

# FMIT

## FORT MYERS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

### Upcoming Events

- 02/28/15 – Open House
- 03/03/15 – ParaPro Testing
- 03/17/15 – Practical Nursing Informational Meeting 1 P.M.
- 03/20/15 – Taste of FMIT – Perfect Pasta
- 03/26/15 – 3rd Quarter Ends
- 03/27/15 – Professional Duty Day (no school)
- 03/30/15 – 04/06/15 – Spring Break (no school)
- 04/14/15 – ParaPro Testing
- 04/22/15 – School Advisory Council Meeting 7:30 A.M.
- 04/24/15 – Blood Drive
- 04/26-29/15 – SkillsUSA State Competition
- 05/01/15 – Student Appreciation Day
- 05/05/15 – ParaPro Assessment
- 05/25/15 – Memorial Day (school closed)
- 05/28/15 – FMIT Graduation Ceremony 6 P.M.

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*Soaring Scene is a free quarterly newsletter of FMIT.*

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## FMIT Students Win at Regional Competition

Fort Myers Institute of Technology (FMIT) students won 21 medals at the SkillsUSA Region 6 competition held at Manatee Technical College in Bradenton on February 19, 2015. Over 500 students enrolled in secondary and postsecondary career and technical education programs at technical colleges and high schools located in Collier, Lee, Charlotte, Sarasota and Manatee Counties participated in the annual event.

FMIT placed first winning gold medals in the carpentry, cosmetology, marine mechanics, electronic technology, gas power equipment, related technical math, customer service and chapter display competitions. Gold medal winners will advance to the Florida SkillsUSA competition to be held in Lakeland, April 26-29, 2015.

SkillsUSA is a nationwide career and technical education student organization serving more than 300,000 high school, college and postsecondary students—and their instructors—in technical, skilled, and service occupation instructional programs.

The contests are planned by technical committees made up of national experts from labor and management; they are designed to test the skills needed for a successful entry-level performance in given occupational fields.

### GOLD

- Alexander Hernandez—Carpentry
- Beth Herrera—Cosmetology
- Russell Hanzevack—Marine Mechanics
- Joachin Thellus—Electronic Technology
- Jecoa' Loredo—Gas Power Equipment

Christian Rembert—Related Technical Math

Oran Renfroe—Chapter Display  
Gigi Schley—Customer Service

### SILVER

- Christian Wood—Automotive Service Technology
- Michael Lobo—Carpentry
- Chelsea Green—Cosmetology
- Martha Hidalgo—Early Childhood Dev.
- Randall Spangler—Major Appliance Repair
- Mike Dominique—Related Technical Math
- Nelson Alvarez—Web Design
- Dean Betty—Web Design
- Daniel Bruseth—Prepared Speech

### BRONZE

- Paul O'Hern—Auto Refinishing
- Michael Ramraj—Electrical Wiring
- George Cotto—Electronics Technology
- Delmonica Coney—Medical Terminology

## Student Achieves ASE Master Automobile Technician Certification

Experienced automotive technicians sometimes work many years and take the eight National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certification exams numerous times before they reach the master level. The exams are not easy. In fact, only two out of every three test-takers pass on their first attempt. Nationwide, there are only 72,701 Master Automobile Technicians.

Steven Santangelo, 22, was able to achieve master certification before he even completed the Automotive Service Technology (AST) program at Fort Myers Institute of Technology. Mr. Santangelo had to pass tests in the following areas: engine repair, automatic transmission transaxle, manual drive train and axles, suspension and steering, brakes, electrical/electronic systems, heating and air conditioning, and engine performance.

Mr. Santangelo was home-schooled his whole life, but he became restless the last few years and didn't complete his high school education. Instead, he went to work on a friend's cattle and horse farm. He started tinkering with the heavy farm equipment and wanted to learn more about mechanics. After working as a landscaper for a year with Toll Brothers, Inc., Mr. Santangelo got his GED and enrolled in the AST program at FMIT in August 2013. He thrived in the program and wanted to absorb as much as he could from his instructors — Mr. Monte Hamsher, Mr. Ron Ellis, and Mr. Todd Robarge.



Steven Santangelo

"Mr. Santangelo is a dedicated student and a hard worker," said Mr. Hamsher. "He is motivated to learn and is very responsible. He is respectful to his instructors, peers, and employers. Whatever task is asked of him, he jumps at it and gives it his all. His drive and ambition will take him far in the automotive industry."

With the help of Mr. Hamsher, he secured a part-time job at AutoNation Toyota in November 2013. Exactly one year later, he started working full-time through FMIT's internship program. Along the way, he took and passed all eight ASE certification exams before completing the program on January 30, 2015. Mr. Santangelo would like to thank Mr. Steve Hubbard, owner of Sustained Motion Car Collection and Mr. Terry Wynter, owner of Terry Wynter Auto Service Center for reimbursing him for the ASE certification exam fees. These gentlemen have been long-time supporters of FMIT students and have contributed their time and money to the AST program.

