Visitors Coming

Parents, alumni and students from area high schools will be among a crowd of visitors to F.I.T. in February as a flurry of activities mark the annual Under the Palms, Science and Engineering Week, and Alumni-Faculty Day.

F.I.T. faculty and students will be busy with activities that begin on Feb. 16 and stretch through Feb. 23. And activities associated with a "Gone With the Wind" homecoming schedule for students begins even earlier in February.

"The Pelican" offers a tentative schedule of events. A complete, final schedule will be available in early February.

Under the Palms kicks off the celebration, with a morning registration for parents on Saturday (Feb. 16) in the Student Union Building. After a free afternoon to explore the campus, entertainment for parents is scheduled Saturday night in the gym.

On Sunday, parents will be able to take advantage of several activities scheduled between 1:00 and 4:30 p.m. Included are campus tours, boat trips, tours of F.I.T. facilities at Melbourne Regional Airport, and multi-media show presentations in the S.U.B.

FOR THE ARTS

Dr. Ray Work escorts Mrs. Joan Mondale during her recent visit to campus as part of a local tour to support the Brevard Art Center and Museum.

Energy Is Topic

The Science Education Department is looking for persons and groups interested in playing a part in upcoming "forums" at F.I.T. on national energy problems.

EARLY START

Though they seem a little young for F.I.T. classes, students from Gemini Elementary in Melbourne Beach learn the basics of mariculture from Dr. Dean Norris, Dr. Norris and Dr. Terrell Roberts also recently hosted a class from Surfside Elementary in Satellite Beach, those students also part of a Gifted Student Program. And Dr. Ed Strother traveled to Gemini to brief a third GSP class on nuclear energy.
Campus Notes

Mrs. Susan Braunstein, assistant professor of English and the humanities at Jensen Beach, delivered a paper at the fourth annual Conference of the Humanities and Technology at Georgia Tech recently. The title of the paper was “The Disintegration of the American Dream.”

Dr. Barry Fullerton, vice president for student affairs, recently delivered a talk on “The A.B.C.’s of Time Management” to the Pan Am Management Group’s monthly meeting.

Dr. E. F. Strother, associate professor Physics and Space Sciences, is serving as program chairman for an American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics technical symposium planned for March 14. It is anticipated that NASA will host the symposium on “Advances in Aerospace Technology.” Persons interested in attending should contact Dr. Strother.

Energy (continued)

In April, the university’s version of “A National Issues Forum: Energy And The Way We Live” is to be held. The national forum, with the backing of the National Endowment for the Humanities and the U.S. Department of Energy, is designed to allow energy discussions among citizens across the country.

Donna Valentino, organizer of community forums to be sponsored by Science Education, said three gatherings are currently being planned.

The first will study the roots of current energy problems, the second will look at energy alternatives for the future, and the third will focus on the value of energy conservation.

Aviation Popular

F.I.T. aviation students who are helping operate the airport serving the 1980 Winter Olympics are part of a steadily growing School of Aeronautics program.

“In any given month we are training up to 450 students in our flight program,” explained Curtis Truver, head of the Department of Flight Technology.

Popularity of aviation programs are underscored by an enrollment of 725 students at the beginning of the academic year, continuing a 10 percent-plus enrollment jump each year since 1974.

But fuel shortages have mandated a “leveling off” of the student body, he said. “It’s unfortunate, but we’re turning people away because of the lack of fuel.”

The School of Aeronautics, one of only five such major aviation programs operated by U.S. universities, uses five $20,000 flight simulators to electronically simulate small aircraft training while reducing fuel consumption. The school also uses a simulation console to teach jet airline engineer skills.

Not all students fly, Truver pointed out. “Our school is pointed toward allowing students to earn a management degree,” he said, valuable both to aspiring pilots and those interested in airport operations and planning, maintenance and service businesses, and sales.

Many students participate in “Training With Industry” programs, the sort of arrangement that is allowing six students to help operate the Olympics airport in New York.

With the bulk of the student body taking advantage of 52 light aircraft available for training missions, Truver said safety is an integral part of the curriculum.

“The instructors are the key to safety,” Truver said of more than 30 flight faculty members. Standardized training is rigidly adhered to by instructors, and six senior pilots scrutinize all flight operations while serving as “our quality control people.” Truver explained.
Study Shows F.I.T. Impact Growing

F.I.T. will be responsible for an estimated $89 million impact on the Space Coast economy in 1980, according to a report released by the university. The impact determination resulted from an estimate of more than $29.6 million in F.I.T.-related spending that will put dollars directly into the local economy.

The total economic impact is determined by applying a re-spending multiplier to money that directly enters the local economy. In Brevard, the accepted multiplier is three.

"We compiled this report so that Brevard businessmen could better appreciate the economic impact of our student spending," said Ralph Johnson, acting vice president for development affairs. The report also provides data that business and government often need to respond to inquiries, he said.

The report, in outlining the importance of F.I.T. as one of the largest enterprises on the Space Coast, provides evidence of the university's continuing growth. University development in many ways parallels the growth of M.I.T. with the Boston area, and the growth of Stanford University with the Palo Alto area.

Visitors Include Alumni, Parents (continued)

The report says that only 650 of the 3,452 students attending classes at the Melbourne campus at the beginning of the current academic year were Brevard residents. Students included representatives of 69 foreign countries.

Students attracted to Brevard by F.I.T. will spend more than $16 million with local merchants this year.

The economic report, based on university records and plans as well as a survey to determine student spending habits, lists a variety of positive educational, cultural and financial impacts F.I.T. will have on local citizens, groups and businesses in 1980.

The determination of F.I.T.-generated spending in Brevard includes $4.62 million in salaries and wages for university faculty and staff in 1980.

Other F.I.T. spending, including purchases of supplies and capital expenditures, will amount to more than $8.7 million.

Student spending of $16.3 million is led by an estimated $5 million for transportation expenses, nearly $4 million for food, $3.2 million for housing, $1.5 million for entertainment and sports, and nearly $1.3 million for personal care.

During the afternoon, the F.I.T. grads will be able to take tours, and boat rides, or view multi-media presentations.

A 5:30 p.m. cocktail party is scheduled Saturday for alumni, followed by a 6:30 p.m. banquet at the S.U.B. and 8:30 p.m. fireworks. Alumni can watch from the athletic field beside the gym or travel to the F.I.T. Observatory on Dairy Road, which is being opened for tours during the week of activities.

Early-arriving alumni have been invited to homecoming activities that highlight student celebrations. A pep rally is slated for 6:30 p.m. in the gym on Friday (Feb. 22) before the Engineers meet Webber College in the season's final basketball game at 7:30 p.m. A homecoming semi-formal dance is at 9:00 p.m. in the S.U.B.

The student schedule ranges from a multi-day "Anything Goes Contest" to powder-puff football, a surfing contest, raft race, a "Burning of Atlanta" bonfire and a "Wounded Soldier" blood drive.
GO TEAM!

Faces of Support

Photos by R. Goldberg.

ABOVE, Holmes Beausang keeps his conch-shell horn at the ready in case his verbal urgings are drowned out by other fans.

ABOVE LEFT, Dr. Frank Webbe and son Tristan keep an eye on basketball action. BELOW, Dr. John Hadjilogiou studies the Engineers' situation.

ABOVE, Jayne Phillips, left, and Pat Nelson seem to disagree as to the significance of on-court action. AT RIGHT Bob Rowe, left, and Bob Heidinger, rest between cheers.