Welcome

On behalf of Florida Institute of Technology, welcome to the Florida Tech’s Online University. We applaud your efforts to continue your education.

We hope you find this newsletter valuable to you. It contains information you’ll need to know about the term calendar, financial aid, and other areas for your successful pursuit of your degree.

If you have suggestions about additional information this newsletter should contain, send this information to Andrea Morley who is our student newsletter editor at amorley@fit.edu

New Fraternity For Online Learning Students

By Vicky Knerly, Faculty/Staff Advisor, Theta Omega Gamma

For many students, the overall college experience is not complete without joining a campus organization such as a fraternity/sorority, club, sports team or other group based on common interests. Yet today, many students choose to pursue their education online for a number of different reasons, and joining an organization has been virtually impossible; until now, that is.

A group of Florida Tech University Online students is in the process of organizing a first-of-its-kind, online, co-ed service fraternity that will be known as Theta Omega Gamma (or TOG, for short). The organization is largely the brainchild of student, Darrek Battle, who is currently pursuing his B.A. in business administration with a concentration in computer information systems. Darrek researched organizations that were available for online students to join and found that nothing really existed for them currently. So, as he states, “I wanted to start TOG so that students who attend classes online at Florida Institute of Technology could have an organization to belong to. This way, we could experience the brotherly/sisterly love that campus-based organizations experience. I thought about starting a fraternity when I enrolled in school, because the online students should have a place to belong, network and socialize.”

So, using the Florida Tech Online Students page on Facebook, he reached out to see if other students would have an interest in such an organization. The response was enthusiastic. Over 80 students said they would be interested in joining the group. So Darrek set up the Theta Omega Gamma (online) page on Facebook, which currently has over 80 members.

After numerous discussions and formation of a steering committee to get the ball rolling, the organization is currently in the process of finalizing its existence. The TOG steering committee has voted on officers with Darrek Battle as its charter president, and they have adopted a constitution, by-laws, motto and creed.

Vicky Knerly of the department of online program administration at Florida Tech has agreed to serve as the group’s faculty/staff advisor. In addition, they are

continued on page 2
New Fraternity For Online Learning Students
continued from page 1
also working on a crest for the organization and are looking into designing T-shirts with the fraternity’s crest and/or logo on it. The Web site is in the process of being set up at www.thetomega-gamma.org. Working with the folks in the Student Activities office, the fraternity is in the process of finalizing the paperwork needed for official recognition at Florida Institute of Technology.

Giving birth to a new organization, especially one as unique as Theta Omega Gamma, is no easy task. As Battle stated, “I knew this would be hard to get going, but it hasn’t been as hard as I expected. Things have gone rather smoothly for the most part, especially since the school is backing us and the fraternity members and faculty advisor are all on board 100%.” Still, there are many processes involved in organizing a new fraternity that most people wouldn’t think about, such as incorporating so that the group can set up a bank account to handle dues and income from fundraising as well as to pay expenses. Since the fraternity will not initially be eligible for funding from the university, they must be completely self-sufficient financially.

Eventually, TOG will participate regularly in service projects they decide on, so the fraternity will be more than just a networking and social club. Florida Tech is known as a university with an extremely high rate of participation in community activities, and Theta Omega Gamma will be no exception. The only difference is that TOG is not limited to the Melbourne area where the campus is located or to the State of Florida, for that matter. They have the potential for a global reach with their service efforts, since online students are located literally around the world.

So what is the vision for Theta Omega Gamma? As President Battle sees it, “My vision for TOG is to see it become a fully functional fraternity for years to come, and hopefully expand to other colleges and universities with online programs in the future. I want to set the bar for all students who attend their schools online and want to start their own organization.”

Current officers of the Theta Omega Gamma fraternity are:

President: Darrek Battle, B.A. Business Administration/Computer Information Systems
Vice President: Shaunika Sellers, B.A. Business Administration/Management
Secretary: Crystal Wilson, B.A. Accounting
Financial Officer: Christina Jones, B.A. Business Administration/Accounting
Recruitment Officer: Quiana Bradshaw, M.S. Information Technology
Orientation Officer: Tia Allen, B.A. Business Administration/Management
Community Service Officer: Stephanie Kagley, A.A. Criminal Justice
Webmasters: Angela Stevens, B.A. Business Administration/Computer Information Systems
Jeff Salzman, B.A. Business Administration/Computer Information Systems

For more information on Theta Omega Gamma or to apply for membership in the fraternity, please contact Recruitment Officer Quiana Bradshaw at qbradshaw@fit.edu or (919) 344-3179, or contact President Darrek Battle at dbattle2009@my.fit.edu or (813) 458-1505.

FYI Policy for Students
Policy regarding math and communication required courses
The term after completing the diagnostic assessment as part of ASC 1006 Mastering e-learning (typically this would be the student’s second term), depending on the results of the diagnostic assessment, students must register for either a math course

- MTH 0003 Basic Algebra (3 credit hours but credits may not be applied to any Florida Tech degree)
- MTH 0111 Intermediate Algebra (3 credit hours but credits may not be applied to any Florida Tech degree)
- MTH 1701 College Algebra (3 credit hours)
- MTH 1703 Finite Mathematics (3 credit hours)

or a communication course

- COM 0110 Basic Writing Skills (3 credit hours but credits may not be applied to any Florida Tech degree)
- COM 1101 Composition and Rhetoric (3 credit hours)
- COM 1102 Writing about Literature (3 credit hours)

The following term, the student should register for whichever one (MTH or COM) was not yet taken. Both sequences of courses should be finished by the end of the first year.

