MONKEY BUSINESS
When it comes to endangered animal rescue and rehabilitation, Florida Tech doesn’t mess around.

AGENTS OF CHANGE
Addressing racism and inclusivity on and off campus

THE PROJECT MINDSET
How immersive, hands-on education fosters purpose, passion, prosperity

ORIENTATION: MORE THAN A MEETING
Prepping for the Panther rite of passage
Founded as Brevard Engineering College the same year as NASA in 1958, Florida Tech started as a night school for the early “missilemen” of the U.S. space program. Since then, countless students, alumni and faculty members have gotten involved with the space program through research, partnerships, internships and jobs—including five alumni astronauts! In our 60 years, we’ve found that one thing is certain: Whether from the beach or from campus, watching a live launch never gets old.

Florida Tech breeds success. How do we know? Stories like these.

Featuring current students, young alumni, thinkers, doers and innovators, none is the same as another. But they share a common theme:

THE RELENTLESS PURSUIT OF GREATNESS.

Shayna Begay ’10, ‘11 M.S., was featured on NBC News Learn’s “Discovering You: Engineering Your World” video series highlighting young, female engineers. A Navajo Native American who grew up on and off the reservation, Shayna discusses in the video how growing up learning skills like traditional rug weaving, silversmithing and pottery taught her to not only design things, but to physically create them. Today, she uses those same skills as an aerospace engineer at the Sandia National Laboratories, a New Mexico company that has been involved with the development of nuclear weapons since World War II.

"As a young Navajo growing up in a rural area, I didn’t have any examples of Native American women in STEM, and I was a first-generation college student. I think having a series like this helps expose students to the possibilities that exist for them," Shayna says. "We need more diversity in STEM because it brings different perspectives together and is crucial to analyzing and solving the problems of tomorrow."

Mat Jordan ’11 has a unique view from his desk, which some days, can be found thousands of miles underwater. As an electrical engineer for Triton Submarines, a private state-of-the-art submersible designer and manufacturer in Sebastian, Florida, Mat designs electrical systems and conducts field troubleshooting, piloting work and sea trials for various submarines. One such sub is the Triton 36000/2 model, the world’s deepest-diving, currently operational submarine in which a man recently became the first human to make multiple solo dives in the Pacific Ocean to Challenger Deep, the deepest point on Earth.

"It’s fun. I have been 1,000 meters underwater, which is by far, awesome," Mat says. "I know I’ve seen stuff that me and the two other people inside the sub are the only three people in the world to see."

Daniela Iacobelli ’09, who earned a full athletic scholarship to Florida Tech and went on to become the 2007 NCAA Division II national collegiate champion, has since gone on to play multiple years on the Symetra Tour and LPGA Tour. In June 2019, Daniela won her third professional golf title during the 2019 Symetra Tour in Harris, Michigan, earning an exemption into The Evian Championship, the fourth major on the LPGA Tour schedule that year in France.

"I wasn’t even thinking about winning on [that] Sunday. And it was my lowest final round with a win. But in the same sense, it felt the same as the others: inexplicable."

Tommy Luginbill, a Southern Maryland Education Center Doctor of Business Administration student, is the director of TechPort, an unmanned aircraft system (UAS) business incubator that, in response to the coronavirus pandemic, started using its 3D-printing capabilities to manufacture face masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE). Most notably, the team has developed a unique PPE sanitation device that is under review by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration. He and his team efforts received such an overwhelming community response that they started an official nonprofit, Southern Maryland (SoMd) Loves You. "We’ve donated to homes, hospitals, nursing homes. People are very grateful to say the least,” Tommy says.

Panthers on the Rise

continued on page 2
Having the intercultural competencies necessary to work across the globe on a daily basis,” she says. As mergers and acquisitions, resolutions and transactions group at American International Group Inc. (AIG) in New York City. A necessity, as she interface with teams in global strategic communication at Florida Tech. Kate developed a true love of learning through her bachelor’s and master’s degree in humanities and master’s degree in governance team works on complex interdependencies required for human space exploration. Though there are devastating, tragic situations in our world, the “nuta” are seeing people change, heal and become their best selves—which outweighs a lot of the bad,” she says.

Rob Himler ’14, ’15 M.S., is a self-professed storyteller with aviation in his blood. Since he was about 16 years old, manning the blares alongside his uncle, an aviator para-knapsack from the wake down. Rob knew that he would pursue a career in the industry. Today, Rob is the marketing and communications manager for Orlando Melbourne International Airport, where he has a hand in everything from operations to tourism to hospitality to the aerospace industry.

“Being the world from above—just having the controls of flight is absolutely incredible,” Rob says. “I would tell any student who is chasing a career in aviation, be relentless. Take initiatives. Take advantage of new opportunities because, with those, you’re going to learn; you’re going to gain more experience and, ultimately, take the industry to the next level.”

Doug Bianchi ’15, ’18 MBA, had developed a mobile app for his Florida Tech senior design project in 2015. While working full-time at Northrop Grumman Corp., he later prepared the app for a commercial launch in the App Store, only to find that it already existed. Fast-forward a couple of years, and using the basics from his original project, Doug developed and launched a new and improved app, Fish Navymen Lie. Merging the technical skills from his software engineering undergraduate experience with the controls of flight is absolutely incredible. For the experienced, knowledgeable and confident, to be able to do everything from chemistry to astrophysics to biology, even a little bit of psychology.”

