Happy New Year and Welcome Back!!!

We hope everyone’s New Year started off with a bang and that we are all starting the new semester refreshed and enthusiastic. Here’s to a great 2008!

Photograph: Tokyo fireworks mosaic (courtesy HAMACHI at Flickr’s Creative Commons)

FTCE Update:

Upcoming FTCE Exam on January 12, 2008

The next FTCE date is: March 1, 2008
Register by 1/11
Late Reg. by 1/31

You can now register online at http://www.fl.nesinc.com

Passing scores on the General Knowledge test are required before registration of the Junior Sequence of Education Courses (EDS 3033, 4051 & 3095), and seniors must pass the FTCE Professional Education and Subject Area Test before graduation.

The Joy of Teaching by Mrs. Blenis

There are few things more exciting than the “light bulb” effect. You know what that is because everyone has experienced it at some time. It’s when you’ve been struggling with a concept or idea and then all of a sudden…ta da…you get it! Neurons flash and you feel the physical charge. It all makes sense now.

When I see that “flash” in the eyes of my students it’s all I can do not to sing out a big “Woo hoo!” And as some of you know, I’m not always successful at suppressing that excitement.

I love teaching! Teaching is a joyful profession because teachers get to see the tangible effects of their influence. They see their students complete tasks, learn concepts, win competitions, earn awards, and then graduate. Teaching is also a demanding profession that requires leaders who can make multiple decisions during a day, manage a class full of students hour after hour, analyze data about learning, and interact with parents and colleagues.

At Florida Tech we teach you the strategies and skills to handle those demands with maximum success, leaving you to enjoy sharing the light bulb effect with your students. Which you will. It always brightens my day!

Upcoming FFEA Conference

The Florida Future Educators of America Annual State Conference will be held January 25-27 in Orlando. This conference is for secondary and post-secondary future teachers. This year’s conference theme is “Teachers Make All Other Professions Possible,” and the agenda will include several concurrent sessions, a luncheon, and several contests. In the past, the sessions have been fun and interesting and Florida Tech students have made a good showing in the contests. Mrs. Blenis, along with a few officers, will represent us at College Night on Saturday. This is an opportunity for high school FEA members and advisors to obtain information about colleges & universities. We look forward to meeting future panthers!
Old Cell Phone/ Ink Cartridge Drive Part Deux

Attention all Florida Tech students and faculty! Did you get a new cell phone for Christmas and don’t know what to do with your old one? Do you need a safe way to dispose of all those empty ink jet printer cartridges that you used up printing term papers?

Florida Tech’s Future Educators Association (FEA) is conducting a cell phone and ink jet cartridge drive! We hope you will consider donating your old phones, old electronic equipment, and empty cartridges instead of throwing them away. Not only will it help us raise funds for our organization, but also it is a great way to dispose of your potentially hazardous waste in a clean, earth-friendly way.

The FEA will be collecting cell phones, ink jet cartridges, DVDs, laptops, MP3 players, digital cameras, and other electronic devices through January 31st. You can drop off your donation in the collection box conveniently located in the Shepherd Lab.

So please gather up all that used up or obsolete junk lying around at home and help us fund FEA activities for the upcoming term.

BFEA Conference a Success!

Early last December over 170 middle and high school students descended on Florida Tech’s campus for the annual Brevard Future Educator’s Association conference.

The conference was a resounding success, due in a large part to the number of our students who volunteered their time and energy to help.

Carolyn Horst presented an extremely successful hands-on session: “Encouraging the WOW Factor: Using Demonstrations in the Classroom.” Jessica Thomas and Cheryl Caldwell were equally engaging with their presentation: “The Halls are Alive with the Sound of Music (and Learning).” Feedback from the participants confirmed what we all know, Carolyn, Jessica and Cheryl are dynamic, talented teachers! Caitlin Kennedy also did a great job representing our chapter of FEA and welcoming the students to Florida Tech.

In addition to presenters, we had a great turnout of helpers, contest judges and guides. Our thanks to Kyan Robinson, Regina Fluellen, Mike Greene, Jessica Thomas, Jenn Savarese, Kyle Melancon, Elisabeth McCormack, Christine Wrolson, Ashley Sicard, Erin Bender and Jessie Bacterschneider. The conference would not have been a success without your participation. Thank you so much!

We look forward to hosting the event again next year. Mark your calendar for December 4, 2008!
Welcome New Students

Santana and Willie Freeman are both working on a MS in Computer Education. Sherry Bowen will be pursuing her PhD in Science Ed.

We are really excited to welcome several new students into the Science/ Mathematics Education Department.

Say hello to Jennifer Savarese and Noah Saxton to Math Ed, Jessica Phillips to Physics Ed, and Eric Lucey to Middle Grades Math and Science Ed.

We also have a few new additions to the graduate department. Joy Winet will be working on her MS in Science Ed. Shane

Save the Date!

This July 11-14 the Department will be holding the first ever Science and Mathematics Education Grand Reunion Celebration (that’s a mouthful!). The Celebration is part of Florida Tech’s many 50th Anniversary events and we have sent out over 600 invitations to alumni. We want to make sure that our current students are also involved. We are planning campus tours and will have a mixer, an evening dinner and entertainment event, and trips to Kennedy Space Center and the Orlando attractions. Even more exciting is the response that we have had from local alumni to help host and organize different events in the area highlighting many wonderful community venues. We expect to have a great turnout and hope that everyone will save the date and join in the fun!
FEA News

FEA is starting out the year with great things planned! I hope that we can build our momentum and have some fun this spring! As always, we are looking for great ideas and help with ways to strengthen the organization. Watch your email for news about upcoming meetings and activities.

We are pleased to announce that we have received supplemental funding from the Campus Activities Board to attend this year's Florida FEA conference in Orlando. We expect our delegation to make the same strong showing that Florida Tech has in the past, and look forward to a report back from the conference.

Don’t forget about the continuing cell phone/ink cartridge drive. Donate your electronic junk! Funds will be used to support FEA activities.

Finally, we will be having a Thursday Night at the Movies in the Teaching Lab. The showing is yet to be decided and suggestions are welcome. Bring friends and have some fun catching up with everyone after winter break!