"My time at FMIT was very valuable in many ways. I learned all aspects of the automobile, from engine components, to transmission operation, to advanced electronics and diagnosis," said Mr. Santangelo. "My instructors also help and guided me to achieve my ASE certifications during my academic progress."

Working on high performance vehicles and off-road buggies take up some of Mr. Santangelo's free time. He would eventually like to build his own race car.

Mr. Santangelo enjoys working at AutoNation but isn't finished learning about the automotive industry; he plans on saving his money so he can pursue a college degree in automotive engineering. We're sure he'll reach that goal and he'll probably be at the top of his class!



William McCormick

## Message from the Director Career Success

A current *New York Times* article detailed the recent shift in U.S. occupations which lead to attainment of a "middle-class" income, many of which are in the booming health care sector. It was affirming and encouraging to see that many of the occupations which were featured in this story form the core of FMIT's course offerings. The recurring theme in the article was familiar to those of us who work in skills-based education: attainment of great career success is readily available to anyone who has the desire, passion, and technical skills to match.

As I look through the pages of this edition of the *Soaring Scene*, I am reminded of how busy our school, staff, and students have been. Page after page is filled with positive and inspiring news about personal achievements, industry and community engagement, and advancements in technology. With so much going on, it is easy to overlook and not appreciate what is being accomplished by our school community.

FMIT has assumed a much larger role in providing relevant job-skill training to our community during the past few years. Only when our programs are truly connected to the industries they serve can we ensure we are providing employers the workers they need. In just the past few weeks, we have hosted visits from a number of employers eager to see for themselves the quality of our training programs. They have all been impressed. As our economy continues to grow, the value of schools such as ours becomes more evident. Perhaps more importantly, employers are also now recognizing the value of the skills training FMIT provides.

FMIT is a busy place with a wide array of student-focused activities. I encourage all students to take advantage of these opportunities. Get involved, and stay involved, as this will only serve to improve your future job prospects.

There are many great things going on here at our school and we want you to know about them. Please take a close look at this edition of the *Soaring Scene*.



## WHERE are they now?



Cindy Desruisseaux

One thing Cindy Desruisseaux learned in the Practical Nursing program at FMIT was not to be afraid of anything. That's very important when you're working as a nurse and face challenging situations every day. Ms. Desruisseaux completed the program in 2008, moved to Boston, and went to work as a unit manager for Kindred Hospital. She is now working at Signature Healthcare in Atlanta, Georgia, as a charge nurse. In 2014 she received the Nurse of the Year – Customer Care Award. Ms. Desruisseaux fondly remembers her teachers at FMIT, Mrs. Lynne Arya and Mrs. Nancy Redenius. She remembers Mrs. Redenius as "more like a mom to me" who told her to never say *can't* because you *can* if you try hard enough.

Ms. Desruisseaux will soon be attending Quincy College in Massachusetts where she will be pursuing her RN degree. She would like to work as a critical care nurse on a transport helicopter. She then plans to earn her nurse practitioner's license.



Ernie White completed the TV & Radio Repair program at Lee Vo-Tech (now FMIT)

in 1979 soon after he graduated from high school. He was recruited by Sears before he completed the program, starting a 27 year career there. In the beginning, he repaired TV's,

VCR's (for those of you who are old enough to remember!), and surveillance cameras. Sears sent him to Dallas, Texas, for further training on appliances, office equipment, sewing machines, and computers. At one point Mr. White was Service Manager of both the Electronics and Small Gas Engine departments. His last years at Sears were



Ernie White

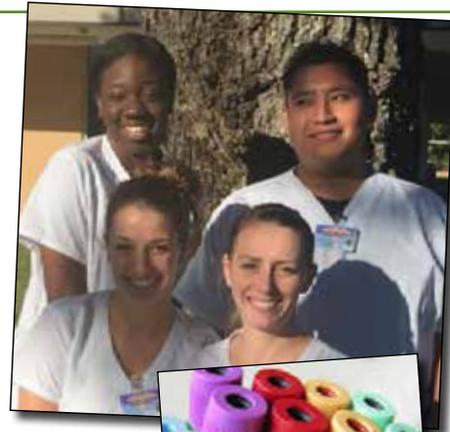
spent providing in-home service on appliances and electronics. About 7 years ago, Mr. White

went to work for Customer Care Appliance Service. Two years ago he found his way back to FMIT and became the instructor of the Appliance Repair program offered in the evenings. In January, Mr. White accepted a full-time position teaching the Electronic Technology program.