Ashley Lundry ’06 was working on her meteorology degree at Florida Tech during the Space Coast’s historic 2004 hurricane season. Since then, the sky has definitely not been her limit. Today, Ashley serves as both a flight director for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Hurricane Hunters and as a reservist aerial administration. Since both a flight director for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Hurricane Hunters and as a reservist aerial administration. Since both a flight director for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Hurricane Hunters and as a reservist aerial administration. Since both a flight director for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Hurricane Hunters and as a reservist aerial administration.

“Failing the controls of flight is absolutely incredible,” Rob says. “I would tell any student who is chasing a career in aviation,”
The year’s events, and result ing debate, helped illum inate just how important educ ation is for the people who are carrying on those conversations today and who will someday soon be leading the charge toward a changed society.

Most important, it spurred action that is reshaping what students will learn about the world around them and how.

Florida Tech felt that spark.

In 2020, conversations surrounding race, diversity and equity were reigned across the country and in several places around the globe. Florida Tech felt that spark.

A STRONG FOUNDATION
For Furaha Merritt, Florida Tech’s inter national diversity and the academic rigor of its classes—things she looked for during her college search process—are a positive college experience thus far. But despite the diverse student population, on-campus international events and cultural clubs, like the Caribbean Student Association and the African Student Association, and others felt the absence of something that showcased their particular culture and experiences.

Guided by that desire and the goal of creating an organization that fostered a sense of family and community, Merritt helped found Florida Tech’s first Black Student Union (BSU) in August 2017. Today, the union has about 60 members, and some of their work has included packaging meals for families around the world, sending to at-risk youth during Black History Month and mentoring youth through after-school programs.

Merritt’s goal for the BSU is to see its growing impact to enact longer-term changes on campus in 2020.

The strides that Dr. McCay and Bino Campanini have taken show that not only do they listen, but they hear us.”

— Furaha Merritt, information systems senior and Black Student Union leader, which is what led Black Student Union members to approach Florida Tech officials about creating an African American studies minor.

A NEW CURRICULUM
Most recently, Black Student Union members approached Florida Tech officials about creating an African American studies minor. The first step in that process came to fruition: the launch of an African American studies minor program anchored by a new class that debuted in fall 2020, Modern African American Studies.

Offered by the School of Arts and Communication in the College of Psychology and Liberal Arts, Modern African American Studies is taught by Don Harrell, an African studies scholar, ethnomusicologist, folklorist and musician.

The class examines the African presence in the Americas pre-emancipation, the trans-Atlantic slave trade, the Emancipation Proclamation and the civil rights movement, as well as more current developments. Through providing information and developing perspectives, Harrell hopes students are able to make decisions about and better understand how they figure in today’s racial dynamics.

As it gets developed, the African American Studies program will involve interdisciplinary courses aimed at studying and further understanding the social, political, economic and cultural forces that impact the lives of Black people in the U.S. and those in the Caribbean, Africa and around the world.

“We don’t know that. “

— Don Harrell, adjunct professor, College of Psychology and Liberal Arts, Florida Tech

A Better Understanding
In the last year, the university has launched a broad array of initiatives for the campus community.

In July 2020, the university hosted “Let’s Talk: A Discussion of Race on Campus,” led by President Dwayne McCay and moderated by attorney and community leader Kendall Moore. The meeting featured students and faculty sharing experiences on and off campus, as well as discussing what could be done to improve race relations on campus.

When students returned to campus after months of all-online learning due to the coronavirus pandemic, the university hosted a second “Let’s Talk” session to build upon the previous and to open the discussion to a new audience with a new range of perspectives.

Other initiatives include additional educational opportunities within the university’s First Year Experience program, which assists all new undergraduate students on the Melbourne campus through their academic and social transitions to college. Likewise, Florida Tech is developing expansive new diversity training for university employees.

“You can only really begin to teach, in earnest, when people are listening. What has occurred is a critical point in time in our contemporary society; where the listening capacity has been blown wide open. So, the process has begun of informing oneself and making decisions as to how you figure in the paradigm.”

— Don Harrell, adjunct professor, School of Arts and Communication, Florida Tech

Florida Tech’s recent efforts represent a start, and students and alumni are eager to see the progress continue. Yet these initial steps are important because they show that the university is paying attention to its community members and listening for change.

“You can only really begin to teach, in earnest, when people are listening. What has occurred is a critical point in time in our contemporary society; where the listening capacity has been blown wide open. So, the process has begun of informing oneself and making decisions as to how you figure in the paradigm.”

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In a sphere where transcripts and GPAs often reign supreme, Florida Tech focuses on application, insight, curiosity—and the results are A-plus.

A multidisciplinary capstone project for all science and engineering seniors, senior design is a yearlong course in which students bring a project from concept to completion, simulating a real-world work environment and culminating in the Northrop Grumman Engineering and Science Student Design Showcase, where teams present their work and field questions from peers, faculty, industry professionals and local leaders.

It’s hands-on. It’s engaging. It’s effective.

But to fully ingrain the kind of real-world perspective, strategic planning proficiency and been-there-done—that confidence that employers of recent Florida Tech grads consistently rave about, project-based learning starts a lot sooner than senior year. And the goal is a lot bigger than an A-plus.

