FSGC Funds Projects

Several faculty have projects underway through $3,000 to $15,000 grants earned in May from the Florida Space Grant Consortium (FSGC). Clayton Baum and Al Brown, chemistry, are developing a fluorescence sensor for the low-level detection of hydrazines. These are hazardous chemicals that are used as space industry fuels. Jim Mantovani and undergraduate Alina Hirschmann, physics and space sciences, are studying the properties of Martian and lunar soil simulants. In that same department, Hamid Rassoul’s and Joseph Dwyer’s grant will fund their energy measurement for time-of-flight.

‘Woodsy’ Residence Halls in the Works

Groundbreaking for Florida Tech’s first new residence halls since the early ’70s is tentatively set for this October. If all goes as planned, the Garden Apartments at Crane Creek will be ready for students at the start of the fall 2002 semester. They’ll be built on a five-acre site behind Roberts Hall, north of Crane Creek. The creek separates the residence halls from the botanical garden. Officially designated protected wetlands, the garden will remain untouched. A 55-foot natural, undisturbed buffer will remain at the edge of the Florida Tech property.

The residence halls—four, three-story buildings—will have “a residential, non-institutional look,” said Dan Wolfe, facilities management. “Care will be taken to maintain a natural look for the site.”

They’ll feature 1,100-square-foot units, each containing four-bedrooms, two baths, and a living room and dining area. Each building, which will house 48 upperclassmen and graduate students, will be 14,352 square feet—close to the floor space of Brownlee Hall. With the total project adding 192 beds, the apartments will increase residence hall capacity by about 20 percent.

A commons building at the front of the property will include meeting rooms, a laundry facility, student lounge and the resident director’s apartment. Vehicular traffic will be limited to service and emergency vehicles and the access road will be gated. Students will park in the lots along Country Club Drive and access the new buildings only.
Faculty and Staff News

In biological sciences, Richard Turner, Paula Mikkelson '94 Ph.D., and former faculty member Mike Hartman published "Biology and Management of the Florida Applesnail" in Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission: Tallahassee ... Arvind Dhople was invited to be an external examiner for a doctoral thesis from a student at the University of Regensburg College of Pharmacy in Germany ... A paper by Junda Lin and Dong Zhang '97 M.S., '00 M.S., "Reproduction in a simultaneous hermaphroditic shrimp, Lysmata wurdemanni; any two will do?" was accepted for publication in Marine Biology. Mary Bonhomme, School of Extended Graduate Studies, served as a peer reviewer of papers submitted to the Educational Research and Methods Division of the American Society for Engineering Education and the Association for Educational Communications and Technology. Jerry Cahill, School of Business, published the article, "Business strategy: formulation, implementation and control" in the Russian journal, Theoretical and Practical Aspects of Management. Lars Jones, humanities and communication, delivered a paper based on his research at the 36th International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, Mich. The paper was titled "A Description of the Episcopal Palace in Le Mans." He also chaired two interdisciplinary sessions at the congress. Additionally, Jones was elected vice president of the 14th-Century Society.

Boeing's Wheeler is New Electrical Engineering Chair

Joseph C. Wheeler, The Boeing Company program manager, will join Florida Tech this fall as new Electrical and Computer Engineering department head. Wheeler brings a lifetime of military and business leadership experience to the position. Fred Ham, College of Engineering, said, "I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Wheeler for the past three years in the area of infrasound research. He is a visionary and will lead the department to new heights." A retired U.S. Air Force colonel, Wheeler has a distinguished record of industrial and academic achievement as well. He has published several articles and presented several papers at conferences relating to infrasound data processing. He earned his doctoral degree in electrical engineering from the University of New Mexico.
OSL Recognizes Leadership

The Organization of Student Leaders (OSL) presented its 2000-’01 awards recently. Named by OSL as Teachers of the Year were: Benjamin Sawyer, physics and space sciences; Ronald Hansrote, aviation studies; Frank Webbe, School of Psychology; Syed Murshid, electrical and computer engineering; and Mike Slotkin, School of Business.

Among the many students receiving OSL recognition was Jennifer Urbauer, a junior aerospace engineering major. She was named Student Leader of the Year.

Outstanding Contribution by a Staff Member

On Sabbatical

Three faculty members will take sabbaticals during the next academic year. R.H. Cofer, electrical and computer engineering, will continue work for ImageLinks, a Melbourne-based high-tech imagery company. He will be involved in an open source code development (free to all parties) project, which entails the automatic extraction of cartographic imagery data. Cofer will collaborate with many institutions around the world and will bring in Sam Kozaitis, electrical engineering, in the fall to support road detection in the cartographic feature extraction process.

