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.

Facilitator Spotlight
By Maya Oluseyi
Facilitating the Mastering eLearning class allows me to play active roles enabling students to reach their educational goals and assisting students in their transition to Florida Tech’s online community. Being a main player in making a difference in students’ lives motivates me to approach the class with great care and attention.
This experience has been one of the most rewarding of my life. The students represent a diverse demographical group from various parts of the country, encompassing different age levels, educational achievements and professions. But the overarching reason why the students are taking a course at Florida Tech is to obtain a college degree. And for those who also work full time, doing it online is more convenient. For some, taking a class after so many years can be intimidating. The resources that Florida Tech provides help to ensure an easier transition for students and aid in their success.
In the beginning of the class, there was a certain anonymity and lack of identity among my students, which can be expected in an online class environment. However, with the consistent use of message boards and threaded discussions, I began to see each student as an individual rather than just a name across the screen. My students are now more willing to engage me and their peers proactively. The students’ genuine effort to share and learn simultaneously has established a community of support and inspiration. I am proud and privileged to be part of such a dynamic process of learning.

“Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined.”
—Henry David Thoreau
FYI Policy for Students

Policy regarding math and communication required courses

During 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.

Important Dates

**Spring 1—2009**

- Oct. 16 - First day to register for Spring 1
- Dec. 31 - Last day to register for Spring 1 without a late fee
- Jan. 7 - Last day for Spring 1 confirmation of tuition or financial aid
- Jan. 7 - Last day to register for Spring 1 with a late fee
- Jan. 12 - CLASSES BEGIN (Monday)
- Feb. 16 - Holiday (Presidents Day)
- Feb. 22 - Last day to withdraw with a W and a no refund
- Mar. 6 - Last day to file a Petition to Graduate for Summer 1 2009 without a late fee
- Mar. 8 - Last Day of Classes (Sunday)
- Mar. 9 - Last day to register for Spring 2 with a late fee
- Apr. 19 - Last day to withdraw with a W and no refund
- May 1 - Last day to file a Petition to Graduate for Summer 2 2009 without a late fee
- May 3 - Last Day of Classes (Sunday)
- May 8 - Spring Commencement Exercises (Friday)

**Spring 2—2009**

- Jan. 1 - First day to register for Spring 2
- Feb. 25 - Last day to register for Spring 2 without a late fee
- Mar. 4 - Last day for Spring 2 confirmation of tuition or financial aid

Online Learning Team at 2008 AHA Heartwalk

By Jennifer Morin, Team Captain

Florida Tech’s Online Learning Department participated in the 2008 annual American Heart Association Heartwalk on Sept. 27, 2008. Heart disease and stroke are our nation’s #1 and #3 killers respectively, and our Online Learning team, called the “APOL Gladiators,” proudly walked for a cause and worked diligently to raise over $1,685 to be used for the AHA’s critical research and education about heart disease. I would like to personally thank each and every one of our Online Learning staff members who participated in the Heartwalk fundraisers and event. All of this help put us in the Top 5 in funds raised. In addition to staffing a booth at the event to provide more information to the public about Florida Tech’s up-and-coming online undergraduate and graduate programs through the University Alliance, the team also coordinated art/entertainment auctions, dessert auctions, raffles and candy sales to raise funds for the American Heart Association. Great Job, Team!

Team members back row, from left: James Almasi, Stephani Cuddie, Lisa Allsby, Jennifer Morin, Andrea Morley, Mary Bonhomme; front row, from left: Carolyn Farrior, Lisa Gill and Katie Werner at the Heartwalk event in Viera.
Bridging the Distance: RefWorks
By Cheryl Davis

You’ve finally finished conducting research for your paper and are now preparing to create the bibliography from your assortment of sticky notes, e-mails and scribbles in notebooks. There has GOT to be a better way. Relax! There is! RefWorks is here!

RefWorks is a citation management tool that helps you create your own personal online database of citations or references.

With RefWorks, you can:

• import references from library databases and other online databases
• organize your research citations in a variety of ways
• produce bibliographies in all major formats (MLA, APA, etc.)
• create in-paper citations and footnotes (Write n Cite feature)
• access your account from wherever you are

Such a deal!

To use RefWorks:

• sign up for an individual account (click on Register—first-time use only)
• enter required information including a login name and password

You may access RefWorks from the LINK (www.lib.fit.edu), by clicking on RefWorks under the Express Links.

A few points to consider:

• create a username and password separate from your TRACKS
• review the helpful tutorials available to enhance your RefWorks experience
• use the toolbar within RefWorks to access various areas/sections

Remember! If you have any questions, I am here to help. I can be reached at (321) 674-8766 or at cdavis05@fit.edu. Also research assistance is available by calling (321) 674-8021 during the following hours:

Monday–Thursday 10 a.m.–9 p.m. EST
Friday 10 a.m.–5 p.m. EST
Sunday 2 p.m.–9 p.m. EST

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

Financial Aid Corner

If you are interested in receiving financial aid, complete your 2008–09 FAFSA 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. Contact financial aid at (321) 674-8270 or uafinaid@fit.edu for assistance.

It is that time of year again! Starting on Jan. 1, 2009, you will be able to complete the 2009–10 FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov using your completed 2008 taxes. Each student will need to complete the new FAFSA by March 1 in order to have priority packaging for the summer terms.

Financial Aid Telephone Number: (321) 674-8270 for UA Students
Financial Aid E-mail: uafinaid@fit.edu

E-mail Information

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.

Please check this e-mail account frequently for important financial aid updates and university news.

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? 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.

Florida Institute of Technology
150 W. University Blvd.
Melbourne, FL 32901-6975
www.fit.edu

Editor and Publisher: Andrea Morley
Contact E-mail: amorley@fit.edu

Request from the Editor

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