



**Florida Institute
of Technology**
High Tech with a Human Touch™

The Web Alliance

A newsletter for the online student

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Fall Term 2009/86

Contact Information

Customer Service

CustomerService@
UniversityAlliance.com

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Monday–Friday
8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. ET

Tech Support

TechSupport@
UniversityAlliance.com

(800) 742-1309

Monday–Friday
8:30 a.m.–10:30 p.m. ET

Saturday
10 a.m.–6 p.m. ET

Sunday
11 a.m.–5 p.m. ET

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Welcome

On behalf of Florida Institute of Technology, welcome to 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.



*Mary S. Bonhomme, Ph.D.
Associate Provost
for Online Learning and
University Professor*

MBA Students Earn Award Certificates for Strategic Management Decisions

By Dr. John Patton

BUS 5480 students (Cathy Alleyne, Katherine Baker, Kelly Beeman and Daniel Thompson) were designated as Company F co-managers by the course instructor as they participated in the Business Strategy Game (BSG) simulation (www.bsg-online.com). Competing with six other teams in this class as well as over 700 other teams worldwide, the Company F team named "Fusion Feet," earned a Global Top 50 ranking of their company's BSG-online performance in three separate annual decision-making activities, as follows:

- During the week Aug. 17–23, 2009, they ranked 14th in the Top 50 for Return on Average Equity (ROE) with 36.4 percent.
- During the week Aug. 9–16, 2009, they ranked

48th in the Overall Game-To-Date Score of 106.0

- During the week Aug. 3–9, 2009, they ranked 37th in the Overall Game-To-Date score of 107.5.

The overall Game-To-Date score rankings are based on a 50%–50% weighting for the Investor Expectations Standard and the Best-in-Industry Standard so that the overall performance of all companies worldwide are calculated on the very same basis and thus truly comparable.

Performance is judged by the following five categories, each weighted at 20 percent:

1. Grow earnings per share at least 7 percent annually through year 15 of the BSG.
2. Obtain a Return on Equity (ROE) of 15 percent or more annually.

3. Maintain a B+ or higher credit rating.
4. Achieve stock price gains averaging 7 percent a year through year 15 of the BSG.
5. Achieve an image rating of 70 or higher.

The co-managers are charged with taking over the operations of an athletic footwear company that for the past 10 years has competed head-to-head for global market leadership, competing against rival athletic footwear companies run by other class members and students from other colleges. In a just completed year 10 revenues amounted to \$230 million and net earnings of \$25 million equal to \$2.50 per share of common stock. It maintained an ROE of 17 percent and a solid B+ credit rating. In this experiential

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Account Refunds

By Teresa Williford, Director of Student Finance and Treasury Operations

Often, students receive financial assistance and/or payments that exceed the tuition and fees charged for the semester. In this case, the student is eligible to receive a refund of the credit balance on their student account. All refunds will be processed in the form of a check payable to the student.

University Alliance Students

Students with a credit balance not resulting from financial aid should contact their University Alliance representative for refund instructions.

Beginning with the Fall II 2009 Term

Students with a credit balance resulting from financial aid will automatically have the refund processed after the ninth business day of class and will no longer be required to request the refund. Any additional credit balances created after this period will be processed weekly. Please allow four (4) business days for processing and mailing after the date of the refund transaction. The quickest and most convenient method for the student to determine if the STUDENT REFUND has been processed will be to check the student account on PAWS. Refund checks will be mailed to the MAILING address unless a STUDENT REFUND address has been updated on PAWS. Students should verify their address each semester to ensure the check will be mailed to the desired address.

