

Campus Observer

May 6, 2009

A Newsletter for the Florida Tech Community

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Top U.S. Official on Government Accountability Is Keynote Speaker May 18

The university's Activity Based Total Accountability (ABTA) Institute will present the 2009 National



Deborah Carstens

Conference on Innovations in Government Accountability and Performance May 18. The conference will take place at the Hilton Melbourne Beach Oceanfront Hotel, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Earl Devaney, the top U.S. official on government accountability, will be the keynote speaker at the conference. Appointed by Vice President Biden, Devaney is chair of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board. His job is to ensure that the money spent under the Recovery Act is maximized with transparency and accountability to the taxpayer.

Florida Congressman William J. Posey, the originator of activity based total accountability, will deliver the conference's opening remarks. The conference will also feature as a speaker Cheryl Whitaker, deputy administrative officer for the Government Accountability Office.

The ABTA Institute, under a \$752,000 grant from the Florida Department of Education, is creating a system for government oversight. Led by **Deborah Carstens**, associate professor of management information systems,

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Professors Earn \$411,000 NASA Grant to Study Solar System's Final Frontier

Ming Zhang, professor of physics and space sciences, has earned a \$411,000 grant from NASA for a contribution to the IBEX spacecraft mission. Florida Tech's research team was funded to create a module on particle acceleration which will add to information about the boundary of our solar system. **Hamid Rassoul**, professor of physics and space sciences, will collaborate with Zhang in this investigation.



Ming Zhang

The IBEX spacecraft, a NASA mission launched October 2008, is a small satellite about the size of a bus tire. It will observe the solar system boundary while in orbit around the Earth. Its telescopes, which will look towards the edge of the solar system, will collect particles rather than light. These particles, called energetic neutral atoms, will provide information as they travel toward Earth from beyond the orbit of Pluto.

"Our mission, like that of IBEX, is to understand the physics of particle transport and interaction with plasma and magnetic fields in the distant heliosphere, especially in its boundary, known as the termination shock, where the solar wind slows down abruptly. The study will help us understand how particles are energized to become cosmic rays, an important component of the space environment, which concerns future human space travel," said Zhang.

They'll Blow You Away!

The 13-member Florida Tech Jazz Band, under the direction of **Jamie Younkin**, debuted April 24 at the Panthereum. Marine biology student and trombonist **Paul**



Decker is pictured here. **Ivica Kostanic**, the only faculty member with the band so far, plays guitar. Younkin hopes to add more members to the band by fall 2009.

Paul Decker

2009 Service Awards Honor Civic Leaders

The university's Civic Engagement Initiative Awards recognize students, faculty and staff who make a significant contribution to the campus community through service. The following recipients were honored at the 2009 Service Awards at Gleason Performing Arts Center April 3:

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Faculty and Staff News

Office of Strategic Initiatives

Cliff Bragdon was widely quoted and pictured in the lead story, "The Enemy Within" in the April/May issue of *Traffic Technology International*. The story's theme was potential terrorist attacks on transportation systems.

College of Business

Deborah Carstens published "Task analysis of healthcare delivery system" in the *Journal of Engineering and Technology Management*. Pauline Patterson '06 was a co-author.

College of Engineering

The department of electrical and computer engineering will host the 2009 National Institute of Standards and Technology Rich Transcription Evaluation Workshop May 28 and 29. The event will gather top scientists, researchers and research institutions throughout the world in the areas of speech processing, speech recognition and natural language understanding. Veton Kepuska, professor of electrical and computer engineering, will coordinate the event. For more information, visit <http://www.nist.gov/speech/tests/rt/2009/index.html>



Dan Kirk

Dan Kirk earned a Boeing Co. Faculty Fellowship. The eight-week program, which begins June 15, offers career-enhancing experiences with key Boeing research and technology programs.

Fred Ham chaired a session on system biology at the SPIE Defense, Security and Sensing Conference in Orlando. Ham also presented the System Biology Pioneer Award to Olaf Wolkenhauer for his key contributions to the field of neuro-degeneration bioinformatics data engineering.

George Maul participated in the Atlantic Tsunami Exercise in Cocoa Beach. He talked about the history of Florida tsunamis and potential impacts to an audience consisting of police

and fire chiefs, the U.S. Coast Guard, lifeguards and elected officials.

A paper co-authored by Ashok Pandit and Howell Heck titled, "Estimations of soil conservation service curve numbers for concrete and asphalt," was published in the April 2009 American Society of Civil Engineering *Journal of Hydrology*.

Students Scott Perry and Alex Berta, Team Panther II members, graduate student Michael Vergalla and undergraduates Richard Schulman and Shawna Boucher visited alumna Cassandra Gonyer '08 in her science class at Sebastian River High School. The group presented "Introduction to aerospace engineering at Florida Tech." All are students of Dan Kirk, College of Engineering.