Because much of Cofer’s work is Internet-based, he’ll be free to enjoy travel throughout the year, while conducting his research. Gary Howell, mathematical sciences, will join a group of researchers on the campus of Meteo, the French weather bureau, in Toulouse, France. He’ll also be at the University of San Francisco, UC Berkeley and, possibly, Stanford University. His work is to design computer algorithms for better serial and parallel efficiency. He’ll spend part of the year at home in Melbourne, on campus, implementing algorithms for the department’s new 48-processor IBM Beowulf supercomputer, named “Blue Marlin.”

Richard Turner, biological sciences, will work on two books, a field guide to the flora and fauna of the Indian River Lagoon (IRL), and a natural history of the IRL and, possibly, a third book—a marine biology text. He’ll also be completing some journal articles and long-term research projects, and developing grant proposals.

Transitions

Who’s New: David Nichols is work foreperson, grounds; Marcia Holland is library technician specialist, Evans Library; Kelli Bush is a senior administrative clerk, School of Extended Graduate Studies (SEGS), Redstone, Ala., Center; Robin Smith is office administrator, SEGS, Fort Lee, Va., Center; Gerald McCoy is a cook, Evans Dining; Beth Sacksteder is assistant director of student activities; Walter Mroz is a security guard; Jackie Battisti is administrative secretary, development; Christine Cyphers is administrative secretary, Department of Marine and Environmental Systems; Alan Jorgensen is senior research scientist, computer engineering; Denise Touma is an administrative clerk, financial aid; Matthew Wright is a senior painter and Perry Stites Jr. is a carpenter A, facilities management; and Carolyn O’Brien is student employment specialist, career services.

"New Residence Hall" continued from page 1

on foot from the campus, using a pedestrian bridge over Crane Creek.

The university has contracted with University Housing Services Inc. of St. Petersburg, Fla., to plan and construct the new facilities. The firm has constructed university residence halls around the country. The estimated cost of the project is about $7 million.

“The buildings will be self-supporting and provide positive cash flow for further renovations in housing and dining on campus,” said Wolfe. “When completed, they’ll give us the option of taking another residence hall offline for more than a summer, if needed.”
Skelly Supports Endowment

The Gertrude E. Skelly Charitable Foundation of Boynton Beach, Fla., has given another $50,000 to endow the Skelly Fellowship in Marine and Environmental Systems. The foundation has provided $200,000 for this endowment to date. The donations, matched by the F.W. Olin Foundation, now permit the Department of Marine and Environmental Systems to offer Skelly Fellowships totaling $20,000 next year.

The gift was made in memory of Gertrude E. Skelly. She established the foundation in 1991 to provide medical care and educational opportunities for those who cannot otherwise afford them.

DMES Award Memorializes Student

The Department of Marine and Environmental Systems (DMES) has awarded Eva Weissman the Damon A. Monsour Award. Weissman, who earned her bachelor's degree in ocean engineering in May, will join the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Co. in Newport News, Va. She will work on the design and construction of nuclear submarines.

Eva was president of the student chapter of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers and the Marine Technology Society. "She was also very active in student activities, was most helpful to her fellow students and was always pleased to lend a hand," said George Maul, DMES head.

Monsour (1963–1987), a DMES undergraduate, died while crossing Babcock Street, near the campus. Monsour is remembered as "an optimistic, enthusiastic, respected student, known for his great sense of humor, permanent smile and willingness to help in any way possible," said Maul. The award is given annually to a student in the department who consistently demonstrates Monsour's positive attitude in class and field activities.

WFIT Reprises Miles Davis Program

In honor of the 75th anniversary of Miles Davis' birth (May 25, 1926), WFIT will broadcast the re-release of the Peabody Award-winning series of eight one-hour programs featuring Davis' career. This landmark production, hosted by Danny Glover, will be broadcast at 7 p.m., Monday through Thursday, May 21–31 on WFIT (89.5 FM). You can still catch the last couple of hours.

In the first two decades of his solo career, Davis recorded several masterpieces, including Birth of the Cool, Miles Ahead, Porgy and Bess, Milestones and Kind of Blue. During the late '60s, Davis and his quintet engaged in the magical alchemy of jazz improvisation. He veered radically from jazz tradition in the late '60s to early '70s, under the influence of such artists as Jimi Hendrix and Sly Stone. He died in 1991.

"TeachXperts" continued from page 2
Illness: Matthew Ruane, Holy Name of Jesus Women's Guild, "Hollywood and History: Fact or Fiction in Film;" and John Patton, League of Women Voters, "Free Trade."

"FSGC projects" continued from page 1
mass spectrometers project.
Chelakara Subramanian and undergraduate Herb Guttlar, mechanical and aerospace engineering, are involved in the remote sensing of lightning through clouds. Subramanian and Kunal Mitra earned funds for a radiative transfer model for lightning remote sensing.