



Campus Observer

October 12, 2005

A Newsletter for the Florida Tech Community

Vol. 6 Issue 15

United Way Campaign Kicks Off with New Incentive

President **Anthony J. Catanese** and **Tim Hollingsworth**, consultant/director, professional development, are this year's Florida Tech United Way co-chairs. They plan to distribute an informational letter the week of Oct. 24.

Two incentives will be offered for increasing your United Way donation by at least \$1 per pay period. The President's Office is giving the campaign two color television sets as prizes for a drawing. Also new this year will be a drawing for 10 one-day United Way holidays. Each winner of the one-day holiday can use the free day with pay at their own discretion and with supervisor permission.

"We will both increase our pledges this year, and we hope that you will also," said the campaign co-chairs.

Campus Observer

is published by the Office of University Communications

Director Jay Wilson

Editor . . . Karen Rhine, ext. 8964, krhine@fit.edu

Design and Layout

Office of University Publications

Photography. . . . Verna Layman, Dave Potter

EX-522-1005



Physics freshman Nick Leioatts (left) and Jeff Pesula (right), high school physics teacher and part-time physics grad student, fine-tune their cosmic ray detector. © M. Hohlmann

Florida Tech Dazzles with Cosmic Ray Collection

Florida Tech, one of 40 institutions contributing to the national QuarkNet physics outreach program, collected more data than any QuarkNet group so far—two times more data than the center collecting the second largest sample. Eight high school physics teachers and four high school students participated in the one-week summer workshop, which was led by particle physicist **Marcus Hohlmann**, physics and space sciences. Hohlmann received a \$14,800 National Science Foundation grant to join in the hands-on physics program. That brings NSF grants to the Florida Tech QuarkNet program to a total of \$50,000 so far.

To gather the data, that is, to detect subatomic particles, the team set up detectors—built by teachers at previous Florida Tech workshops—in the F.W. Olin Physical Sciences Center. The detectors produce brief light flashes of 20 to 30 nanoseconds duration every time a subatomic particle passes through. In this case, the particles of interest were muons. These are more massive relatives of the familiar electron.

The team, which collected data for a total of six weeks, uploaded their 45 million muon events to a data server managed by the University of Chicago and Fermilab, near Chicago, which hosts the program's headquarters. The server allows interactive analysis of the data via a Web portal.

QuarkNet was initiated to inspire young people to pursue fundamental physics. The program gives students and teachers opportunities for hands-on experience with modern experimental research techniques in particle physics.

Two of the QuarkNet summer students enrolled as freshmen this fall. They are physics major **Nick Leioatts** and business major **Parisa Rassoul**, **Hamid Rassoul's** daughter. **Jeff Pesula**, who teaches physics at Sebastian River High School, is enrolled in a Florida Tech physics graduate program.

For more information, visit www.fit.edu/pss-quarknet.

Campus Calendar

Panthers Soccer

October 14,
vs. Tusculum College,
4 p.m.

October 22,
vs. Rollins College, 2 p.m.

Panthers Volleyball

October 15,
vs. Armstrong Atlantic
State Univ., 7 p.m.

October 22,
vs. Eckerd College, 7 p.m.

October 13

Humanities Lecture
*Confessions of a Night
Librarian and Other
Embarrassments*
Ron McFarland, profes-
sor of English, University of
Idaho, Moscow (and Tom
McFarland's brother)
7 p.m., Hartley Room
For information, ext. 8082

October 15

WFIT 89.5FM and
J. Michael Instruments
present:
Jesse Colin Young,
folk-rock icon
7:30 p.m., Gleason
Performing Arts Center
\$18 WFIT members, \$20
prospective members, \$25
at the door, \$10 students
For information, ext. 8140

October 16

Around the World at
Florida Tech
The Caribbean
Food, music and enter-
tainment, \$6
6 p.m., Columbia Village
For information, ext. 8053,
jbrooke@fit.edu

October 19

Faculty and Staff Wellness
Seminar
*Understanding Your Heart,
Cholesterol and Diabetes*
Noon-1 p.m., Clemente
Center, Room 104
For information, ext. 8050

October 28

Astronomy and
Astrophysics
Public Lecture Series
*Seeing Lightning with
X-Ray Vision*
Joe Dwyer, physics and
space sciences
8 p.m., Life Sciences Build-
ing Auditorium
For information, ext. 7207

Faculty and Staff News

College of Science
Dean **Gordon L. Nelson**
recently presented two
papers in Europe. At the
10th European Confer-
ence on Fire Retardant
Polymers, held in Berlin,
his talk was "Polystyrene/
silica and PETG/PMMA/
silica nanocomposites."
At the 8th Polymers for
Advanced Technologies
International Symposium,
held in Budapest, he
presented "Ferrocene con-
taining copolymers with
improved electrostatic
dissipation properties for
advanced applications."

