Welcome to the “Silver Panther”

The newsletter by and for the professors emeriti of Florida Institute of Technology.

An Appeal for Help!!!

Welcome to the spring 2011 issue of the biannual newsletter for Professors Emeriti, intended to help keep you up-to-date on activities, events, and news of fellow emeriti. Well, it was supposed to be biannual, but as some of you may have noticed there was no fall issue this year. That is because the editor took a 12,063 mile road trip from Florida to Alaska and back and did not get home in time to put together your fall edition (See page 7). All of which brings me to the main point of the editor’s message this issue. This is the fourth academic year that I have edited The Silver Panther and it will be the last. Although I have very much enjoyed the work, I find myself traveling so much that it is impossible to fulfill my duties as editor. What this means is that we really need a volunteer to continue the publication. Hopefully one of you will step forward. I would be happy to help when I am in town, but someone else needs to take over the responsibility of soliciting the membership for information and putting it all together.

Thanks to everyone who contributed photos and articles to this issue. You might notice that the news is often about the same people. That is because they are the ones who send me information regularly. I know you are all involved in interesting activities and we’d like to hear from more of you. So please do not hesitate to inundate me with information for the next newsletter. For the time being, send your comments, news items, interest articles, photos, and travelogues to Carol Philpot at drgender@cfl.rr.com. I will pass them on to the new editor when he/she volunteers.

Check Out the Professors Emeriti Web Page!

Be sure to visit the Florida Tech web site devoted to Professors Emeriti, updated by webmaster, Tom Stephens. Go to the quicklinks menu on the FIT home page and click on professors emeriti. You can also get there directly from the following address: http://research.fit.edu/emeritus/
Professor Emeritus Reception
Held on April 27, 2010

On Tuesday, April 27, a reception to honor the 2010 Professors Emeriti was held in the Hartley Room in the Student Union Building. Mr. Paul Davis, College of Aeronautics, and Dr. Russell Weigel, Biological Sciences, were welcomed into the Professor Emeritus Organization. Sixteen professors emeriti took the opportunity to catch up with one another while enjoying delicious refreshments.

Dean Winston Scott, College of Aeronautics, Addresses Professors Emeriti

The professors emeriti attended their fall luncheon on Tuesday, September 21 in the Board of Trustees Room. The speaker, Winston Scott, Dean of the College of Aeronautics, spoke on “The Status of Space Flight Today.” His talk focused on the potential results of the retirement of the Space Shuttle fleet and the current administration’s emphasis on turning space exploration over to commercial companies. He addressed several concerns including the inability of the US to transport astronauts to space, the potential loss of US leadership in engineering and science technology and space exploration and the inadequacy of private companies to meet the need with their current capabilities. He also indicated that there would be no real cost savings from the use of private space companies. Although there will clearly be a greater role for commercial/private space companies under the presentation administration, the future of NASA is unclear in the short term.

Upcoming Events

Emeritus Luncheon Tuesday, February 15, 2011, 12:00–2:00 PM – Board of Trustees Room,

Sporting Affair – Golf Tournament and Chopper Dropper, March 18, 2011

The Northrup Grumman Engineering and Science Student Design Showcase, Friday, April 1, 2011. Viewing and judging 11:00-4:00. Awards ceremony 5:00-6:00PM.

Faculty and Staff Service Awards, April 19, 2011, 3:00-5:00 PM – Gleason Auditorium

Honor’s Convocation, Thursday, April 21, 2011, 3:30 PM – Gleason Auditorium
Status of the Archiving Project

In 2007, the Florida Tech History Committee was formed to identify and collect memorabilia, publications, photographs, documents and other items of historic value. Although the Committee has representatives from many units within the university, until recently it was chaired by Professor Emeritus, Harry Weber, who had solicited the cooperation of the Professor Emeritus Organization in preserving Florida Tech’s story. The History Archive Project is dedicated to acquiring the space, funds and staff to protect the historical documents and collections.