Students who have applicable transfer credits in the MTH and COM area should complete whatever requirements are missing by the end of the first year.
## Financial Aid Corner

If you are interested in receiving federal financial aid, complete your 2010–2011 FAFSA using your 2009 tax information at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Our federal school code is: 001469. A financial aid counselor will e-mail your financial aid package to your student e-mail address after you have been fully admitted to the university. Check your student e-mail account frequently for important financial aid and academic updates.

Remember, students can access their loan information for all schools previously attended by logging onto www.nsls.ed.gov. Undergraduates can borrow a max of $57,500 and graduates can borrow a max of $138,500. Students must resolve any overpayments, defaults or other problems prior to being awarded by financial aid.

To access your Florida Tech student e-mail account (Squirrel Mail), visit https://webaccess.fit.edu. Your login ID and password will be the same as your PAWS account, www.fit.edu/paws.

Financial Aid: (321) 674-8270 for UA Students
E-mail: uafinaid@fit.edu
FAQ Web Site: http://online.fit.edu/faq.php
Visit to learn more about University Alliance and financial aid.

---

### Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring 1—2010</th>
<th>Spring 2—2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Oct. 15:</strong></td>
<td>First day to register for Spring 2—2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nov. 27:</strong></td>
<td>Last day to file a Petition to Graduate for Spring 2—2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dec. 30:</strong></td>
<td>Last day to register for Spring 1—2010 without late fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dec. 31:</strong></td>
<td>First day to register for Spring 2—2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jan. 6:</strong></td>
<td>Last day for Spring 1—2010 confirmation of tuition or financial aid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jan. 6:</strong></td>
<td>Last day to register for Spring 1—2010 with late fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jan. 1:</strong></td>
<td>CLASSES BEGIN (Monday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jan. 17:</strong></td>
<td>Last day to withdraw from a course with full refund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jan. 18:</strong></td>
<td>Holiday (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Feb. 12:</strong></td>
<td>Last day to file a Petition to Graduate for Spring 2—2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Feb. 15:</strong></td>
<td>Holiday (Presidents Day)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Feb. 21:</strong></td>
<td>Last day to withdraw from a course with a W and no refund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>March 4:</strong></td>
<td>Last day for admissions eligibility for Spring 1—2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>March 7:</strong></td>
<td>Last day of classes (Sunday)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Spring 2—2010 | **Dec. 31:**  | First day to register for Spring 2—2010 |
| **Feb. 12:**  | Last day to file a Petition to Graduate for Spring 2—2010 |
| **Feb. 24:**  | Last day to register for Spring 2—2010 without late fee |
| **Feb. 25:**  | First day to register for Summer 1—2010 |
| **March 3:**  | Last day for Spring 2—2010 confirmation of tuition or financial aid |
| **March 3:**  | Last day to register for Spring 2—2010 with late fee |
| **March 8:**  | CLASSES BEGIN (Monday) |
| **March 14:** | Last day to withdraw from a course with full refund |
| **April 9:**  | Last day to file a Petition to Graduate for Summer 1—2010 |
| **April 18:** | Last day to withdraw from a course with a W and no refund |
| **April 22:** | First day to register for Summer 2—2010 |
| **April 29:** | Last day for admissions eligibility for Spring 2—2010 |
| **May 2:**   | Last day of classes (Sunday) |
| **May 7:**   | Spring Commencement Exercises (Friday) |

---

**Attention University Alliance online students, please follow these instructions:** If you would like to use your financial aid to pay for your books, you must complete the appropriate authorization at http://authaid.fit.edu, even if you think you already have authorized financial aid to pay for your books. The web application is the only method financial aid recognizes for these authorizations.
Bridging the Distance: New Database: Facts on File World News Digest

By Cheryl Davis

You’re taking one of the many fine classes here at Florida Tech and want to find out related news on your topic from authoritative sources—where to begin?

Why, at your library of course!

The Evans Library is pleased to announce the addition of the Facts on File World News Digest databases which provide authoritative and cross-referenced news and other factual information. From the LINK, the library’s home page at www.lib.fit.edu, go to Databases/Indexes under the Express Links.

Facts on File provides domestic and international news, and covers all major political, social and economic events since November 1940. Top news stories can be searched by decade, country or issue. Other special features include a listing of world leaders, presidential elections from 1940–present, and a listing of historical documents arranged by year.

Under the tab of curriculum tools, you’ll find aids for finding a research topic, country profiles, timelines of world events and more.

Helpful tutorials and other guides are there to assist you while using the resource.

Remember! If you have any questions, I am here to help. I can be reached at (321) 674-8766 or cdavis05@fit.edu. And, you can always use our Ask a Librarian service at http://lib.fit.edu/questionpoint.

Next time I will tell you about another great Evans Library resource that will help us all to bridge the distance.

Join Fellow Florida Tech Students In Oxford This Summer!

• Experience the face-to-face classroom with fellow Florida Tech students
• Earn 6 credits during 5 weeks, within the Summer 2 time frame
• Financial Aid is available for eligible students
• Travel on long weekends provided during the term
• Join field trips to castles, plays and historic sites

Class Dates: July 5–August 7, 2010
Deadline to apply: February 19

See www.fit.edu/iap/oxford for courses offered and more details.

Please note: Tuition charges are based on Melbourne campus rates. Financial Aid may apply, but students will incur out-of-pocket expenses.

Consult your academic department before selecting courses.

This program is available to undergraduate students only.

Florida Institute of Technology does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, color, religion, creed, national origin, ancestry, marital status, age, disability, sexual orientation, Vietnam-era veterans status or any other discrimination prohibited by law in the admission of students, administration of its educational policies, scholarship and loan programs, employment policies, and athletic or other university sponsored programs or activities.