THE COLLEGE: College of Psychology and Liberal Arts
THE PROJECT: School of Arts and Communication Senior Design Project
THE GIST: From videos documenting to strategic communication plans to newspaper feature stories, students plan and execute the setting, design and research of cognitive projects that are either pitched and implemented at real businesses or published in local publications.

“I think what we do in the project-based models is as close as we can make real business to our students. We require them to get in front of people and talk about it.”

—Heidi Hatfield Edwards, associate head, School of Arts and Communication

THE COLLEGE: College of Psychology and Liberal Arts
THE PROJECT: Forensic Psychology Mock Trials
THE GIST: Students apply the science of psychology to the legal arena, given real criminal cases in which they act as expert witnesses and/or attorneys, introducing and examining research, critiquing other people’s use of the research and science, and making decisions of a likelihood to reoffend or be restored to competency.

“I’m a big advocate for helping people make the bridge from this academic classroom to a real career. And the confidence they have from knowing they’ve actually had a realistic job preview, and seeing what it’s like, it’s been very beneficial for them.”

—John Contepropos, associate professor, School of Psychology

THE COLLEGE: College of Engineering and Science
THE PROJECT: Concrete Canoe Competition
THE GIST: While not technically part of a course curriculum, American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) student chapter members design, construct and race canoes made of concrete in an annual competition against chapters nationwide.

“Plan it. Design it. Do it.”

—Lexi Miller ’15, ’19 M.S., ASCE alumna

THE COLLEGE: College of Engineering and Science
THE PROJECT: Surf Engineering Analysis
THE GIST: Students develop a relationship between waves and the motions of a surfer/surfboard, spending the semester learning about time series data analysis, how to design a field experiment and how to deploy and retrieve instruments.

“I do like to see some failures along the way. That’s really a key part: allowing the students to fail in a controlled, safe environment. Then, I like to see how they manage those failures. There have to be roadblocks to overcome. Otherwise, I just don’t think they learn as much.”

—Robert Weaver, associate professor, Department of Ocean Engineering and Marine Sciences

THE COLLEGE: Grumman Engineering and Science
THE GIST: First-year students work in groups to develop a product idea, conduct market research and establish a business plan that they present to a panel of real business leaders prior to final pitch.

“It’s a freshman-level course because we want them to think differently from day one. We also stress that your ability to communicate, both in writing and orally, are very important. So with these projects, we require them to get in front of people and talk about it.”

—Tim Meth, instructor, College of Business

THE COLLEGE: Bisk College of Business
THE PROJECT: International Business X-Culture Project
THE GIST: More than 5,000 students from more than 100 universities in 45 countries are grouped into teams tasked with designing business strategies for a virtual global company.

“I think what we do in the project-based models is as close as we can get to a university environment in what they’re going to see when they get out of here. It requires critical thinking. It requires students to make decisions under uncertainty. It requires working with people who don’t buy excuses. You’ve just got to get the thing done.”

—Tim Meth, instructor, College of Business

THE COLLEGE: Bisk College of Business
THE PROJECT: Foundations, Creativity, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship
THE GIST: Florida Tech grads consistently rave about, project-based learning starts a lot sooner than senior year. The goal is a lot bigger than an A-plus.

Plan it. Design it. Do it.

Senior Design gives you the insight to understand that full spectrum.”

—Doug Swann 17, 18 M.B.A., software engineering alumna and creator of Fish Masters Live, a virtual fishing tournament app that started as his senior design project in 2015 and is now available in the Apple Store

THE COLLEGE: College of Arts and Sciences
THE PROJECT: Student Design Showcase
THE GIST: From video documentaries to strategic communication plans to newspaper feature stories, students plan and execute the setting, design and research of cognitive projects that are either pitched and implemented at real businesses or published in local publications.

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ROCKETS TO RACE CARS
Larsen Motorsports, home of the Florida Tech jet dragster—yes, we’ve got a jet dragster—and several student interns annually, has joined forces with NASA HUNCH (High School Students United with NASA to Create Hardware) to launch Rockets to Race Cars. An educational program focused on teaching students of all ages the STEM behind rocket and jet engines, spacesuits, fire suits and various equipment found in both rockets and race cars, Rockets to Race Cars hosts both virtual and in-person presentations that also give students a glimpse at what educational paths can lead to careers in the industries.

INTERNATIONAL CUISINE
Melbourne may be a small town, but we have a global cuisine scene. Whether you want to broaden your horizons or feel closer to home, there is a wide variety of international options. Check out:

- McG O’Malley’s for traditional Irish fare
- Mangoz for sushi and a range of other Japanese, Korean and Thai food
- The Nomad Café and Bistro for a borderless variety of worldly cuisine from Greek to Italian to Mexican and more
- La Crêpe de France for breakfast, brunch, bubble tea or an authentic French dessert
- El Ambia Cubano for fresh Latin food, a rich cultural atmosphere and frequent live music
- Our very own Panther Dining Hall for a constant rotation of international dishes, right here, on campus

COZY CAFÉS
Nothing says “Melbourne” like a chill spot to sip a cup of coffee, munch on a little something sweet or catch up with a friend or on your schoolwork. Try:

