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For Immediate Release

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Florida Tech to Start Scholarly Exchange with Budapest University

MELBOURNE, Fla. – Florida Tech faculty have much to teach faculty at Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BUTE) and vice versa. They'll begin learning from each other soon, supported by a \$120,000 grant from the U.S. Dept. of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The project's principal investigators are Dr. Gordon L. Nelson, dean of the Florida Tech College of Science and Liberal Arts, and Dr. Imre Hronszky, head of the BUTE Department of Innovation Studies and History of Technology.

The grant program, created under the authority of the Fulbright-Hays Act of 1961, will provide travel and subsistence allowances for a faculty exchange program. The main purpose of the program is to help Hungary confront urgent environmental problems and achieve a market economy within the European Union. The partnership will reinforce United States interests in Central Europe by helping BUTE to educate a new generation of informed trading partners.

Initially, the project will focus on faculty development and research in environmental studies, because this is currently the area in which Florida Tech and BUTE faculty research interests have the most present overlap and potential for new collaborations. Over three years, the program will expand to include curriculum development, public outreach and student exchanges.

“This is the first partnership ever to touch every program on campus,” said Florida Tech’s Dr. Terry Oswalt, College of Science and Liberal Arts associate dean for research. “We’ll first address the environmental pollution issues of the region, which

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have been an impediment to economic growth and urban development. Our collaboration eventually will involve faculty from the broadest possible spectrum of academic departments at both universities. It also will provide a stepping stone to joint research collaborations with other institutions in central Europe.”

Florida Tech faculty have already volunteered to participate in the program from biological sciences, business management, chemistry, chemical and civil engineering, humanities, marine and environmental systems, psychology, science and mathematics education, and science and technology studies.

Through the partnership, Florida Tech hopes to broaden and strengthen its research activities in environmental studies; augment its environmental studies curriculum by sending faculty to Hungary; and form new collaborations with other institutions in Central Europe.

The BUTE is the largest institution of technological research and education in Hungary and the oldest engineering university in Europe. Its mission is to better prepare Hungarians for leadership roles in science and technology through education.

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