A paper by doctoral student Emily Ralston and Geoff Swain, titled "Bioinspiration—the solution for biofouling control?" was published in the March edition of the *Journal of Bioinspiration and Biomimetics*. Ralston and Swain also attended the 2009 National Association of Corrosion Engineers.

College of Psychology and Liberal Arts

David Wilder was appointed to the editorial board of the journal *Behavioral Interventions*.

Radhika Krishnamurthy co-authored "Convergent and discriminant validity of the MMPI-2-RF scales in child custody and criminal samples." The paper was presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality Assessment in Chicago, Ill., where she also chaired a section on forensics applications.

College of Science

Monica Baloga received the annual Excellence in Teaching Award from the Florida Tech student chapter of Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society, a national honor society for college freshmen.

Debra Blenis presented "Florida governor's school pilot summer

academy for gifted students: What we learned" at the 2009 Professional Conference of the National Consortium of Specialized Secondary Schools of Math, Science and Technology in Washington, D.C.

Hakeem Oluseyi was an invited participant in the 2009 SciFest Africa in Grahamstown, South Africa, to talk about how dark matter and dark energy help explain the motion of galaxies.

Virender Sharma and Mary Sohn published "Aquatic arsenic: Toxicity, speciation, transformations, and remediation" in the journal *Environment International*.

Matt Wood co-authored "Synthetic direct impact light curves of the ultracompact AM CVn binary systems V407 Vul and HM Cnc." The paper was accepted for publication in *The Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*.

Sponsored Scholar

Since fall 2008 Florida Tech has sponsored a Young Adult of the Month Award at each Melbourne-Palm Bay Chamber of Commerce monthly breakfast. In April, Rachel Priester, a senior at Melbourne Central Catholic High School, was honored. Priester will receive a Florida Tech scholarship each of her four years if she chooses to attend the university.



Rachel Priester with Ken Stackpoole, senior vice president for advancement

April MVP



The April Most Valuable Panther was **Arlene Ferguson**, Evans Library patron services manager. 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: **Kimberly**

Kochersperger and **Judy Leighton**, Human Resources; **Scott Weber**, Facilities/Building Maintenance

New Hires: **Wendy Murrell**, Controller; **Semegnish Godo**, Professional Development; **Kelly Goodlick**, Sponsored Programs

17 Faculty Members Receive Promotions

This year, six faculty members have been promoted to the position of professor and 11 to associate professor.

Promoted to professor are **J. Clayton Baum**, chemistry; **Richard Ford** and **Debasis Mitra**, computer sciences; **Cecilia Knoll**, applied mathematics; **Syed Murshid**, electrical and computer engineering; and **Robert Taylor**, humanities and communication.

Promoted to associate professor are **Suzanne Bahr**, **Mark Harvey**, and **Lisa Perdigao**, College of Psychology and Liberal Arts; **Andrew Cudmore**, College of Business; **Susan Earles** and **Ivica Kostanic**, electrical and computer engineering; **Dan Kirk** and **Bo Yang**, mechanical and aerospace engineering; **Joel Olson** and **Kurt Winkelmann**, chemistry; and **Eraldo Ribeiro**, computer sciences.

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the system is intended to become a major step toward transparency in government spending.

A fee of \$40 covers all sessions and panel discussions, a continental breakfast, lunch and refreshments. For more information, call extension 7396. To register for the conference, visit <http://abta.fit.edu/conference/registrationform.php>.

2009 Service Awards Honors Civic Leaders *Continued from page 1*

Group/Department Awards

Philanthropy

Gold Award (\$2,000+)—Information Technology, Student Affairs

Community Service

Gold Award (1,000+ Hours)—Student Affairs

Bronze Award (200–499 Hours)—Information Technology

Campus Service

Bronze Award (200–499 Hours)—Information Technology, Student Affairs

Individual Awards

Philanthropy

Gold Award (\$2,000+)—**Sara Mayer**, former assistant dean, Student Activities

Campus Service

Bronze Award (100–249 Hours)—**Andrew J. Leviere**, assistant dean, Residence Life

Community Service

Gold Award (500+ Hours)—**Sara Mayer**

Florida Tech Faculty and Staff Earn Development Grants

Seven Florida Tech faculty and staff members have been awarded Faculty Professional Development Grants of up to \$2,500 each for hardware and software purchases, and student support.

Each year, the Academic Information Technology Committee (ACITC) grants program provides opportunities for Florida Tech faculty to enrich their teaching and professional development through participation in technology-related projects and travel. **Kurt Winkelmann** chaired the ACITC development grant subcommittee.