"It's hard to believe that in 1978 right out of high school I came to Lee Vo-Tech's TV and Radio Repair program," said Mr. White. "It was one of the first classes offered at the school. I received my certifications and now I'm back as an instructor!"

Mr. White is a Florida native, has been married 30 years, and has 3 adult children - all attending college at the same time!

February 20, 2015—Patricia Occely, Deanna Casman, Jessica Greene, and Eduardo Mendez, Jr. are the first completers of the new 165-hour Phlebotomy program. Phlebotomists play a vital role in healthcare making sure that specimens are obtained safely, labeled accurately, and promoting the comfort and well-being of the patient.



## HOSA Students Win Gold



Jessie Snavelly



Elizabeth Stork

February 4, 2015— Congratulations to the five Practical Nursing students who won gold medals at the regional Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) competition: Medical Math—Elizabeth Stork; Public Service Announcement—Grace Clay, Brittany Nierop, Jessie Snavelly, and Dawne Villanueva.



# BE A POLICE RECRUIT FOR THE DAY!

**Friday, March 27**  
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You're invited to participate in a hands-on experience to learn more about the fascinating career of a law enforcement officer. This one-day training program for business leaders, media and local delegation is designed to give citizens an up-close and personal look at what rules, regulations and policies the police follow and what misconceptions the public may have about the law.

Questions? Call (239) 334-3897  
 or email RosaLH@LeeSchools.net



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## The Cost of Education



A career in the HVACR industry provides an outstanding opportunity for a qualified person to dramatically improve his or her standard of living. The current worldwide pool of skilled labor is dangerously shallow, bordering on evaporation, while earning potential has never been better. One hundred years ago, 20% of the workforce in America spent their workday in an indoor office environment. Eighty percent of Americans worked in blue collar jobs at that point in history, mostly outdoors. Today, that ratio is inverted. Eighty percent of today's workforce earns a living indoors laboring at some sort of office job. Of that 20% of the workforce toiling in blue collar jobs, only a small subset is comprised of skilled workers. HVACR technicians are drawn from that small subset of the shallow labor pool and employer competition for their skillsets is keen.

I strongly believe that community colleges, trade schools and RSES can have a greater relative impact on a student's standard of living than any Ivy League school provides its students. Ivy League schools and many universities serve students that come from families with resources. The future for those students was probably well-established at birth. An education is still important to and does benefit affluent students; however, the relative impact on their standards of living is not as dramatic as the impact an education has on students who begin and face life having minimal resources. The relative jump in living standard for that subset of the student population can be dramatic. Higher earning power not only benefits their families, it also benefits the communities in which they live. Successful citizens create successful communities. Community colleges, trade schools and RSES can help students move from

*"Reprinted with permission from RSES Journal."*

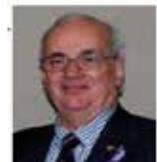
the pool of common laborers to the puddle of skilled laborers that today's employers are competing to hire.

The *Virginian Pilot* newspaper recently reported on the current state of the ship building and ship repair workforce in the Hampton Roads area of southeast Virginia. That report accentuated a concerning fact: the average age of a worker is 55 years. The number of younger workers entering that field is not sufficient to offset attrition. Our HVACR industry faces, as do all other industries that need workers, this same dilemma. The head of the HVACR apprentice program at Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) in Hampton Roads, Virginia confirms that the plight reported in the *Pilot* affects his workforce. His comment was on target: America needs "doers."

Demand for skilled HVACR workers is high. Wages and benefits for skilled HVACR workers are excellent. Why, then, are not students lined up in mass for admission into training programs offered by community colleges and trade schools across the U.S and Canada? In light of the market environment, demand for HVACR training should produce membership applications in a volume that constipates the RSES post office box. I have some thoughts on that subject and if you are curious enough to read about them in my article next month, I would very much appreciate your feedback. Perhaps we can work together and develop a solution.

*Harlan Krepcik, CMS*

Harlan Krepcik, CMS  
 RSES International President



## cooking it up at fmit

by Chef Joe  
 Mastrangelo

Kylie Corey, a LeeSchools TV Student Intern at The School District of Lee County's Communications and Production department produced a video of FMIT's Commercial Foods & Culinary Arts program. The video can be seen on the district's YouTube channel.



Aimee  
 Rudd, &  
 Shanna  
 Grier



Chef Joe  
 Mastrangelo,  
 Kylie Corey,





Most of FMIT's instructors have started their career in the 'real world' and brought a wealth of knowledge with them. Perhaps none more so than Mr. **Charles Ryder** who worked for 33 years as an electrical engineer before beginning his teaching career at FMIT in 2006.

