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***Kent Combrink***





# Happenings

## ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY SHOWCASE

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Causey Aviation Unmanned (CAU), one of few companies in the country with FAA certification to offer drone delivery, showcased its “last mile” delivery services at a special event at Florida Tech Dec. 7.

CAU, which joined Amazon, Alphabet’s Wing, UPS Inc. and Zipline as the only FAA Part 135-certified drone operators in the U.S., offers health care and retail deliveries at several sites in its home state of North Carolina, as well as sites in Texas and upstate New York.

The event also featured presentations from leading companies in the advanced air mobility sector: Valqari, ResilienX, Volatus I&E and Heka. The vendors represented different elements of the broad technology ecosystem—software for safety and security, delivery system development, avionics and control systems and more—that are helping to drive the adoption of this new mobility mode. Like CAU, these four companies are startups at various stages of growth.

The event showed stakeholders in Central Florida, including health providers and public safety agencies, how advanced air mobility could work in their fields, said Chris Fernando ’02, adjunct professor of advanced air mobility and principal at the North Carolina-based aviation consulting firm Hovecon.

## STOP BY AND SAY ‘HI!’ AT SUN ‘N FUN

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Join us at the 2024 SUN ‘n FUN Aerospace Expo April 9–14 in Lakeland, Florida. We’ll connect with Panthers old and new, as we share what Florida Tech is all about with the community and host a special alumni gathering at one of the world’s largest annual aviation events. We look forward to seeing you there!

## BLUE ORIGIN AND OLIVER DAEMEN VISIT CAMPUS

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In fall, Oliver Daemen and Richard Hudacek from Blue Origin visited Florida Tech’s campus.

Daemen was a member of Blue Origin’s New Shepard, the company’s reusable suborbital rocket system designed to take astronauts and research payloads past the boundary of space, according to its website.

At the time of the flight, Daemen was 18 years old, which made him the youngest person, first teenager and first person born in the 21st century, to travel to space. During his visit, he met with instructors and staff at FIT Aviation to share his experience as a young space tourist and pilot.

## PITTORIE NAMED SEPTEMBER MVP

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Warren Pittorie ’15, ’18 M.S., ’22 Ph.D., an assistant professor in the College of Aeronautics, was named Florida Tech’s Most Valuable Panther (MVP) for September. The MVP program recognizes employees who embody the university’s standards for innovation as demonstrated by their excellence and quality service.

Pittorie, who started as a student, then as a flight instructor for FIT Aviation before assuming his current role, recently spearheaded the development and reintroduction of the university’s tailwheel and aerobatic training, offering 141 students the opportunity to improve their piloting skills.

He also maintains a full-time teaching schedule, is a prominent member of the ATLAS Lab research team and participates in the Florida Tech Panama program, through which he travels to Panama City twice a semester to teach in-person ground school.

“Dr. Pittorie does not shy away from speaking with potential new students and encouraging them to consider Florida Tech for their education, and many students on campus today credit him with their choosing Florida Tech as their (er t)11 (-o324 1 BDC 4 s)10 (tP8 ( s)10 0 0 95((er t/P 5

## FLORIDA TECH ATTENDS FIRST AVIATE PARTNER LEADER SUMMIT

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During fall, assistant professor and flight education chair Warren Pittorie '15, '18 M.S., '22 Ph.D., and assistant chief flight instructor Shayne Inniss '16, '19 MSA, attended the first Aviate Partner Leader Summit at United Airlines' Flight Training Center in Denver.

Hosted by United Aviate Academy, a program for aeronautics graduates to have the most secure pathway to careers at United, the event served as an update on the company and an opportunity for several aviation colleges to share information and network.

It was also the first time partner universities were invited to tour the training facility, which is one of the biggest in the country.

While attending the summit, Pittorie and Inniss met up with Jill Eanes '91, '93 MBA, a member of Florida

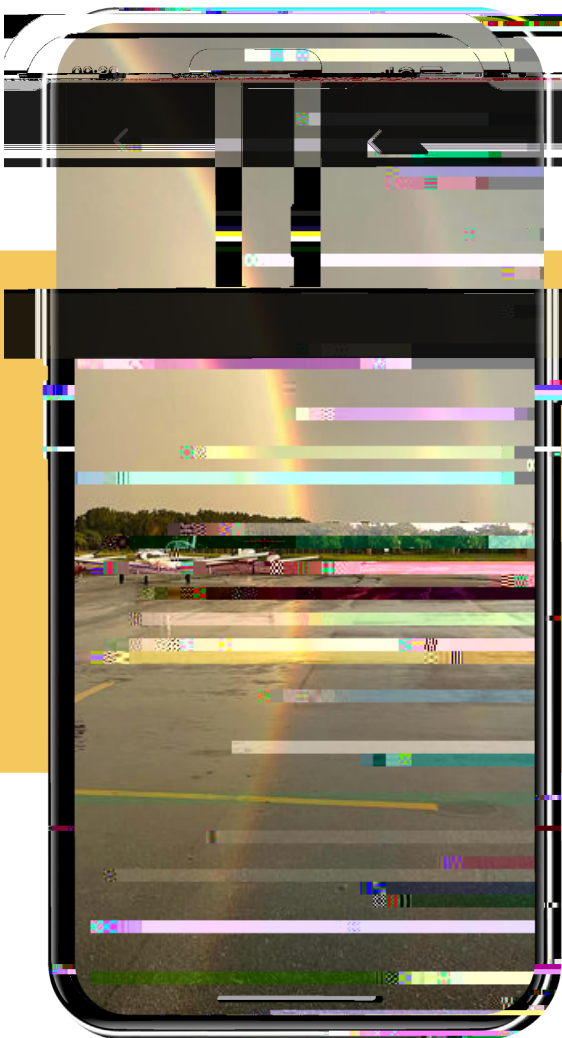
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Featured Photo



**SOMEWHERE OVER THE RAINBOW**

A double rainbow overlooking FIT Aviation in November.  
 Photo credit: Selise Askeland, aviation management senior

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