For several years now the History Archive Project has been floundering without much progress. In an attempt to rectify that, President Gary Wells met with a number of people to determine what could be done. His first meeting with Celine Alvey was somewhat discouraging, as he ascertained that the amount of money to acquire an archivist, and prepare a workspace and storage space for the collection was well beyond the $25,000 we were attempting to raise for the Harry P. Weber Room. Dr. Alvey indicated that until there were resources and approval by the Provost, she would be unable to provide staff even to train volunteers to scan President Keuper’s scrapbooks.

Secondly, Dr. Wells determined the status of our fundraising efforts and archival acquisitions. There is still $13,000 donated by the alumni association which is available for the archival process. A little over $11,800 in donations has been received for the Harry P. Weber room. The Pioneer Video Project, consisting of interviews of the founding faculty of Florida Tech, needs to be edited and prepared to be used on the website, but at present no one is available to work on that. Bino Campanini agreed to work with Justin McKenzie on finding someone to tackle that project. Dr. Keuper’s scrapbooks need to be digitized and preserved.

The good news is that through the efforts of Ken Stackpoole, the Provost gave permission to Celine Alvey to devote some of her staff’s time to training volunteers to scan the clippings in the scrapbooks. In October several professors emeriti took a tour through the two library collections that are being archived now so that they could get a better idea what needs to be done. It will be necessary to not only scan the clippings, but to create a database structure to adequately digitize and make the information available. At present Gary Wells, John Morris, Dick Enstice, Harry Weber and Janet Woodyard have signed up for the training. More volunteers for this project will be needed from the Professors Emeritus Organization, so please let Gary know if you are interested.

Spring Luncheon to be held on February 15th

Don’t miss the spring Emeritus Faculty luncheon on Tuesday, February 15, 2011 at noon in the Board of Trustees Room, Denius Student Center. The guest speaker will be Dr. Geoffrey Swain, Department of Marine and Environmental Systems, College of Engineering. He will speak on improved antifouling and the “Green Ship”.

RSVP by February 10 to Janet Woodyard (gwoodyard@cfl.rr.com) or call 321-254-4513.
News from the Silver Panthers


Professors Emeriti Attend Homecoming Banquet

On November 6, the 2010 Homecoming Banquet was held in the new Panther Dining Hall. Two hundred sixty-four guests attended including several professors emeriti. Each college presented an award to an Outstanding Graduate of their College and the Alumni Association presented 3 awards, including University Advocate, which was won by Dr. Gordon Patterson.

John Morris and Gary Wells with Rich Aaronson at Banquet

Silver Panthers on the Go

Morris and Wells in the Southwest

Four months after our trip to the Yucatan, wanderlust had set in and we were ready to embark on another adventure. The Southwest was our destination, eating spicy foods, drinking margaritas and visiting canyons and pueblos was our goal. So on April 30th the Morris’ (John and Kate) and the Wells’ (Gary and Beverly) headed toward Leesburg, Alabama, to pick up Donna Olander (Charles didn’t want to go this time) and we headed for the high desert. Our first stop was in Prairieview, Louisiana, where Beverly’s son Lee and his wife live. For those of you who do not know where Prairieview is located, it’s south of Baton Rouge and just east of the crawfish capital of the world. So after sampling many Cajun delicacies and a good night sleep we headed toward Amarillo, Texas, 806 miles away. Donna did most of the driving, Kate and Gary helped her navigate and Bev and John kept us all supplied with water and snacks.

Since we only had a short run to Albuquerque (288 miles), we decided to do some exploring around Amarillo. The Big Texan is here. It’s a restaurant that features a 72 oz. steak and if you can eat it and all the trimmings, you get it free; otherwise it costs you 50 bucks. None of us felt that adventuresome so we moved on to Palo Duro Canyon State Park, which is about 30 miles southeast of Amarillo. Known as the “Grand Canyon of Texas”, the Palo Duro Canyon is the second largest canyon in the United States at 120 miles long. The Canyon is famous for the fact that you can be right on top of the canyon and not see it. Indians could hide from the cavalry there and years later, ranchers would over-winter their cattle there to protect them from the severe weather. There are plenty of walking and...
biking rails and you even have the opportunity to drive down into canyon. It is a beautiful canyon with many outlooks and vista allowing great opportunities to experience the canyon.