In biological sciences,
Mark Bush published
"Of orogeny, phylogeny,
precipitation and parrots"
in the *Journal of
Biogeography*. He also
published "The biogeogra-
phy of neotropical crotalid
snakes" in the *Journal of
Molecular Ecology* ...
Robert van Woesik
published "Assessing the
effects of non-point source
pollution on American
Samoa's coral reef

communities" in *Environ-
mental Monitoring and
Assessment*.

Mike Barker and **Bill
Graves**, College of Aero-
nautics, wrote the chapter,
"Airport Planning and
Design," published in
McGraw-Hills' *Handbook
of Transportation
Engineering*.

In the School of Psy-
chology, **Frank Webbe**
earned Fellow status in
the American Psycho-
logical Association. In his
Division of
Exercise
and Sport
Psychol-
ogy, only
about two
to three
percent
of members have Fellow
status. He also made two
presentations at the 113th
annual meeting of the
American Psychological
Association in Washing-
ton, D.C. They were the
Division 47 Presidential
Address, "What neuropsy-
chology offers to sport

psychology and sport
psychologists," and "Psy-
chological factors predict
disordered eating patterns
in female distance run-
ners." ... **Juanita Baker**
presented "Therapeutic
techniques encouraging
full disclosure for chil-
dren and teens who have
been sexually abused" at
a training workshop for
Children's Medical Ser-
vices in Tampa and
"Foster parents helping
children in matters
regarding sexual abuse,"
a foster care workshop
held in Cocoa Beach.

Lisa Steelman, with **Teri
Domagalski**, College of
Business, published "The
impact of work events
and disposition on the
experience and expres-
sion of employee anger"
in *Organizational Analy-
sis*. Also, Steelman, with
Kelly Rutkowski, Ph.D.
'03, published "Testing a
path model for anteced-
ents of accountability" in
the *Journal of Managerial
Development*.



Frank Webbe

Correct!

Rodd Newcombe, Evans
Library, correctly spells a word
at the Florida Public Relations
Association's Community Leaders
for Literacy Spelling Bee. Held in
the Gleason Performing Arts Cen-
ter, the bee earned over \$1,500
for the Literacy Program of the
Brevard County Libraries. Also on
the Florida Tech team were **Scott
Blackwell** (C) and University
College Dean **Clifford Bragdon**.



Florida Tech Offers Katrina Refuge

Three graduate and six undergraduate students, from three different New Orleans-area universities, have enrolled for the fall semester at Florida Tech. The students are not being charged tuition.

The undergraduates comprise four freshmen and two seniors. Four of the students are from the University of New Orleans (UNO), four from Tulane University, and one from Xavier University. In addition to free tuition, several of the students are living with faculty and staff members at the university.

"Enrolling these students has been a team effort of our admission offices, registration center and academic departments," said **Cookie Young**, registrar.

Each student has a story, and each a distinct reason for choosing to call Florida Tech home this fall. One UNO student, **Ryan Costanzo**, has a family tie to Florida Tech, as his identical twin brother Sean is a student here.

Top Programmers Compete on Campus

The Department of Computer Sciences will host the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) International Collegiate Programming regional competition, again this year, on Oct. 15. About 70 teams of three students each, from five states, will compete for five hours in solving programming problems. The best team will represent the region at the world finals in April 2006.

Florida Tech will enter four teams. For more information, contact adviser and regional programming contest coordinator, **Ryan Stansifer** at ext. 7156.

Another Florida Tech-NASA Link

A little-known connection between the university and NASA is the back-up communication link that F.I.T. Aviation provides during space shuttle launches. One of F.I.T. Aviation's Piper Warrior aircraft is equipped with special communication equipment provided by NASA. In the event NASA's primary communication link with the shuttle fails, the F.I.T. Aviation plane is the backup communication link.