Mr. Ryder grew up in Dundee, Michigan, the heart of the automotive industry in those days and went to work at Chevrolet's transmission plant after graduating high school. While working for Dundee Cement a few years later, he completed an electrical apprenticeship. That led him to Ford Motor Company where he was hired as an electrician. He was soon promoted to supervisor; his boss recognized his potential and encouraged him to pursue a college education in order to advance within the company. After 9 years working 7 days a week, going to school in the evenings and on weekends, and raising his family, he finally earned a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Wayne State University. He continued to advance at Ford and a few years later earned a master's degree in Industrial Management and Automation Application from Eastern Michigan University. In 1997, he ended his career at Ford as the Operations Manager at the Rawsonville plant where he was responsible for manufacturing alternators and small motors for Ford and Chrysler vehicles and Cessna, Piper and Beechcraft aircrafts.

He enjoyed his retirement playing golf, fishing, and traveling throughout Europe but eventually boredom led him to substitute teaching. Mr. Ryder completed the orientation for new substitute instructors at FMIT where he met Mrs. Susan Cooley, former FMIT assistant director, and FMIT's director, Mr. Bill McCormick. He became a frequent substitute at FMIT and when the Electronic Technology vacancy became available, the administration approached Mr. Ryder. He wasn't interested in working full-time but after much persuasion, he agreed to accept the position with the clear understanding that he would not be staying more than 2-3 years. Mr. Ryder was busy rewriting the program's curriculum, setting up new Lab Volt teaching aids, working with the Electronic Technician Association (ETA) for student certifications, and establishing partnerships with local businesses and those years went quickly. Fox Electronics, Micro Controls, and H & F Scientific have donated equipment to the program, provided engineering personnel to teach and demonstrate emerging technologies, and have hired numerous graduates.

"The most rewarding thing for an instructor is when that 'a-ha' moment happens for your student, when the light bulb turns on, when they realize that they have it, and they are ready for what's next, regardless of what it is," said Mr. Ryder.

Before long, 3 years had passed and Mr. Ryder realized

he wasn't finished; he loved teaching and seeing his students succeed. The Electronic Technology program is challenging: students must learn science and math; how DC, AC, analog, digital, and solid state circuits work; and how they work together to produce the desired outcome.

Mr. Ryder was a long-standing member of FMIT's School Advisory Council and the School District's Advisory Council. He received the Uncommon Friends Champion Teacher Award in 2008-09. With his help, several students were awarded scholarships from Indian Creek, Uncommon Friends Foundation, and the Italian American Club. He and his students designed the lighting and sound systems for FMIT's award-winning floats in the Edison Festival of Light Grand Parade. They also set up the sound system and music at every year's Veterans Day ceremony. His students continue to repair every type of electronic device and component for students, faculty, and staff.

In 2013, Mr. Ryder worked with Florida's Department of Education to rewrite the curriculum frameworks used by all the Electronic Technology programs statewide. Most recently, Mr. Ryder collaborated with other program instructors to purchase, set-up, and implement a state-of-the-art fabrication laboratory.

This year, Mr. Ryder was instrumental in establishing a Rapid Prototyping Lab at FMIT. Ian Gustafson, an FMIT graduate, and he did extensive research and ordered all the equipment to get the lab up and running.

"The contributions Chuck Ryder has made to FMIT far surpass the running of an outstanding Electronic Technology program," said Bill McCormick, FMIT Director. "Chuck sets the bar very high in every aspect of what it means to be a great person. His professionalism, dedication, and selflessness, both in and out of the classroom, have been inspiring to all who know him. FMIT is a much better place because Chuck Ryder was here for a few short years. We will miss him greatly."

Last summer, Mr. Ryder and his wife Carla spent 8 weeks on the road traveling 11,000 miles through 22 states while visiting 14 of America's magnificent national parks. Along the way, they visited their son in St. Louis and their daughter and 3 grandchildren in California.

After almost 9 years at FMIT, Mr. Ryder has decided it's finally time to try retirement again. His last day was January 20, 2015. That same week he attended an orientation with the Florida Department of Children and Families and soon will complete 5 days of Guardian Ad Litem training. He will be working as an advocate with children at risk.

Mr. Ryder looks forward to having more time enjoying the golf course and fishing in the Gulf of Mexico. He and his wife enjoy the theatre and symphony and plan on exploring more of the United States.

We wish Mr. Ryder a healthy and happy retirement!



Charles Ryder

## FMIT Hosts Counselors Meeting

**February 13, 2015**—Over 35 high school counselors, career specialists, and agency representatives visited FMIT for an admissions workshop. Chef Joe Mastrangelo and the Commercial Foods & Culinary Arts students prepared breakfast and chocolate dipped strawberries for the guests.

Mr. **David Branton**, Chief Executive Officer of Turbine Generator Maintenance, Inc., spoke about the need for technical training, excellent salaries, job satisfaction, and opportunities for advancement for trained technicians in his company.