We left the canyon and made our way toward Albuquerque. While it was only 288 miles, it was very desolate with little more than rattlesnakes, sagebrush and opuntia (prickly pear) cactus to entertain us. We made it to Cedar Crest, New Mexico and checked in at “The Stables of Cedar Crest” a horse ranch that rents out a double-wide trailer to area visitors. It was very comfortable for the 5 of us with 3 bedrooms, two baths and a fully furnished kitchen. Cedar Crest is in the East Mountains on route 14; also know as the Turquoise Trail. Cedar Crest is also where Gary and Beverly’s son Randy and his wife Kathie live. Just up the road from Cedar Crest is Madrid, the old mining town, turned into an artist colony, made famous by the movie Wild Hogs. So, if you go, you must have a beer in the Mine Shaft Tavern and lunch in Maggie’s Diner.

The next day we headed toward Santa Fe and visited the Pecos National Historical Park. Central to the park is the Pecos Pueblo ruins. We took the 1.25 mile self-guided trail through all the ruins, the old mission church, dwellings and sacred ceremonial chambers, the Kivas. At its peak, the pueblo had over 2,000 inhabitants and was the juncture of trade between people of the Rio Grande Valley and hunting tribes of the buffalo plains. For you Civil War buffs, the battle of Glorieta Pass, including Apache Canyon, Canoncito and Pigeon's Ranch are all within the Pecos Historical Park.

After leaving the Pecos National Historical Park, we headed for the Pojoaque Pueblo visitor center. We discovered that there are only certain times of the year that you can visit many of the pueblos. At all other times the pueblos are off-limits. The Pojoaque Pueblo visitor center today serves as a modern-day co-op where the art (pottery, paintings, jewelry) from all the different Indian tribes in the area can be displayed and sold. So if you are ever in this area (20 miles north of Santa Fe) and are interested in Indian art, this is the place to go.

The following day we headed west out of Albuquerque to the Petroglyph National Monument. Petroglyphs are rock carvings thought to be made by the Puebloan Indians between 1300 and 1650. Most of the carvings are of plants, birds and other animals. It is not certain what the markings mean but it is clear that they all had religious meanings. Today, because of graffiti, it is often difficult to determine which of the carvings are authentic.

After leaving the Petroglyph National Monument, we headed farther west, about 60 miles to Sky City and the Acoma Pueblo. Approaching the Pueblo is an awesome sight. Built on a Sandstone Mesa 367 feet high, you can see the pueblo miles away. The Pueblo is still inhabited (12 families live there) and members of the Acoma tribe take turns living on the mesa for one year at a time. There is no water and no electricity available. It is just as it was thousands of years ago. It is considered an honor to be selected to live on the mesa. It was refreshing to see a fully habitable pueblo rather than ruins. Many of the Indians living on the mesa make and sell their own art and pottery and of course we had to buy some.

The next day was a shopping day for the girls. Randy’s wife Kathie, Donna, Kate and Beverly all went to Santa Fe for a shopping spree while Randy, John and Gary went to the Atomic Museum now named the National Museum of Nuclear Science and History in Albuquerque. The museum houses everything you ever wanted to know about the use of radioactive elements; how they have been used as instruments of war and also producers of energy. The actual casings of Fat Man and Little Boy (the only two atomic bombs to be dropped during a war) are there, as well as a plane similar to the Enola Gay which dropped Fat Man on
Hiroshima. All in all, the museum was a very enriching experience.

Randy and Kathie were great hosts for the 5 of us while we toured around the New Mexico desert. Both are Florida Tech alums. Randy received his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering in 1995 from Florida Tech and his M.S. from University of Florida in Mechanical Engineering/Dynamic Systems and Control in 2001. He currently works at Sandia National Labs in Albuquerque. Kathie received her B.S. in Marine Biology and Aquaculture from Florida Tech in 2002 and her M.S. in Environmental Science in 2004 also from Florida Tech. Kathie is employed by the State of New Mexico in the Environmental Science Department specializing in water quality. I would be remiss if I did not mention the other member of their family. Randy and Kathie adopted a greyhound that had retired from racing in 2007 and named him Sampson.

