Grant is for new computer

A $30,000 “topping grant” from the William G. Selby and Marie Selby Foundation is to help in the purchase of a new central computer to support academic programs at the Jemstem Beach campus.

The Foundation, a perpetual trust established in 1955, provides scholarships for Florida residents and supports other educational enterprises in the state, as well as many social services, cultural and youth programs. The Selby Foundation is administered by the Southeast Bank, N.A.

In announcing the grant, F.I.T. Development Director Ralph Johnson said the university has launched a fund drive to raise $50,000 needed to pay for the Selby funds.

"We will be seeking and welcoming support for the project from friends, organizations and businesses," said Johnson.

Dr. William Gehring, academic dean for the School of Applied Technology at Jemstem Beach, said $60,000 is needed to allow purchase of an IBM 4331 computer.

Academic computing needs have outgrown the capacity of the existing computer, he noted. A rapidly growing degree program in computer technology demands added computer terminals.

"The new computer will service our needs at least the next five years, we feel," Gehring explained.

The grant money from the Sarasota foundation will be given to F.I.T. only after the rest of the project money is raised, Johnson said. The university has one year to accomplish that task.

Since 1968, F.I.T. has received grants totaling $452,200 from the Foundation and the late Mrs. Selby.

Oceanography and Ocean Engineering was well represented at the 48th Annual Meeting of the Florida Academy of Sciences, held in late March at Florida Atlantic University. Several graduate students presented papers resulting from research work. Presentations included, "Beach profile response to beach nourishment at selected projects in Florida and New Jersey," by Wade Blake, co-authored by Stallings.

"Oil ash as a waste material, the disposal options," by Vincent Breslin; "A comparative study of trace metal pollution in the Jewfish Coast and Florida," by Dr. Frey Holm, co-authored by Dr. Donald Stawicki; "Temporal and spatial variations of sediment textural characteristics at several beach nourishment projects in Florida and New Jersey," by Frank McGeen, co-authored by Stallings.

A party of engineers representing F.I.T. at the Academy of Sciences meeting included Dr. Ron Barilo, who chaired the engineering section of the meeting, which included topics such as electronics, computers, robots, polymers, air pollution and biomass fuels.

Engineers presenting papers included Dr. Don Mason, head of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Dr. Tom Stephen, head of Environmental Science and Engineering, and Dr. Musser, Wilgus and Barilo of Chemical Engineering.

Dr. Dan Canavan of Humanities has offered information to update his research efforts over the last six months.

He has just completed a book for Praeger Publishers entitled, "Attitudes and Behavior." An Annotated Bibliography. The book, to be in print in July, is co-authored by Dr. Dave Seibold of the University of Illinois-Urbana. It offers more than 600 annotations of studies focusing on the relationship between people’s beliefs and behavior.

The communications researcher has also presented papers including, "Attributions of Loneliness and Relational Competence," co-authored by the Dr. Brian Spitzberg of North Texas State, and delivered at the International Communication Association Convention.


A paper by Canary titled, "An Empirical Investigation of Attributions, Relational, and Situational Predictors of Interpersonal Communication," has been accepted for a May convention of the International Communication Association. He has also submitted an article co-authored by Dr. Kenneth Sorensen of the University of California which analyzes the relationship between interpersonal control and intimacy.

The promotion of Dr. Robert Shearer to the rank of associate professor has been announced by Dr. Juto LeMoine, head of Humanities.

Two researchers visit India

Dr. Arvind M. Dhole, head of the Division of Infectious Diseases at the Medical Research Institute, has returned from India after attending the 12th International Leprosy Congress held in New Delhi.

He served as a member of the Microbiology Expert Committee of the International Leprosy Association, and also as a member of the Congress workshop on microbiology of leprosy. At the Congress, he also presented a paper entitled, "Application of ATP Assay to Patient Care in Leprosy."

In New Delhi, Dhole met with Prof. J.K. Seydel and his staff from the Borstel Research Institute, West Germany. Preliminary discussions were held to initiate another collaborative program between Borstel/Institute and M.R.I.

After the Congress, he visited the Institute of Medical Sciences of the Banaras Hindu University, and presented a seminar. Dhole also met Drs. Gurnam Singh and Pranamja Kaur, and discussed the possibility of setting up a collaborative program in leprosy research between M.R.I. and an Indian counterpart agency under the Indo-U.S. (P.L.480) program. It was decided to continue those negotiations, now at N.H.P. (U.S.) and I.C.M.R. (India) levels.

Later, Dhole visited the Bombay Leprosy Project in Bombay with which he has been involved in a collaborative program for the past two years. He toured the field stations of the collaborative program and discussed the progress of the program with Dr. Gimpal, the director and staff.

During his stay in India, Dhole also visited other institutions and presented seminars on his research. They include the Foundation of Medical Research (Bombay), Grant Medical College (Bombay), Institute of Science (Bombay), Madras Medical College (Madras), Voluntary Health Service Leprosy Research Unit (Madras), B.C.G. Institute (Madras), and Central Leprosy Research Institute (Chiplun).