David Branton

FMIT Director William McCormick shared with local high school counselors the new developments on our campus including new programs that will be offered next year: Applied Cybersecurity, Cloud Computing & Virtualization, Central Sterile Processing Technology, and Emergency Medical Technician. He also explained that high school students will be dual enrolled, earning post-secondary credit which can be counted toward a high school diploma. The visitors learned more about the advantages that technical/career training can offer their students by posing questions to a panel composed of FMIT faculty, students, administrators, and an FMIT graduate.

The participants finished off the day with a tour of the campus. All in all, it was a wonderful day full of food, fun, and valuable information.

Thank you to Ms. Georgiadis, Ms. Harden, and Ms. Daniels for organizing the meeting.



## SCHOLARSHIP DONATION

by Stephanie Watson



Richard Karnes believed in Career and Technical Education and its ability to change the lives of students. He dedicated his life to serving Lee County's students, and in passing, willed \$25,000 in scholarship funds to FMIT. The Richard Karnes Trust Foundation, represented by Norma Conrod, will provide \$5,000 in scholarships per year, for a period of five years to help deserving FMIT students further their education. The scholarship funding will be used to help make students' dreams of obtaining industry certification a reality. Students

can apply for the scholarship to cover the costs of exams, books, uniforms, or tools. Applications are located in the Financial Aid Office. FMIT students, staff, and administrators sincerely appreciate the generosity of Mr. Karnes and look forward to granting scholarships that help students achieve their educational goals.



Norma Conrod and Stephanie Watson



**A**s a young boy growing up in Havana, Cuba, Larry Hernandez found himself intrigued by the buildings he walked past everyday on his way to and from school. He found himself studying the details of the buildings without knowing how this early infatuation with architecture would shape his life. While becoming an architect was not an available option under the Communist regime, life changed in 1971 when his family fled Cuba. In the United States, Mr. Hernandez obtained citizenship and control of his destiny.

When Mr. Hernandez graduated from Clewiston High School in 1976, he didn't have a career plan.



Larry Hernandez

A couple of his friends were enrolled at Lee Vo-Tech (now FMIT) and encouraged him to check it out. He was interested in the Computer Sciences program but his guidance counselor, Mr. Garry Parsons, recognized Mr. Hernandez's talents and steered him into the Architectural Drafting program. With the support of his instructor, Mr. Gerry Benion, he excelled in the program. After completing the program in 1977, he went to work for Pate Homes and later R. J. McCormick Architect in Fort Myers. Mr. Hernandez established himself as a respected member of the design community in Southwest Florida and became well-known for his exceptional design, attention to detail, and construction proficiency. He brought his talents, architectural viewpoint, and design influence to some of the largest architectural firms in the area including Frizzell Architecture where he designed churches, schools, and correctional facilities.

Mr. Hernandez became a contractor in 1986 and started his own business, Hernandez Design, Inc. in Fort Myers, which he operated for twelve years. He designed and built homes with his signature attention to detail and excellence.

In 1998, Mr. Hernandez was recruited by an architectural firm in Naples where he became a partner. With that firm, he worked on many award-winning projects: the Aqua Sales Center in Naples won the Aurora Award for Best

Commercial Project – Office Building in 2006 and the Sand Dollar Award for Best Interior Design Commercial Project was awarded in 2004 by Interior Design Network.

While at this architectural firm, he and a co-worker decided to become partners and go in another direction with architecture.

Opening Studio 2 Architecture Planning, LLC located in Naples in 2007 with partner Rocco Costa was a natural progression and blending of their unique talents, styles, experiences, core values, and design philosophies. As Designer/Principal of the company, Mr. Hernandez has designed homes up to 25,000 sq. ft. and was the project manager of a \$380 million dollar commercial project.

"The Architectural Drafting program gave me a very strong knowledge base upon which I could build upon during my career in architecture," said Mr. Hernandez. "I learned the principles for local construction techniques and different drafting mediums. I was also taught the importance of visualization. I can close my eyes and visualize an entire project in my head before putting down a line in the computer. For the first time, after entering my training at Lee Vo-Tech, teachers took a genuine interest in me and for that I will be eternally grateful."

The Casa Verde residence designed by Larry Hernandez is located in a rural area of Madison County, Florida on the Little Withlacoochee River. The design minimizes site impact by replacing the building's impervious coverage with green roofs and driveways, utilizing them as collectors for the reclaimed water system. The theory behind the design is to create a self-sufficient, environmentally-friendly structure with key emphasis on natural ventilation.