- Café Surfista for beach views, avocado toast and refreshing refills
- The Sun Shoppe & Café for a high-quality, unique cup of coffee—or three—and a solid study session
- Backwater for a small mom-and-pop shop where you can make your own pancake creations right at your table
- The 905 Café for fresh pastries and coffee in a cozy vintage venue

LOCAL HANGOUTS
There’s always that one restaurant where you can count on running into someone you know. Here, we’ve got more than just one of those. You must try:

- Long Doggers for foot-long hotdogs, chicken wings, burgers and bowls in a super laid-back atmosphere
- The Burger Place for homemade burgers, fries and milkshakes and an old-school diner ambiance
- Da Kine Diego’s for “insane burritos,” a hot sauce bar and more Mexican bites from a walk-up tropical surf shack
- Big Island Burritos for—what else?—more burritos
- Old School Pizza for your favorite pie just a few steps off campus
- The Broken Barrel Tavern for made-from-scratch barbecue and a round of pool, darts and, some nights, trivia

FOOD WITH A VIEW
When you live in paradise, it’s easy to take the beach life and constant sunshine for granted. Reignite your appreciation for Florida’s beauty while dining at any of these top-notch restaurants with outdoor seating and breathtaking views. Visit:

- Sand On The Beach for an oyster bar and smokehouse directly on the beach and steps from the ocean
- Squid Lips for fresh seafood and live music at multiple waterfront locations
- The Mansion for an extensive menu and rooftop views of the river
- Djie’s Village Market to shop, dine and lounge at an eclectic variety of stops from bakery to fish market to farmhouse kitchen to rooftop bar
- Grills Riverside for tasty bites, live music and kit kat hut chilling on the river

LOCALS’ FOODIE GUIDE
No matter your mood, the occasion or the atmosphere you’re looking for, you will find flavors for every taste within minutes from campus.

= ALUMNI-OWNED BUSINESS
From classroom buildings and high-tech labs to campus hangouts and landmarks, here are a few places you’re likely to find yourself during a college career at Florida Tech. Scan QR codes to check out 360º videos of the space!

**PANTHER PLACES**

**PATTERSON BOTANICAL GARDEN**
A fan favorite, the 15-acre Botanical Garden is a calming retreat from the stresses of college life. It’s a quiet place to study, relax and enjoy the sounds of nature.

**DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP LAB**
Here, virtual reality, 3D printers and scanners, media production, 360-degree cameras, cutting-edge software and collaborative spaces provide students a wealth of tools to ideate, design and develop their ideas—or just have a little fun!

**THE FLIGHT LINE**
Located at the Orlando Melbourne International Airport, F.I.T. Aviation’s flight line is always buzzing with flight students and instructors. Here, students practice their departures, landings, touch-and-goes and event aerobatics.

**“THE RAT”**
The Rathskeller, a student-favorite campus hangout, is both a casual-fare eatery and a convenience store. In addition to grabbing a fresh-baked pizza, deli sub or hot gourmet cookie, visitors find a big-screen TV, game room and cyberden perfect for club meetings and get-togethers with friends.

**CRAWFORD GREEN**
Right in the heart of campus, Crawford Green is the setting for many social gatherings and campus events. Like our monthly Market Day, an eclectic open-air market featuring a variety of local foods and products.

**OLIN QUAD**
Home to the Olin Physical Sciences Center, Olin Engineering Complex, L3Harris Center for Science and Engineering and the future Health Sciences Research Center, this is one of the most heavily trafficked areas of campus during class changes.

**L3HARRIS STUDENT DESIGN CENTER**
Here, students collaboratively fabricate projects from unmanned submersibles to Formula race cars. With access to spray booths, welding stations, acid etching and work spaces, the design center is always buzzing in the spring as students finish their senior design projects.

**L3HARRIS COMMONS**
In addition to housing the School of Psychology, the Commons is home to the Center for Student Success, a one-stop hub of student services, including the admissions, registrar’s and campus services offices.

**CLEMENTE CENTER FOR SPORTS AND RECREATION**
Bustling any time of day, this 58,000-square-foot complex includes varsity and intramural gyms, a fitness center with state-of-the-art equipment, various multipurpose and aerobics rooms and a café.

**PHYSICS AND SPACE SCIENCES ROOFTOP**
Our custom-designed, indoor-outdoor astronomical classroom is home to a 15-telescope observation deck and the Ortega 0.8-meter (32-inch) telescope, one of the largest research telescopes in the Southeast.

**MACHINE AND WELDING SHOP**
How do you get that idea out of your head and into your hands? You build it here! Whether on the lathe, saw bench or welding station, this is where projects are born.

**L3HARRIS STUDENT DESIGN CENTER**
Here, students collaboratively fabricate projects from unmanned submersibles to Formula race cars. With access to spray booths, welding stations, acid etching and work spaces, the design center is always buzzing in the spring as students finish their senior design projects.
**ALL MUCKED UP**

The Indian River Lagoon, North America’s most biodiverse estuary located in Florida Tech’s backyard and home to more than 3,000 species of plants and animals, is in peril. However, scientists, engineers and students at Florida Tech’s Indian River Lagoon Research Institute (IRLRI) are developing solutions to the major issues plaguing the lagoon’s health, from muck, lagoon flow and nutrient reduction to sediment loading, policy and management, ecosystem recovery and engineering technologies. Equally important, the IRLRI conducts outreach and education initiatives to help community members better understand the lagoon’s importance and their role in creating solutions.