We left the Cedar Crest area and headed for home via Oklahoma and Alabama. We visited friends in Norman Oklahoma, dropped Donna off in Leesburg, Alabama and headed to Florida. It was a great trip but it was good to be home. You always have to rest up before you begin your next adventure.
Carol Philpot Drives 12,063 Miles to Alaska and Back (Well Almost)

There is a good reason you did not get a fall issue of the Silver Panther in 2010. Your editor was too busy putting mileage on her Lincoln Town Car!

This past July my husband and I drove from Florida to Niagara Falls, Canada, then across the Canadian Highway around the north shore of the Great Lakes, across Saskatchewan and Manitoba, to Calgary (home of the Stampede which we did see), and the gorgeous Canadian Rockies and finally on to Vancouver. From there we took a cruise/tour up the Inland Passage to Skagway where we departed the ship and took the White Pass/Yukon Railroad over the White Pass into the Yukon Territory (the emptiest place I have ever been unless you count the Atlantic Ocean). We went by bus as far north as Dawson City where we played golf on the northernmost golf course in the western hemisphere before we discovered the Top of the World highway was washed out and we had to be flown out in a DC4 held together with masking tape. (Not my favorite moment!) From there we visited Fairbanks from which my husband took a flight north across the Arctic Circle, just to say he had been there. Then on to Denali with its many grizzlies, wolves, foxes, Dahl sheep, caribou, and moose, where we never laid eyes on Mt. McKinley because of cloud cover. We did however play golf at Denali, so we could add Alaska to the list of states in which we have golfed. We took the McKinley Explorer (nice train with a dome car) to Anchorage (past Wasilla from which you cannot see Russia) and then returned from Anchorage to Vancouver on another cruise which took us past all the magnificent glaciers we missed by going inland on the way up.

After a detour to Vancouver Island, we visited Seattle, Mt. Rainier National Park, the Olympic Peninsula, the sand dunes and coast line of Oregon, and the National Redwood Forest in northern California, before experiencing our biggest trauma of the trip at Crater Lake. For those of you who have never been there, let me explain that Crater Lake is in a caldera and the road around it is basically a tightrope between an 8000 foot drop off the rim on one side and a 2000 foot drop into the caldera on the other, intimidating enough in good weather. But when we were there the top of the mountain was completely fogged in, zero visibility, with high wind gusts, and then it started to snow. So to sum it up, my poor husband was driving a two lane gravel road with no guardrails through a blizzard 8000 feet up! Thank gosh he’s from Minnesota.

We also drove through Idaho and Montana to Glacier National Park where it snowed on us again, but at least this time it was after we had driven the harrowing Going to the Sun Highway. We played golf in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana...
as we passed through. From Montana we drove home via Minnesota where we attended my husband’s fiftieth high school reunion and Ohio where we visited my daughter and family. I have only one more state to visit (Hawaii) and I will have driven through all fifty. Still need to golf in 25.

Since a picture is worth a thousand words, please view the highlights below.

Cowgirl Carol at the Calgary Stampede

Lake Louise, Alberta, Canada

Columbia Icefields

Escaping the Yukon Territory

Margerie Glacier

Mt. Rainier

Crater Lake in a blizzard
Juanita Baker: A Profile

Like many women of her generation, Juanita Baker’s career path was very much influenced by her family’s needs. Thus she began her career in Lahore, Pakistan, where her husband, Richard, worked as a medical entomologist for the University of Maryland. She developed a part-time private practice while raising her two daughters, taught at the all male Forman Christian College as well as started a psychological clinic in the pediatric department of Mayo Hospital, Lahore. At the time there was not much clinical practice in Pakistan; in fact the mentally ill were often hidden in back rooms of houses. Although the basic human needs remain the same, cultural differences added limitations for her dealing with client’s problems. This was particularly true for women, whose survival literally depended upon the protection of family, making divorce or for that matter marrying for love, almost impossible.

