausnaugh  
Richard Ford  
John Frongillo  
William Girton  
Donna Harder  
Pamela Jacob  
Marshall Jones  
Judith Kelliher  
Veton Kepuska  
Ivica Kostanic  
Robert Malfara  
Gerald Marin  
Dwayne McCay  
Mary Helen McCay  
Cynthia Miller  
Joel Olson

Eraldo Ribeiro  
Jacqueline Saunders  
Marion Schmude  
Lorraine Schwab  
Dracy Smith  
Thomas Stauffacher  
Jennifer Steadman  
Robin Tallon  
Elaine Taylor  
Scott Tilley  
Theresa Travis  
William Truesdale  
Deborah Werner  
David Wilder  
Bo Yang

### Ten Years:

Jody Bagdonas  
Philip Bernhard  
Barbara Bingnear  
James Brenner  
Stephanie Gaida  
Patti Gleichsner  
Cheryl Harris  
Nicole Hoier  
Elizabeth Irlandi-Hyatt  
Linda Lundstedt  
Brian Smith  
Nilsa Vazquez

### 15 Years of Service

James Baucom  
Rodney Bowers  
John Cain  
Brian Dailey  
Catherine Elder

Penny Flynn  
Vernon Gordon  
Julia Grimwade  
Thomas Hartling  
Franklin Heim  
Thomas Hodges  
Pei-Feng Hsu  
Cindy Jones  
Clayton Kollanda  
Kristie Kwong  
Suze Louche  
Bryan Loyd  
Atefeh McCampbell  
Iona Mueller  
John Reynolds  
Alan Rosiene  
Manolis Tomadakis  
Terri Wright  
Kermit Zieg  
Nellia Zook-Tamiroff

### 20 Years of Service

Alan Brown  
Larry Buist  
John Foulkes  
Fredric Ham

Leslie Havery  
Samuel Kozaitis  
Robert Merrill  
John Milbourne  
Donn Miller-Kermani  
Richard Newman  
Hamid Rassoul  
Elizabeth Rizzo  
Jeffrey Sherman  
Jonathan Whitlow  
Gary Zarillo

### 25 Years of Service

Randall Alford  
Victoria Borton  
Paul Davis  
Margie Shoemaker  
Robert Trocine

### 30 Years of Service

Michael Babich  
Thomas Belanger  
Cecilia Knoll  
Charles Polson  
John Trefry  
Frank Webbe  
Stan Zone

## Employee Transitions

**Promotions:** Juan Ortiz, Facilities;  
Linda Ward, College of Science;  
Kenneth Dabbs, Grounds; Cassandra McGuire-Carnley, Student Activities;  
Bryan Smith, Facilities

## French Film Festival *Continued from page 1*

*the Butterfly*) will be on Sunday, April 26 at 4 p.m. This 2007 drama is an award-winning biopic about Jean-Dominique Bauby, editor of French *ELLE* magazine who suffered a stroke and was paralyzed at age 43.

The festival is made possible through a grant from the French American Cultural Exchange and by the support of the Cultural Services of the French Embassy and the French Ministry of Culture.

Admission is free. Films will be shown in French with English subtitles. Discussions led by Florida Tech humanities faculty will follow. For information, call (321) 674-8082 or visit <http://411.fit.edu/filmfest>.

## Women's History Month Awards *Continued from page 1*

of the Alumni Association. Other winners were staff members Carey Gleason, assistant vice president for advancement, Mary Bonhomme, associate provost for online learning and student Melissa Rego, a senior in aviation management with flight and president of the student chapter of Women in Aviation International.

Presented by the Alumni Association and Women's Business Center, the award recognizes a Florida Tech staff or faculty member (male or female) who enhances the climate for women's participation and development on campus. The award is named in honor of Florida Tech alumna, former university administrator and Melbourne resident Bixby who remains an active member of the university community.

An event partner was the Brevard County Commission on the Status of Women.

### Campus Cleanup Yields Volunteers, Trash

The 2009 Campus Cleanup was another great success on March 21. About 200 volunteers participated, equipped with their Panther pride and litter bags, prepared to comb the grounds.

President Anthony J. Catanese awarded prizes in a variety of categories. Pi Kappa Alpha received the Largest Group in Attendance award with 27, winning a pizza party from the Rathskeller Eatery.

The Most Trash Bags Collected award went to Tau Kappa Epsilon with 65 bags, also winning a pizza party from the Rathskeller Eatery.

An empty bottle of Smirnoff, winning the Oldest Piece of Trash award, was discovered by Lambda Chi Alpha. A golf cart seat found by Tamara Gray, for the College of Aeronautics, and an unidentifiable piece of trash found by Phi Kappa Alpha received the Most Unique award. The "Biggest" award was given to Lambda Chi Alpha for a piece of a metal roof. All winners received movie passes.

The day concluded with a hamburger and hot dog picnic.



*Gordon Patterson, professor, Department of Humanities and Communication, looks happy with his trashy finds.*

## From the President's Desk



*Anthony James Catanese*

Community is at the core of the Florida Tech experience. How we work together to advance education, research, and public service defines our success. I am very proud of our campus community's continuing commitment to do more in service to others.

These difficult economic times are inspiring a "return to basics" for many Americans, and a careful reexamination of what matters most. I'm reminded of that famous Muhammad Ali quote: "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth."

The 2009 Campus Cleanup held March 21 is just one recent example of this spirit of service. As 200 students, faculty and staff devoted their Saturday morning to collecting trash and tidying the grounds, they not only demonstrated their willingness to serve the common good, but also displayed their selflessness toward the ideal of civic engagement.

Earlier this semester, the Corporation for National and Community Service honored Florida Tech on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll recognizing exemplary service to America's communities. It's the third straight year that we've earned this national recognition—honored each year since the award's inception.

The Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service-learning and civic engagement. Florida Tech's Civic Engagement Initiative provides the mechanism for us all to act. Currently, 100 campus organizations and departments participate, representing nearly 1,000 individual volunteers. Since August 2008, the group has donated more than 41,000 community service hours and raised \$76,000 for worthy causes.

Recent studies have underlined the importance of service-learning and volunteering to college students. In 2006, 2.8 million college students gave more than 297 million hours of volunteer service, according to one study. Some people want to serve, but don't know how. Others would give of their time, but simply have never been asked.

I congratulate our campus for a continuing spirit of service, and challenge each of you to find new ways to serve the community. Not sure how you can help? Visit our Civic Engagement Initiative Web site at [www.fit.edu/civic](http://www.fit.edu/civic) for a contact list of agencies that would benefit from your time and talents. If you are already volunteering, don't forget to log in to the Web site to list your hours.

Together, we are making a difference.



*A Gathering of Eagles—President Anthony J. Catanese was honored on campus at South Brevard's Seventeenth Annual Boy Scout Golden Eagle Dinner. Pictured here, from left, are Ron Oats, executive director for the Central Florida Boy Scouts Council; Eagle Scout Brent Marshal and Catanese. Did you know that many Eagle Scouts are faculty and staff members at Florida Tech? The ones we know of are: Mark Archambault, Al Brown, Rich Elmore, David Fleming, Michael Grace, Jason Harris, Kevin Johnson, George Maul, Nathan Miller, Rodd Newcombe, John Trefry and Stephen Wood. Our late, great hurricane expert John Williams was an Eagle Scout as well.*



**Florida Institute of Technology**  
*High Tech with a Human Touch™*

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