**OLD ROOTS, NEW LOOK**

In June 2020, Florida Tech Athletics unveiled its new basketball/volleyball court, featuring updated university branding and a rocket launch silhouette, a tribute to the local community and our deep-rooted connections to the U.S. space program.

“This court becomes a symbol and helps us identify with our past and future in space. We are the Space Coast. It is very exciting for the teams that are going to play here, our students and the fans.”

—Pete Mazzone, interim athletic director, Florida Tech
Our Past in Paint

You can’t miss it.
The Panther mural that for more than 20 years has adorned the south wall of Southgate Apartments’ Building M has received a much-needed facelift. A companion to Florida Tech’s landmark mural in Downtown Melbourne and created by the same artist, Christopher Maslow, “Relentless” stands three stories high and, like the downtown mural, depicts a Panther plunging through space, sky, land and sea—a nod to the many areas in which the university conducts its groundbreaking research.

Completed Feb. 6 after four weeks of intense artistry, the new mural pays homage to Florida Tech’s roots through a series of 15 student body-selected “Easter eggs” hidden within its strokes. Can you find them all? We’ll give you a head start.

Search “Southgate mural” on news.fit.edu to discover where all the Florida Tech Easter eggs are hidden!

Cultural Celebration
At Florida Tech, taking a trip around the globe is a lot easier than it sounds. In fact, you don’t even need to leave campus! Each spring, Florida Tech’s International Festival takes over Panther Plaza for a celebration of cultural diversity and community. During the event, student groups and local cultural organizations host country-and diversity-themed display booths, showcasing a variety of traditional clothing, informational literature, maps, flags and artifacts while dance and vocal groups, bands and other performers provide live entertainment on the Pantherum’s outdoor stage and attendees feast on a variety of delicious ethnic foods.

ATOMIC TOILET | A Florida Tech landmark.
A small structure near the Crawford building, the “toilet” sits above an underground facility that, in the 1970s, was used to conduct experiments aimed at using radioactive cobalt-60 to purify sewage water. What is down there now is up to your imagination.

SGA LOGO | The impetus for this mural.
The Student Government Association (SGA) acts as a liaison between the student body and the faculty, staff and administration by presenting programs, projects and activities that reflect consensus priorities of the student body—like this mural!

FALCON HEAVY ROCKET | Honoring the university’s space roots.
Don’t forget to look up when you’re on campus, as you can still see Kennedy Space Center’s rocket launches.

MELBOURNE MAMMOTH | Florida Tech’s fossil.
The remains of a Columbian mammoth were discovered on campus in the 1920s. Today, part of the gigantic creature’s 10,000-year-old tusk is on display in Evans Library.

QUAL EGGS | The subject of perhaps the sanest tale in university lore.
In fall 2017, Keuper decided to launch a quail hatchery on campus. By early December, FIT Farms Inc. housed 300 quails that were “laying like mad.” However, marketing the eggs proved difficult and by 2018, Keuper had decided to close the hatchery.

OYSTER | A symbol of Indian River Lagoon research.
Since oysters act as living filters, removing impurities from the water naturally, efficiently and consistently, Florida Tech, Brevard County and Brevard Zoo have created the Living Shoreline project to restore oyster beds in the lagoon.
Florida Tech joins forces with Brevard Zoo to re-home an endangered spider monkey likely bound for the illegal wildlife trade

**A TRAGIC BACKSTORY**

What was the monkey doing in a 23-year-old man’s truck?

“The real answer is, we don’t know because we don’t have that backstory,” says assistant professor Darby Proctor, who also works at Brevard Zoo studying spider monkeys. “However, in cases like this, the most frequent reason is that a poacher gave it into the forest, they shout the mom for bush meat … then, they take the baby out and another dog pet trade.”

These infants are often sold as pets to families in the U.S. for large sums of money.

In fact, following drugs, weapons, and human trafficking, the illegal wildlife trade in the fourth most lucrative transnational crime, according to the Wildlife Trafficking Alliance.

There is a reason, though, that exotic animals, like spider monkeys, are not intended to be pets.

“They need other monkeys. They need to be social,” Proctor says. “They have very complex social needs that humans simply cannot provide for them. They need to be with other monkeys.”

So, when officers contacted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, they brought him to be quarantined at Dallas Zoo.

During those couple months of quarantine, Proctor attributes to his not needing to cling onto his mother like while he was in quarantine, his muscles looked a little underdeveloped, which Proctor attributes to him not needing to cling onto his mother like how he would in the wild.

Since the monkey had already been separated from other monkeys for at least half of his life, the longer he remained in isolation, the more detrimental effects would be to his eventual emergence into monkey society.

They needed a solution—and quick. Thankfully, Proctor had one. The Florida Tech colleagues at F.F.T. Aviation.

“We have planes. We have pilots. Maybe there’s a way we could make this work,” Proctor needed thinking.

After much coordination between Florida Tech’s School of Psychology, College of Psychology and Liberal Arts and F.F.T. Aviation, Brevard and Dallas zoos and the Species Survival Plan, the rescue mission was set.