Casa Verde Project – Front Elevation

## SWEETS FOR SWEETHEARTS

February 13, 2015—Congratulations to Aimee Rudd, Commercial Foods & Culinary Arts student, who won the Sweets for Sweethearts Taste of FMIT. Ms. Rudd's strawberry cheesecakes were both delicious and beautiful!

Taste of FMIT contestants  
Alexis Landry,  
Shanna Grier, &  
Aimee Rudd



## POWER-GEN INVITE

by Jeff Ohime

Students in the Turbine Generator Maintenance, Inspection, and Repair program were invited to attend Power-Gen International in Orlando on December 9, 10, and 11, 2014. The students had access to Power-Gen, Nuclear World, Renewable World, and also attended the keynote address. Students were given the opportunity to attend any of the learning tracks at the conference. The students were able to attend the Penn Energy Career Fair and also attended the exhibit hall which had approximately 1,500 vendors from all over the world in the power generation field.



*Pictured from left to right: Jason Barry, Ethan King, Dirk Troxell, Hunter Williams, Dustin Bozeman, Gary Swanson, Brandon Schwerdtfeger, John Laurent, Tyler Buquet*



## STEMTASTIC!

by Dr. Dante Ciolfi

Where can you see robots crawling around and drones flying through the air? No, it's not a party in another galaxy. It's the STEMtastic Fair!

The fair was held at Harborside Event Center on Saturday, February 14th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event was attended by hundreds of middle school students and parents interested in learning more about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).

FMIT student Will Carta and Dr. Dante Ciolfi, instructor of .NET Application Development & Programming and Web Application Development & Programming teamed up with Lee County JROTC, Deva Industries, and Klaas Kids to create a multi-component exhibit.

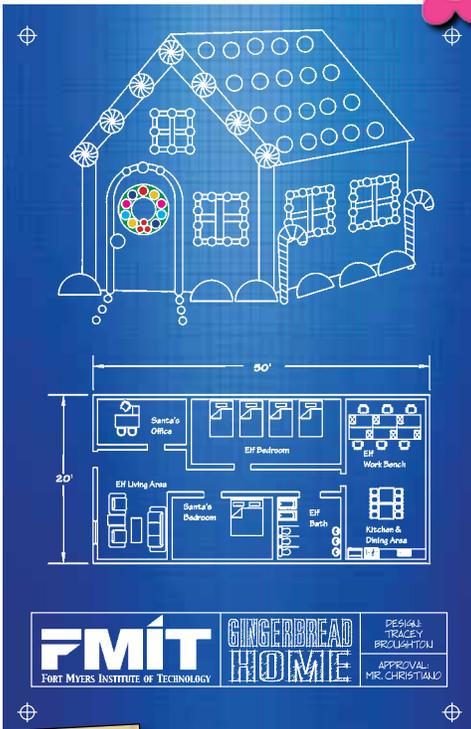
JROTC students helped middle school kids' parents by creating fingerprints and photos of their children which were printed and given to the parents on site (no data was stored). Parents were also given home DNA kits to create a profile for each child.

Will Carta created several custom Android phone apps for kids. Kids who had an Android phone or whose parents had an Android phone were asked for their first name. Will, then incorporated their name into a custom app and installed it on their Android phone. The kids' faces lit up when they realized they had their own personal app.

Consider attending next year. By the way, the robots and drones are friendly!



Will Carta



**T**hank you to **Tracey Broughton**, a former Drafting student, who designed FMIT's unique holiday card. Ms. Broughton recently accepted a position as a CAD Technician with London Bay Homes in the interior design division.

December 18, 2014— Congratulations to **Randall Spangler, Aaron Eichbauer, Angelo Llewellyn & Jason Slapp** from the Major Appliance & Refrigeration Repair program for achieving Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Universal certification. With this certification, students may now legally handle refrigerants.



December 18, 2014—For the past 17 years, Chef/ Instructor Joe Mastrangelo & Paraprofessional Arron Wakeman chose two students to create the annual gingerbread houses for the holiday season. Brittney Gavin and Megan Shelkofsky created an assortment of edible creations that showed off their individuality and creativity. These students definitely earned the "A" that they received for their project. The gingerbread village was donated to the Ronald McDonald House Charities in Fort Myers.



Pictured from left to right: Bill McCormick; Dr. Brian Byrnes; Brittney Gavin; George McDaniel; Arron Wakeman; Chef Joe Mastrangelo; and Laura Ragin, Executive Director, Ronald McDonald House Charities



December 16, 2014 – Linda Nibert and Virginia Villeneuve from Indian Creek Resort at Fort Myers Beach presented each of the Lee Tech Tots with a handmade teddy bear. The children picked out and named their favorite bear. Twenty-two members of the Indian Creek Teddy Bear Club worked throughout the year on the teddy bears and donated 122 bears to day care centers, schools, hospitals, and fire departments throughout Lee County. Thank you to these very talented ladies!!!