Please be reminded if you are receiving Federal Title IV Funds (grants such as Pell, ACG, SMART, etc. or loans such as Stafford or Plus) and you wish for these funds to pay for charges other than tuition such as books for example, Florida Tech must have your authorization to do so. If you intend to use your financial aid for these types of charges, please use this link to the authorization page, <http://authaid.fit.edu>. If you have not made this authorization, then Florida Tech is required to refund you the entire

E-mail Information

By Rhian Resnick, Systems Analyst, Information Technology

All Students,

Google Applications is live at Florida Tech! Join the 3,065 users who have already made the switch. This new system, powered by Google, provides Gmail to the university, as well as a suite of other Google products that enable everyone to better communicate, share and collaborate. Optional migrations are occurring now. Be sure to watch for more information regarding the mandatory transition Dec. 14, 2009 on the IT Google Applications Project Page (<http://it.fit.edu/accounts/google.php>) and our Google Applications FAQ.

Please remember:

1. Your current Florida Tech e-mail address {TRACKS}@fit.edu will continue to be active until Aug. 2, 2010.
2. You must inform people of your new e-mail address {TRACKS}@my.fit.edu by Aug. 2, 2010.
3. To avoid being blocked by SPAM checks, all users of Outlook, Thunderbird and other e-mail clients must update their settings to use the new e-mail address {TRACKS}@my.fit.edu.

For more information, you can check out the Google Apps Help Center at www.google.com/support/a/users or watch video presentations below.

- E-mail—http://services.google.com/apps/resources/overviews_breeze/Mail/index.html
- Calendar—http://services.google.com/apps/resources/overviews_breeze/Calendar/index.html
- Docs—http://services.google.com/apps/resources/overviews_breeze/DocsSpreadsheets/index.html

We will be in touch again when we get closer to completing the transition to Google Apps.

MBA Students Earn Award Certificates for Strategic Management Decisions

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learning simulation game, the student teams begin making decisions for year 11 with each decision period representing a year. However, in the class, these decisions are entered weekly through year 15 and must consider over 70+ decision variables since this footwear company operates in four geographic regions (Europe-Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and North America).

The distinguished team awarded certificates for the caliber of their decisions in the BSG ended year 15 with the following results: Revenues, \$604, 275; EPS, \$7.25; ROE, 26.4%; Stock Price, \$116.59; Credit Rating, B+; and Image Rating of 86. We congratulate the team for their distinguished performance!

amount of your financial aid after tuition, which may cause a balance due on your student account. You will then be required to remit payment back to University Alliance for the remaining balance.

Note for All Students: Students who have received a refund from a financial aid overpayment and have withdrawn, or who have been over-awarded, may be required to repay a portion of their financial aid to Florida Tech. Students should access their student account through PAWS on a regular basis to stay informed regarding the status of their student account.

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.

Goings on at the College of Business

By Christopher J. Durie, Manager of Online Business Programs

While the 2009–2010 academic year has just started, many exciting events have taken place at the College of Business. The primary event is that we are no longer just the “College of Business.” Florida Tech is pleased to announce that due to a generous gift from Nathan M. Bisk, we are now the “Nathan M. Bisk College of Business.” Mr. Bisk is both a CPA and a lawyer who is a leader in the online education community. His company (Bisk Education) is responsible for allowing a consortium of schools and colleges to offer their degrees in an online format nationwide. The \$5 million gift that Mr. Bisk has given the school is to be used to support the Nathan M. Bisk College of Business in three ways. The gift will provide monies for the marketing of the business programs offered through the college, will allow for additional support as the online programs continue to grow, and will create an endowed chair to be named the Max, Edith and Robert Bisk Distinguished Chair of Business. The faculty and staff of the college would like to personally thank Mr. Bisk for his gift and his confidence in the good work that Florida Tech is doing in our online endeavors.

Besides the name, there have been other changes at the college. As of May 2009, all of the business programs are now overseen by the college. Because of this change and enrollment increasing to over 4,000 online students, we have hired three new program coordinators to join Dan Riding in his duties. The three new hires are responsible for assisting in the oversight of the academic subject

areas. They are Jarin Eisenberg (CIS/ITM), Jennifer Morin (marketing/healthcare management/project management) and Zachary Gabe (accounting/finance). Dan Riding is now responsible for all management degrees and the HR minor. This restructuring will also aid us in our goal of attaining AACSB accreditation.