During their return trip to Melbourne, they were guests of Dr. Oliver Hanfman, Medical Director of the Kalaupapa Settlement at Molokai, Hawaii, where Father Daniel also visited leprosy patients.

Back on their home grounds, the two leaders hosted a reception at which Storno was introduced to them. She also met Mr. Tenza, Nobel Prize winner for her work with leprosy victims and the poor of Calcutta.

Storno presented a paper, co-authored by Burchfield, on "Epidemiology of Leprosy in Women in Malaysia." She also participated in a pre-Congress workshop on experimental leprosy.

Burchfield presented a paper, co-authored by Storno, entitled, "Yodine Levels in Armadillo Plasma on Administration of Dapsone in Field and Repository Doses of Acsopran." The presentation was at the session on experimental leprosy for which Storno was rapporteur.

Before the meeting the two visited the Jamla Institute for Leprosy Research at Agra, to which they have supplied armadillos. After the meeting, they visited the Foundation for Leprosy Research in Bombay, which has a joint project with M.R.I.
Senior projects polish mechanical engineers

Editor's Note: The following study provides a glimpse into the workings of the senior project, an academic mainstay in engineering. This particular project was conducted in the context of the academic year's close of the last academic quarter. The article discusses how mechanical engineering seniors, Hamlin and Stabile, took on a manufacturing project and managed to produce a product that is both efficient and innovative. They worked with computers and machinery to design and manufacture a component that could be used in various applications. The project has been an educational mainstay in engineering majors at F.I.T. and Sea World have joined hands in an innovative program to prepare teachers to expand learning opportunities far beyond traditional classroom walls. The cooperative effort is believed to be the first of its kind in the state.

The students accomplished all of the machinery design, tooling and assembly. Another task for the duo was figuring out how to make a computer "talk" to an electrical motor. The pipe, providing it properly drilled, can become a spray bar. Such bars are used to spray water required in the rinsing of chemicals from large photographic surfaces. Inspiration for the project was rooted in Stabile's observation that teachers and learning need not, and in fact cannot, be confined to the classroom. Science Education is an elective course, and can provide a portion of the experience required for teacher certification.

At Sea World
Barbara Emmert (above) learns to teach with a marine backdrop. Her roommate also includes the theme of Sea World's Peggy Kinder, pictured at right, as well as animal performer.

F.I.T. and Sea World have joined hands in an innovative program to prepare teachers to expand learning opportunities far beyond traditional classroom walls. The cooperative effort is believed to be the first of its kind in the state.

The programs in insinuity, one veteran teacher who endorses it thoroughly is Peggy Kinder. She already had 13 years of in-the-classroom teaching experience when she took the reins of Sea World's highly regarded educational program two years ago.

Kinder’s experience allows her to speak with authority as she points out that when school groups travel to the theme park near Orlando, "we're giving them materials that they simply cannot get in the classroom."

Some 65,000 students receive tutoring at Sea World each year, and what they get is far more than a glance at a killer whale. Sea World's educational program has been designed to excite and inform students, "from pre-kindergarten to college," explains its Education Director.

And that makes Sea World the perfect setting for a unique program with F.I.T. Degree-seeking students majoring in Science Education now have the opportunity to help develop educational projects at the popular attraction as well as conduct classes there. That's a first, Kinder notes. "So far as I know, this is the first time that a university and an attraction have cooperated to allow a practicum in teaching outside of the classroom," said Kinder.

For the record at F.I.T., the program earns under the title of "Practicum in Non-

Sea World provides unique teacher training site

In that respect, Sea World offers a unique resource both for students and student teachers," said Fronk. "Where else can you find marine animals from around the globe, plus sophisticated educational programs developed specifically for various learning levels? They also have lab facilities, and a staff which understands and appreciates the nature of the education outreach program," said Fronk.

Barbara Emmert, one of four F.I.T. students — three of them graduate-level students — participating in the practicum with Sea World, is a master's degree candidate who is also seeking teacher certification. She earned her bachelor's degree in marine biology at F.I.T.

"Since I'm also a marine biologist, this is a perfect situation for me," she noted. "I think learning here is a lot more fun for the kids, and I think it's a lot more interesting to them."

Kinder explained that the Sea World programs provide classroom materials for use by teachers both before and after the visit to the theme park. "Hopefully, their visit here is a culmination of what has happened in the classroom.

"Backstage" tours can be provided for small groups interested in special subjects, such as the system that Sea World uses to maintain the salinity of its water tanks. Marine subjects can provide learning experiences that relate to other disciplines. Figuring the ratio of an animal's body weight to food intake, for example, can provide a lively math problem.

There is an expanding opportunity for out-of-the-classroom education in the state," said Kinder. "Educationnote that "any learning activity that involves all of the senses is going to be more beneficial."

Fronk explained that the practicum program has the added benefit of alerting students to work opportunities beyond institutional walls. For Sea World, the cooperative program has already yielded a new employee. Kinder said: "We have already hired a permanent instructor of the first intern to complete the program. That alone validates my feeling that teachers and learning need not, and ought not to be confined to the classroom."