**Congratulations**



**Judy Smith**, Medical Coder/Biller instructor, recently received Certified Professional

Biller (CPB) and Certified Professional Medical Auditor (CPMA) certifications from the American Association of Professional Coders.



**ORACLE ACADEMY**

February 22, 2015—Thank you to **Dr. Dante Ciolfi**, Web Application Development & Programming and .NET Application Development & Programming instructor, for his work in getting FMIT designated as an Oracle Academy.

## Cosmetology Salon Open to the Public

FMIT's Cosmetology Salon is open to the public on

Thursday from 9 A.M.–4:30 P.M.;  
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9 A.M.–1:30 P.M.

Haircuts are only \$5.00 and a basic manicure is only \$6.00! No appointments are necessary.



## Congratulations to the Students Who Earned Industry Certifications 1st Semester

- Amanda Arnold**—Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, & Excel (Medical Administrative Assistant)
- Joe Arnold**—American Welding Society Welder's Certification (Welding Technologies)
- Charles Barnes**—Briggs & Stratton Master Service Technician (Gasoline Engine Service Technology)
- Daniel Bruseth**—Microsoft Excel 2013, Word 2013, Outlook 2013 (Business Supervision & Management)
- Aaron Eichbauer**—Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Universal certification (Major Appliance & Refrigeration Repair)
- Shelemiah Fleming**—Florida State Board of Cosmetology License (Cosmetology)
- Amanda Goff**—Double Certified: Certified Professional Coder Apprentice (CPC-A) & Certified Professional Biller (CPB) (Medical Coder/Biller)
- Vareena Gray**—Certified Professional Coder (Medical Coder/Biller)
- Wendy Hager**—Certified Professional Coder (Medical Coder/Biller)
- Michael Kraus**—Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) A-6 Electrical/Electronic Systems (Automotive Service Technology)
- Emily Krutz**—Florida State Board of Cosmetology License (Cosmetology)
- Lauryn Lee**—Florida State Board of Cosmetology License (Cosmetology)
- Angelo Llewellyn**—Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Universal certification (Major Appliance & Refrigeration Repair)
- Donte Lope**—Florida State Board of Cosmetology License (Cosmetology)
- Angela Lopez**—Florida Department of Children & Families (DCF) Early Childhood Professional Certification, DCF Staff Credential (Early Childhood Education)
- Jecoa Loredo**—Briggs & Stratton Master Service Technician; Stihl Corporation – Bronze Certification (Gasoline Engine Service Technology)
- Tyler McGinnis**—Evinrude Essentials & Servicing Evinrude E-tecs (Marine Service Technology)
- Trent Merz**—Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) A-1 Engine Repair, A-5 Brakes, and A-6 Electrical/Electronic Systems (Automotive Service Technology)
- Krystal Olson**—Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel (Medical Administrative Specialist)
- Kelly Parker**—Evinrude Essentials & Servicing Evinrude E-tecs (Marine Service Technology)
- Natalie Perez**—Florida Department of Children & Families (DCF) Early Childhood Professional Certification, DCF Staff Credential (Early Childhood Education)
- Childhood Professional Certification, DCF Staff Credential (Early Childhood Education)**
- Logan Pufahl**—Evinrude Essentials & Servicing Evinrude E-tecs (Marine Service Technology)
- Lisset Quintana**—Florida State Board of Cosmetology License (Cosmetology)
- Aaron Ramos**—Evinrude Essentials & Servicing Evinrude E-tecs (Marine Service Technology)
- John Rubias**—Adobe Certified Associate (ACA), Illustrator (Web Application Development & Programming)
- Andrew Samuels**—Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) A-4 Steering and Suspension (Automotive Service Technology)
- Steven Santangelo**—Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Master Technician (passed all 8 certification exams) (Automotive Service Technology)
- Jason Slapp**—Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Universal certification (Major Appliance & Refrigeration Repair)
- Cheryl Smith**—Certified Professional Coder (Medical Coder/Biller-Online)
- Jay Somers**—Evinrude Essentials & Servicing Evinrude E-tecs (Marine Service Technology)
- Randall Spangler**—Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Universal certification (Major Appliance & Refrigeration Repair)
- Zachary St. Amant**—Adobe Certified Associate (ACA), Photoshop (Web Application Development & Programming)
- Alicia Thomas**—Florida Department of Children & Families (DCF) Early Childhood Professional Certification, DCF Staff Credential (Early Childhood Education)
- Shameen Tillman**—Certified Professional Coder (Medical Coder/Biller-Online)
- Adrian Travieso**—Adobe Certified Associate (ACA), Dreamweaver (Web Application Development & Programming)
- Vince Urbanowski**—American Welding Society Welder's Certification (Welding Technologies)
- Diana Wenrich**—Certified Professional Coder (Medical Coder/Biller-Online)
- Brian Wenzlick**—Briggs & Stratton Master Service Technician (Gasoline Engine Service Technology)
- Shannon Williams**—Florida State Board of Cosmetology License (Cosmetology)



Camelia Schley, Rebecca Jean & Melissa Ramos

**February 6, 2015**—Rebecca Jean and Camelia Schley, Medical Coder/Biller students; and Melissa Ramos, Medical Administrative Assistant student were awarded \$400 scholarships at a luncheon sponsored by the Church Women United. Each of the students received outstanding letters of recommendation from their instructors and ministers.