"Our aircraft circles west of Kennedy Space Center over the Indian River at 4,500 feet. It is in position two hours before launch," said **Frank Gallagher**, director, F.I.T. Aviation LLC.



Mission to New Orleans

F.I.T. Aviation granted permission to senior **Mark Hinczynski**, an aviation management with flight major, to take freshman **Billy LaCorte** to survey damage of LaCorte's home in Jefferson Parish, following Hurricane Katrina. The pair found the house, in the New Orleans area of Metairie, still bearing a five-foot water level mark and badly damaged from flood and mold. Hinczynski is pictured here on the return flight. He holds a commercial pilot certificate and is pursuing a Certified Flight Instructor certificate.

Plant Sale on the Quad

The Florida Tech Botanical Garden Fest Plant Sale offers plant lovers a chance to buy greenery and garden décor as well as support the Botanical Garden on Oct. 15, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The sale, offering ornamental shrubs, trees, bromeliads, orchids and other flowering plants, statuary, pottery and more from a variety of independent vendors, takes place in the academic quad behind the Miller Building. Admission is free.



Proceeds will benefit the continuing restoration of the Botanical Garden. For more information, contact **Bobbie Taylor** at ext. 6155.

Still Among Nation's Elite

For the 16th consecutive year, *U.S. News and World Report* ranked Florida Tech among the nation's best national doctoral universities. The listing again places the university among the 180 best.

The university is classified by the Carnegie Foundation as a Doctoral Research Intensive university, a classification that separates it from institutions that only offer degrees at the bachelor's or master's level.

Notable in the *U.S. News* survey was Florida Tech's climb to 56 percent of classes with under 20 students, up from 46 percent in the 2004 guide. Conversely, the number of classes with more than 50 students continued to decrease, from eight percent in 2004 to three percent today.

Florida Tech's freshman classes continue to be academically strong, with 30 percent of incoming freshmen in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class.

In other news, *The Princeton Review* named Florida Tech a Best Southeastern College for 2006, for the second consecutive year. The designation was based strictly on interviews with students from more than 600 colleges around the United States.

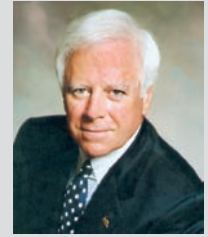


Enjoying a social moment are (L to R) Ken Droscher, asst. vice president, advancement; his wife Mary; Tom Fox, senior vice president for advancement; and his wife Mary.

Come to President's Picnic

Be ready to enjoy fun, fellowship and food from Woody's BBQ at the second annual President's Picnic on Saturday, Oct. 22, noon to 4 p.m. President **Anthony J. Catanese** invites all faculty, staff and their families to the event at the intramural soccer field, located behind the Psychology Building. Last year it was a day to relax and regroup in between hurricanes. Let's hope that this year it's just a day to relax.

From the President's Desk



Anthony James Catanese

Over the past few weeks the latest college rankings have arrived from a variety of sources, and all continue to paint a bright portrait of our university. *U.S. News and World Report* still ranks us in its third tier of national doctoral universities, and *The Princeton Review* has again named us as one of the top universities in the Southeast. Although *U.S. News and World Report* uses a variety of criteria to create its sometimes controversial rankings, *The Princeton Review* bases its ranking primarily on interviews with undergraduate students.

While both of these new rankings, along with previous notations in *Barron's Best Buys in Higher Education* and in the *Fiske Guide to Colleges*, do much to boost our reputation and collective ego, our goal in the coming year should be to build on and improve these rankings.

We are improving in many of the key elements used in the *U.S. News* rankings. Our percentage of classes with fewer than 20 students is increasing, while the number of classes with more than 50 students has experienced a sharp decline. Our student-to-faculty ratio stands at 9:1, and these students are trending upward both in S.A.T. scores and in high school GPA. Once they graduate, these students are giving back to their alma mater in increasing numbers.

But there is still more to do. We will spend more time telling our story to opinion leaders in higher education. We will make it our mission to improve our retention efforts and graduation rates. And, we will continue to focus on fundraising. Doing these things will not only benefit our rankings, but make for a stronger, better university.