On Sept. 17, 2020, Shayne Inniss ’16, ’19 MBA, and Zachary D. Amani ’19, both F.F.T. Aviation pilots, took off from Orlando Melbourne International Airport with Dave Mandrake, curator of animals at Brevard Zoo, in a Florida Tech Piper Senicore—the same plane in which aviation students learn to fly.

“I thought it was a pretty cool thing,” Inniss says. “It gives me a chance to see another side of aviation, where you’re actually fulfilling another purposeful mission… I think it’s a really cool opportunity for not just me, but also Florida Tech.”

After making stops to refuel in Panama City Beach, Florida, and Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the crew landed in Dallas seven hours later.

The next morning, they went to Dallas Zoo, collected the spider monkey, reboarded the airplane, took off and landed back at the Melbourne airport with a safe, albeit exhausted, fourth passenger: the baby spider monkey.

“The curator told me that he was alert and looking around for most of the flight,” Proctor says. “He was checking things out. When he arrived at the airport, we immediately took him to the zoo and got him into his temporary home.”

AFTER much work and preparation, the monkey quickly regained his spirits, deeming moving around, climbing and doing more “monkey things.”

While Dallas Zoo had worked with him and fed him an appropriate diet while he was in quarantine, his muscles looked a little underdeveloped, which Proctor attributes to him not needing to cling onto his mother like how he would in the wild.

“We were trying to get him to move around a lot, climb more, so that he can build up some of that muscularity before we get him fully integrated into our group,” she says. “Because we do want him to be able to keep up and climb above them as much as they do.”

Within a couple days of his transportation, Proctor and Talbot were ready to introduce the new monkey, later named Mateo, to Shelley and her baby, confident that Shelley would take him in because she has always been such a good mother.

“Good mother of a monkey, it seems,” Proctor says. “It turns out, Shelley is such a good mom that she wouldn’t let her current infant get anyzan near that stranger adult,” Proctor says. “Our best laid plans went out the window.”

They also found that, while they had planned to face obstacles regarding other monkeys in the troop being hesitant to accept the new monkey, they hadn’t taken into consideration that Mateo might not immediately take to the others.

“What we very quickly realized is that he is ahead of other monkeys. He hasn’t even seen one in a long time. He probably doesn’t even understand that he is a monkey,” she says.

Daisy, a friendly 3-year-old monkey in the group, is ready to play with Mateo, even offering him a few hugs, which means exactly the same thing to monkeys as they do to humans, Proctor says. Mateo, however, has been hesitant.

“W’e have been trying to get him to really talk to him that the other monkeys are safe, that they are potential playmates for him. He’s been making really good progress each day, but it is going to take a lot longer than we anticipated.”

**WHAT’S NEXT?**

While every monkey—just like every human—in a different, determines what behaviors or reactions to anticipate and decide what steps to take in response to that, there has been particularly challenging throughout this integration process, as no similar studies have been published.

Proctor and Talbot, however, plan to publish their research regarding the integration process—what worked, what didn’t and how they proceeded—in the hopes that it might help Institutions in future similar situations, even if just as a starting point.

Their ultimate hope is for Munich in that he will, eventually, fully integrate with the group. Based on how they observed in just the first three weeks at his arrival at Brevard Zoo, they’re hopeful.

“The first few days, he was really hiding. But then he’s coming out, he’s playing,” Proctor says. “At least when he’s by himself, he’s acting like a baby monkey, which is great. It’s such dramatic improvements from the first few days.”

After sneaking to assemble a transportation plan, developing the first steps in an integration plan and promptly informing them when things didn’t go as anticipated, Proctor and team have a new plan.

“We are running on live time now. We have no deadlines. That deadline is when he’s ready. We’re just going to take things at his pace and keep hoping to see that slow and steady improvement.”

**THE TRANSITION**

**MONKEY BUSINESS**

**31**

**SPRING 2021**

**21**
Orientation is a rite of passage, designed to help incoming students transition smoothly into college. But it’s also where students create lifelong memories and new friends. Yes, you’ll receive academic advising, sign up for classes and purchase books. You will have the chance to sign up for a meal plan and to purchase a parking permit. But that is only the beginning ...

Orientation isn’t just for students to learn about the university. It’s an opportunity to meet one another and build relationships that can last the rest of their college careers—and beyond.”

—Krishna Patel, director of student wellness and programming

Before You Go
Preparation is key to starting college off on the right foot.
† Get to know your new home by exploring the Florida Tech website: scan the Orientation webpage, learn more about your academic college/department, find clubs and organizations you might be interested in joining; and check out the campus map and virtual college tour.
† Download the Florida Tech CUBETRACER, a one-stop guide to making the most of your Orientation experience, including event guides, your schedule, a campus map, our social media accounts and much more!
† Check out the orientation SCHEDULE and plan ahead which events and activities you want to attend, so you won’t miss out on anything!
† PACK YOUR BAGS with the college essentials: backpack, dorm supplies, significant paperwork and, most important, a good attitude and open mind, ready for lots of fun and an unforgettable week!