Christopher J. Durie

Important Dates

Fall 2—2009

Aug. 20: First day to register for Fall 2—2009

Oct. 2: Last day to file a Petition to Graduate for Fall 2—2009

Oct. 14: Last day to register for Fall 2—2009 without late fee

Oct. 15: First day to register for Spring 1—2010

Oct. 21: Last day for Fall 2—2009 confirmation of tuition or financial aid

Oct. 21: Last day to register for Fall 2—2009 with late fee

Oct. 26: CLASSES BEGIN (Monday)

Nov. 1: Last day to withdraw from a course with full refund

Nov. 11: Holiday (*Veterans Day*) Observed

Nov. 26: Holiday (*Thanksgiving*)

Nov. 27: Last day to file a Petition to Graduate for Spring 1—2010

Dec. 6: Last day to withdraw from a course with a W and no refund

Dec. 12: Fall Commencement Exercises

Dec. 17: Last day for admissions eligibility for Fall 2—2009

Dec. 20: Last day of classes (Sunday)

Spring 1—2010

Oct. 15: First day to register for Spring 1—2010

Nov. 27: Last day to file a Petition to Graduate for Spring 1—2010

Dec. 30: Last day to register for Spring 1—2010 without late fee

Dec. 31: First day to register for Spring 2—2010

Jan. 6: Last day for Spring 1—2010 confirmation of tuition or financial aid

Jan. 6: Last day to register for Spring 1—2010 with late fee

Jan. 1: CLASSES BEGIN (Monday)

Jan. 17: Last day to withdraw from a course with full refund

Jan. 18: Holiday (*Martin Luther King Jr. Day*)

Feb. 12: Last day to file a Petition to Graduate for Spring 2—2010

Feb. 15: Holiday (*Presidents Day*)

Feb. 21: Last day to withdraw from a course with a W and no refund

March 4: Last day for admissions eligibility for Spring 1—2010

March 7: Last day of classes (Sunday)

Request from the Editor

If you have any ideas or success stories to share with us, e-mail me at amorley@fit.edu

Bridging the Distance: Reference Sources

By Cheryl Davis

Do any of these scenarios seem familiar?

- You're writing your research paper and you are unsure of the spelling of a word ...
- You're seeking information on the professional associations in your field of study ...

Don't know where to begin? Facts, definitions, synonyms or statistics are just a few clicks away. Evans Library has organized a comprehensive listing of the best online reference sources.

From the LINK, the library's home page at www.lib.fit.edu, under Express Links, click on Best Internet Sites and then look for Reference Sources.

Here you will find Web sites for

- Almanacs—great for quick facts
- Dictionaries—English and foreign language options
- Encyclopedias—helpful when beginning to gather information on a potential research topic
- Quotations—both classic and contemporary
- Statistics—national and international



Cheryl Davis,
Distance Learning
Librarian

- Style guides—MLA, APA, etc.
 - Thesauri—Roget's and others
 - U.S. Societies and Associations—professional and academic
- 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*.

Financial Aid Corner



If you are interested in receiving federal financial aid, complete your 2009–2010 FAFSA using your 2008 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.

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

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.

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.

VA Corner

We're proud to educate our nation's finest with military tuition assistance and veterans education benefits. Questions about your veterans' education benefits?



Katie Werner,
VA Representative

Contact your VA Representative, Katie Werner, at (321) 674-8207 or cwerner@fit.edu.

The Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 or "New GI Bill" has been enacted into law. It will become effective Aug. 1, 2009. For more information, go to www.gibill.va.gov.

ATTENTION VETERAN AND MILITARY STUDENTS!

If you have registered for classes and want to use your GI Bill benefits, you will need to request them. You can submit a request form at https://dl.fit.edu/forms/ua/va_certification

Teacher of the Year Award

We are announcing the launch of a teacher of the year award in which students can nominate faculty teaching in the eight-week online programs. The nomination forms will be available to the students via the LMS during weeks 6 and 7 of each term. Specific details as to when the announcement of the winner(s) will be made, etc. will be provided at a later date.

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