Recipients were selected based on the degree of integration of technology-based instructional materials, project innovation, interdisciplinary collaboration and student participation. The grants represent a diverse constituency across academic programs. The recipients are, **LuAnn Bean**, College of Business, “An Integration of Modified Machinima Cases for the Accounting and Management Curriculum”

Sen Chiao, College of Engineering, “Minimum Temperatures and Diurnal Temperature Ranges in the Melbourne Area”

Cheryl Davis, Evans Library, “Creating Tutorials for 24/7 Library Research Instruction”

Michael Grace, College of Science, “Video Infrastructure for Training in Microscopy and Microanalysis”

Pierre Larochelle, College of Engineering, “A Novel Web-Based Tool to Facilitate 360 Degree Peer Evaluation for Student Design Project Teams”

Chelakara Subramanian, College of Engineering, “Interactive Design of Supersonic Nozzle”

Rebecca Weber, Evans Library, “Laptops, Campus Networks, and Librarians”

Campus Calendar

May 17, 18, 20 and 22

Creative Writing Institute—Class schedules vary
For information, call Delilah Caballero at extension 7248 or e-mail dcaballe@fit.edu, or visit <http://411.fit.edu/cwi>

June 5

Third Annual Capstone Classic—College of Engineering scholarship fundraising event 12:30 p.m., Grand Harbor Golf Course in North Vero Beach
For information, call extension 6162 or e-mail gsauerma@fit.edu.

Announcing New 10 Percent Faculty and Staff Discounts

Dining Services will offer a 10 percent discount to staff and faculty starting May 10 at all campus dining locations. These include Evans Hall, SUB Café, Center Court, Rathskeller and Black Cat Café. Only a university ID card is required to receive the discount.

Also, beginning May 10, Barnes & Noble Booksellers on U.S. 192 will offer 10 percent discounts on faculty and staff purchases made there with discount cards. The cards may be picked up at the campus bookstore beginning May 10.

Annual Peace River Hunt Digs and Sieves through History

The annual Peace River Fossil Hunt, organized and led by **Jonathan Shenker**, associate professor, biological sciences, drew more than 70 student and faculty participants April 5.

The dig took place a three-hour drive away in Arcadia, Fla., where participants in 32 canoes traversed a five-mile stretch of the Peace River. The process of finding fossils was simple: hop out of the canoe, shovel sand into wire sieves that Shenker and his students built themselves, and look for fossils in the material trapped in the sieve.

“The region, known as Bone Valley, contains the remains of many aquatic and terrestrial animals deposited over the last 30 million years,” said Shenker.

Among what the group collected were many shark teeth, stingray barbs and teeth, ribs from dugongs, turtle plates, and camel and horse teeth.



Carolyn Thaggard, sophomore marine biology student, finds the tooth of a *Megalodon* shark.



Florida Institute of Technology
High Tech with a Human Touch™

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From the President's Desk



Anthony James Catanese

As the 2008-2009 academic year closes, I think it's a great time to look ahead to what promises to be a busy summer on the Florida Tech campus. In addition to the normal summer class schedule, the university will continue its annual tradition of community outreach. We'll offer a variety of camps and experiences designed to give younger children as well as teens enriching summer activities that are fun and foster learning.

Florida Tech camp season kicks off May 11 with Panther Pathways, a summer program for special needs youth, and ends in August with soccer and basketball. In between, 30 different summer session camps will offer young people everything from forensics to volleyball.

While each camp we facilitate is special in its own way, I'd like to mention two that particularly highlight our expertise:

The Department of Marine and Environmental Systems (DMES) offers a five day-long summer camp beginning July 13 that explores the Indian River Lagoon and Brevard County's coastal ocean and creeks. High school and middle school students are eligible to participate. Campers will learn about beach processes and consequences of nourishment, take a boat tour of the Indian River Lagoon ecosystem, conduct water quality testing and seine sea grass, among other activities.

The popular Camp NanoTech for high school students returns this year the week of July 20. Led by the Chemistry Department, campers will operate a scanning tunneling microscope to view atoms, make a liquid that responds to magnets, learn the history of nanotechnology and tour campus labs. Students also build models, perform lab experiments, operate scientific instruments and talk with our faculty and undergraduate students about college life and research experiences. Florida Tech has particular expertise in this area, as we offer one of the nation's few freshman-level nanotechnology laboratory courses.

Beyond camps, Florida Tech will offer the prestigious Governor's School for Space Science and Technology at KSC July 5-17. Eighteen top high school students from across the state will get hands-on experience in this important field.

If you have children or grandchildren and are looking to sign them up for some exciting activities this summer, I encourage you to check out the "Summer Camps" link at the bottom of the Web site main page. When you see these youngsters moving about our campus this summer, be sure to offer a smile and a friendly greeting ... today's campers are tomorrow's Florida Tech students!