Once You’re Here
Yes, you’ll finalize all those important new-student logistics. But what you’ll remember are the countless games and activities you participated in with your newfound friends.
† Get in the competitive spirit for COLOR WARS, a lively and friendly competition. You’ll be grouped into different color-named teams based on your residence hall for a number of competitions, including cheer-offs, trivia wars, talent shows and much more.
† Put on your headphones and your dancing shoes for DISCOTECA FIESTA, our version of a silent disco.
† Take a break after a long move-in day to enjoy MIDNIGHT BREAKFAST while getting to know your teammates.
† Find your spots, grab some ice cream, snack bars and other free treats and relax with your new friends at MOVIES ON THE LAWN.
† Show the spotlight at KARAOKE PARTY night. If showbiz isn’t your thing, come enjoy some pizzas and applaud the performances you surely won’t want to miss.

College Talk:
Learn the Panther dialect
JUNGLE
The Botanical Garden on campus. Includes over 300 species of plants. Nice to walk through between classes or stop in for a study session

PANTHER CASH
Money a student deposits onto his or her ID card. This money can be used for the bookstore, laundry facilities, photocopy services, printing in the library and special services at the Holzer Health Center.

PAWS
Stands for “Panther Access Web System,” an online portal where students view grades, access financial aid information, register for classes and more.

PDH
Panther Dining Hall

RAT
Short for “the Rathskeller,” a campus dining facility located on the ground floor of Evans Hall, including a small convenience store, pool tables, video games, cyberden, coffee house, stage and large-screen TV.

SUB
The “Student Union Building,” formerly the Homer R. Denius Student Center housing the bookstore, mailroom, food court and Student Life and student organization offices.

TRACKS ACCOUNT
Username and password that serves as a student’s electronic signature. Used to log into any computer on campus and complete any online function related to the university.
Ready to add some more Florida Tech terms to your vocabulary? Visit floridatech.edu/orientation/college-talk.
THE SCENE

1. Ethos Community Garden

Established in 2017 by a small group of students on the Residence Life Sustainability Committee, the Ethos Community Garden is 59 feet by 39 feet of fenced-in land that houses nearly two dozen planting beds in the middle of the Residence Quad. The garden serves as a platform for sustainable education, allows residents to become self-sufficient in food cultivation skills and has been a catalyst for larger sustainability-based movements around campus and throughout Brevard County.

2. Future Professionals

Throughout the year, students who are preparing for the “real-world” attend various virtual networking, career education and starter events through the Future Professionals Certificate Program. By attending a certain number of events, like mock interviews, alumni career panels, resume critiques and community service experiences, students not only earn a certificate sure to impress future employers but also develop soft skills that make them both more hirable and successful after graduation.

3. Distinguished Lecture Series

As part of the F. Alan Smith Distinguished Lecture Series, Florida Tech recently welcomed Tom Folliard ’89, a Florida Tech board of trustees member who led CarMax to become one of the most influential and disruptive businesses in the U.S. marketplaces. Folliard’s presentation, “How a Florida Tech Graduate in Melbourne Helped CarMax Transform an Industry,” spoke about how CarMax grew so quickly and discussed the company’s journey to the top. Today, CarMax is the largest used-car retailer in the world and occupies the 174th spot on the Fortune 500 list.

4. Treat-or-Treat

It’s all treats at Florida Tech’s annual Halloween event, Treat-or-Treat, which welcomes about 2,000 costume-clad children and families from throughout the community to the Residence Quad for free, family-friendly fun. Featuring candy, games, Halloween activities and several “haunted” houses with themes of varying scare-levels, Treat-or-Treat is hosted by Residence Life, a group of almost 60 dedicated student resident assistants from different backgrounds and majors who hosts year’s worth of collective educational programming experiences.

5. Free Speech Week

Free speech. Free press. Free cookies. Now these are some things we can get behind, and each spring, we do! Hosted by Florida Tech and its student-run newspaper, The Crimson, Free Speech Week features a series of lectures and activities centered on and designed to foster a better understanding of the First Amendment. In 2020, from expressing their thoughts on a “free-speech wall” in exchange for a cookie and surrendering their First Amendment rights for a slice of pizza to hearing from Casey Frank, the investigations editor who led the Miami Herald’s coverage of the financier and convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, students learned the value of their voices and the gravity of how they use them.

continued on page 26
7. Music to Your Ears
continued from page 25

Team building. Communication.

At the biomedical field booms, Florida Tech is making room on campus to train the next generation of industry experts, complete with cutting-edge resources and equipment. The university will soon break ground on a 61,000-square-foot Health Sciences Research Center. The $18 million facility will double the size of Florida Tech’s undergraduate biomedical engineering, increase the size of the undergraduate premedical program, provide more than 30,000 square feet of classrooms and housing spaces, and allow students access to teaching laboratories that use augmented and virtual reality tools and space for orthopedic, tissue studies and advanced computational simulations.

9. Salsa Under the Stars

Three student organizations joined forces to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month on campus Oct. 2. The International Student Service Organization, Latin American Student Association and Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers coordinated with the International Student and Scholar Services and Student Life offices to provide a free COVID-19-safe activity open to all students: salsa lessons, “Make and Take” DIY mural kits, prepackaged food from a local Venezuelan food truck, music from Hispanic artists and some informational booths manned by members from the various organizations sharing their experiences and cultures.