**November 13, 2014**—Congratulations to the eight students who recently completed the L.E.E. Medical Office Skills program sponsored by Lee County Government. This 7-month course included Medical Terminology, Computer Applications, CPR Certification, Medical Front Office Operations/HIPAA, Introduction to Billing and Coding, Electronic Medical Records, Résumés and Interview Skills. Students also received intensive case management during the one year they were enrolled in the program.

This **Lee Education and Employment (L.E.E.) Program** is designed to rapidly produce a substantial increase in income for low-income working families and provide them a career path with upward mobility. Qualified participants receive paid tuition, books, supplies, and may receive assistance with child care, transportation, and other support services. Classes are scheduled twice per year beginning in April and October. For more information, please visit <http://dhs.leegov.com/programs/familysufficiency/Pages/LEEPProgram.aspx> or call Marti Mills at Lee County Human Services at 533-7933.



Front Row: Gloria Lorenzo Strauss, Naomi Salinas, Alissa Loebig, and Alexis Smith; Back Row: Victoria Bartleson, Andrea Magda, Skyler Harris, Sara Pinney, and Barbara Goins—L.E.E. Program Coordinator



## DAY PROGRAMS

- Administrative Office Specialist
- Air Conditioning, Refrigeration and Heating Technology
- Applied Cybersecurity **NEW**
- Automotive Collision Repair & Refinishing
- Automotive Service Technology (A.S.E.-Based Technician)
- Carpentry
- Central Sterile Processing Technology **NEW**
- Certified Nursing Assistant (various starting dates throughout the year)
- Cloud Computing & Virtualization **NEW**
- Commercial Foods & Culinary Arts
- Construction Workforce Connection
- Correctional Officer
- Cosmetology
- Crossover Correctional Officer to Law Enforcement Officer
- Crossover Law Enforcement Officer to Correctional Officer
- Drafting (CAD)
- Early Childhood Education
- Electricity
- Electronic Technology
- Emergency Medical Technician-ATD **NEW**
- Fire Fighter
- Florida Law Enforcement Officer
- IV Therapy
- Licensed Practical Nurse (various starting dates throughout the year)
- Major Appliance & Refrigeration Repair
- Marine Service Technology
- Medical Administrative Specialist
- Medical Coder/ Biller
- .NET Application Development & Programming
- Patient Care Assistant
- Phlebotomy
- Plumbing Technology
- Turbine Generator Maintenance, Inspection and Repair
- Web Application Development & Programming
- Welding Technologies

**For registration information call (239) 334-4544**



## Students Attend Traveling Road Show

by Patrick Stott

December 2, 2015— The Air Conditioning, Refrigeration & Heating Technology students attended a traveling road show showcasing the newest air conditioning products from Daikin Manufacturing. They are one of the leaders in variable flow refrigerant systems that are becoming very popular in the United States. They also showcased a 100 percent Addison outside air unit for commercial buildings that conditions the hot humid outside air before it enters the air conditioning unit that feeds conditioned air into our commercial buildings.

The show was put on by Mr. Andrew Key, manager of Carroll Air Systems in Fort Myers. It consisted of two tractor trailers loaded with different types of commercial equipment as well as vendors inside the building showcasing products ranging from air conditioning coil coatings to variable frequency drives. The students were also introduced to some local employers who were also in attendance at the show.

Pictured from left to right: Tyrone Williams, Eric Hackett, Daniel Tatak, Danny Lemmon, Todd Hammer, Denzel Green, Santiago Arminana, and Austin Bryant



Fort Myers  
Institute of Technology  
**GRADUATION CEREMONY**

Thursday, May 28, 2015  
6:00 P.M.

Fort Myers Senior  
High School

2635 Cortez Blvd  
Fort Myers, FL



### To Do:

1. PAY MECHANIC'S BILL.
2. PAY APPLIANCE REPAIR GUY'S BILL.



3. PAY PLUMBER'S BILL.
4. MAKE 49TH STUDENT LOAN PAYMENT.
5. GO KICK BUTT OF GUIDANCE COUNSELOR WHO TOLD ME TO MAJOR IN SOCIOLOGY.