While there, Juanita devised the questions for a survey conducted by the Hospital staff who were surveying the families served. Among other results, she found that parents highly value education and hoped their children would become engineers or doctors even though they themselves had low annual ($350) income jobs. The emphasis on education was reflected in the children’s behavior even at very young ages. For example, she witnessed 100 five year olds sitting attentively in class learning math with one teacher. Ever see that here in the States? While the culture had high educational expectations, the children had no access to public libraries. Schools couldn’t afford enough books to allow children to take books home. So Juanita, with community members, collected books and started a children’s library that still serves youth.

The experience of living and teaching in Pakistan was enriching but not easy with disease, violence, lawlessness, and the 1971 war with India. Juanita with two girls and a container of live permitted mosquitoes evacuated one week before the war broke out. After 13 years in Pakistan, the Bakers returned to the states, in 1979.

The Bakers settled in Baltimore, Maryland, where Richard continued mosquito research for the University of Maryland and Juanita worked part-time at the Northwestern Community Mental Health Center and taught adjunct at Towson State University. After three years, Richard accepted the position of director of the University of Florida Medical Entomology Lab in Vero Beach. Much to Juanita’s dismay, Florida would not give reciprocity for her professional license from Maryland because she had not received supervision during her post-doctoral year. Thus, after 16 years of practicing psychology, Juanita sought supervision in order to obtain a license. This brought her to Florida Tech in 1984.

Elizabeth Wolf, Clinical Director in the School of Psychology, arranged for Juanita to direct the newly opened Psychological Services while receiving her year of supervision. Shortly after, Betty suggested Juanita write a grant for the Therapeutic Foster Home program, a parent training program for foster parents. Not long after obtaining the grant, Juanita was hired as an assistant professor when a faculty position opened in the School of Psychology.
During her tenure at Florida Tech, Juanita brought in over $2,000,000 in grant money for several projects, and the two programs she directed, the aforementioned Therapeutic Foster Home (1984-1989) and the Family Learning Program (1991-2007), a sexual abuse treatment program for families in which incest or sexual abuse has taken place. The grant money provided a means to effectively train students in research and treatment while providing a much needed service to the community. Over 1,000 clients were treated over the sixteen years Juanita directed the program. The program was Juanita’s pride and joy. Her fondest memories are of her interaction with the students in the program --- the supervision, training, research, and incidentally, the annual parties. And since she always tries to set things up for success so they will last without her, she is delighted Dr. Paula Wolfteich replaced her to direct the program when she retired four years ago.

Juanita is pleased with her other contributions to Florida Tech. She was appalled that there was no money for books or journals when she sat on the library committee, so she set up the Friends of the Library, a community fund-raising group to begin the library endowment. She chaired a fund-raiser to create the Carol L. Philpot scholarship fund for future family psychologists, taking advantage of the Olin matching grant, raising $70,000. She also believes she helped introduce art to the Florida Tech campus by convincing President Catanese to put the black panther statue on campus and acquiring the textile artist’s Sasha McInnis, Book collection (basic women’s studies), which eventually led to the founding of the Ruth Funk Center for Textile Art. Within the School of Psychology, she chaired the committee that developed the student faculty course evaluation form, suggested the development of a behavioral analysis program and contributed money to set up the Juanita Baker fellowship for doctoral students doing research on reducing violence against women and children.

Like other professors at Florida Tech, Juanita remembers the early days with very few resources --- no buildings, no money, no books, no facilities, not enough therapy rooms. These were the challenges. However, she greatly appreciates the creativity and freedom a small private university offers. Here, where faculty members were given the chance to build their own programs without the encumbrance of rigid rules, she thrived, despite limited resources.

Now in retirement, Juanita continues to contribute to Florida Tech --- soon to be is the creation of the Psychology Minute, an effort to educate the general public about psychological issues in one-minute broadcasts on WFIT. She is devoting more time now to her lifelong interests in art and birds as expressed in her and Richard’s 2003 book, *Reflections of Blue Cypress Lake* with their photographs and her poetry. One photo project is to teach children how to draw birds. And when she and Richard are not traveling somewhere to bird watch or view art, they work tirelessly to support the Pelican Island Audubon Society for which Juanita initiated the Bird Photo of the Month. Her life continues to be very full and exciting.