10. Ready for Our Close-Up

Florida Tech has been selected as one of the first universities to be featured in a new television series, “The College Tour.” Coming soon to Amazon Prime and Roku TV, “The College Tour” tells the stories of colleges and universities from across the country. The Emmy-nominated producers ascended on campus in October 2020, making pit stops at Florida Tech staples like Patterson Botanical Garden, Olin Observatory, Downtown Melbourne and F.I.T. Aviation. From campus life to academics to Space Coast living, the show showcases everything that Florida Tech has to offer from the mouths of Panther proud.

12. Overcoming COVID-19

While the coronavirus pandemic posed several unforeseeable obstacles throughout 2020, the Florida Tech community rose to the challenge. The Bisk College of Business’ women’s business center, weVENTURE, pivoted to all-remote learning with minimal notice in the second half of the spring semester. We manufactured emergency resources using university 3D printers. We conducted valuable COVID-19-related research benefiting the local, national and global communities. We hosted virtual commencement ceremonies and other community events, and when the time was right, we efficiently transitioned back on campus under strict new safety guidelines. We did it, and for that, we’re Panther proud.
REACHING THE RED PLANET
Humankind has yet to know what walking on Mars will be like, but surrounded by miles of red sand and craggy outcrops at the Mars Society’s Mars Desert Research Station (MDRS), it’s easy for researchers to imagine. A space analog facility that supports Earth-based research in pursuit of human space exploration, the MDRS has served as project headquarters for several Florida Tech students and faculty, with the most recent crew of eight deploying in January 2021.

“Going to Mars is one of those next intrinsic steps, along with finishing the discovery of the ocean. If we fail to do those things and we stagnate, then we go extinct.”
—David Masaitis’20, MDRS crews 205 and 219 alumnus

SCHOOLING IN THE SKY
For the born-to-fly adventurers who struggle to keep their feet on the ground, the best training comes from the seat of the cockpit. Thanks to sunny Melbourne’s 300-plus days of flying weather annually, flight students can expect to learn while taking in the Space Coast’s 72 miles of Atlantic coast beaches from the skies year-round.
There is some evidence that psychopaths did not adequately develop mirror neurons—their brains literally have no idea what it’s like to have your feelings. This is like what Voldemort felt when he entered Harry Potter’s body and couldn’t tolerate his grief over lost love.

Julie Costopoulos, Associate Professor, Psychology

“Mark Twain participated in experiments in Nikola Tesla’s lab and commented on the ‘War of the Currents’ between Tesla’s alternating current (AC) system and Edison’s direct current (DC) system in depictions of a destructive electrical pulse near the end of his time-travel novel, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court*.”

Debbie Lelekis, Associate Professor, Arts and Communication

“There is a website that tracks the world’s population in real time: worldometers.info/world-population.”

Martin Gallagher, Digital Scholarship Lab, Support Manager, Evans Library

“Fishing shrinks the size of fish over time.”

Anil Sivangyan, Professor, Ocean Engineering and Marine Science

“A car could fit inside a blue whale’s fart bubble.”

Molly Day, Professor, Associate Professor of Ocean Engineering and Marine Science

“Tarsiers are the only carnivorous primates.”

Darby Proctor, Assistant Professor, Psychology

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Darby Proctor, Assistant Professor, Psychology

“There is no such thing as a free lunch.”

Timothy Muth, Instructor, Business

“The original Atlas missiles—forerunners of today’s United Launch Alliance Atlas V rockets—had fuel tanks with walls so thin that they required internal pressure to keep them from collapsing even when empty. The tanks were filled, like balloons, with nitrogen to keep them safe prior to fueling. To save weight, the tanks were unpainted. A special water-displacing oil was applied to the outside to keep the metal from rusting. This oil eventually became a well-known consumer product, WD-40. The ‘WD’ stands for ‘Water Displacement.’”

David Fleming, Assistant Professor and Department Head, Aerospace, Physics and Space Sciences

“Mark Twain participated in experiments in Nikola Tesla’s lab and commented on the ‘War of the Currents’ between Tesla’s alternating current (AC) system and Edison’s direct current (DC) system in depictions of a destructive electrical pulse near the end of his time-travel novel, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court*.”

Debbie Lelekis, Associate Professor, Arts and Communication

“Richard III was killed at the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485. His corpse was discovered in 2013, buried underneath a car park in Leicester, England. Recent memes crown him as being the current hide-and-go-seek champion.”

Melissa Crofton, Assistant Professor, Arts and Communication

“A car could fit inside a blue whale’s fart bubble.”

Molly Day, Professor, Associate Professor of Ocean Engineering and Marine Science

“Every second, the sun emits about 4,000 times more energy than all of human civilization has ever used in all of history.”

David Harris, Assistant Teaching Professor, Aerospace Physics and Space Sciences
The coronavirus pandemic threw us all for a loop. But in the face of adversity, Panthers persist. Florida Tech’s “Return to Learn” plan took effect before the fall 2020 semester, implementing increased safety measures, like social distancing allowances, mandatory face coverings and enhanced sanitation on campus. We couldn’t be more proud of our students for respectfully adhering to these new safety protocols, all the while, continuing to excel academically. As a result, we have been quite successful in keeping our community safe, with very few positive COVID-19 cases on campus and zero significant outbreaks. We are strong. We are proud. And, most importantly, we remain vigilant.