



INNOVATION PARK

A RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE



www.innovation-park.com | WINTER 2010

Grant Winner Sees Significant Business Growth

In 2005, Florida State University Professor Joe Schlenoff was awarded one of the first Innovation Park Technology Commercialization Grants from the Leon County Research and Development Authority (LCRDA). He received \$15,000 to support his small technology start-up company, nanoStrata, Inc., which he founded in 2000 to further the research he started at the university.

Fast forward to 2010 and Schlenoff's small business is booming. He has an office at Innovation Park, his sales have increased year after year, and his specialized technology products are being shipped to universities and private sector businesses around the world.

Schlenoff created a robotic system that automatically dips sample materials into a series of coating solutions using a multilayering process. His complete patented system, which includes the robot, cabinet, electronics, software and computer, costs on average \$15,000 to \$20,000 and can take up to 30 hours to build.

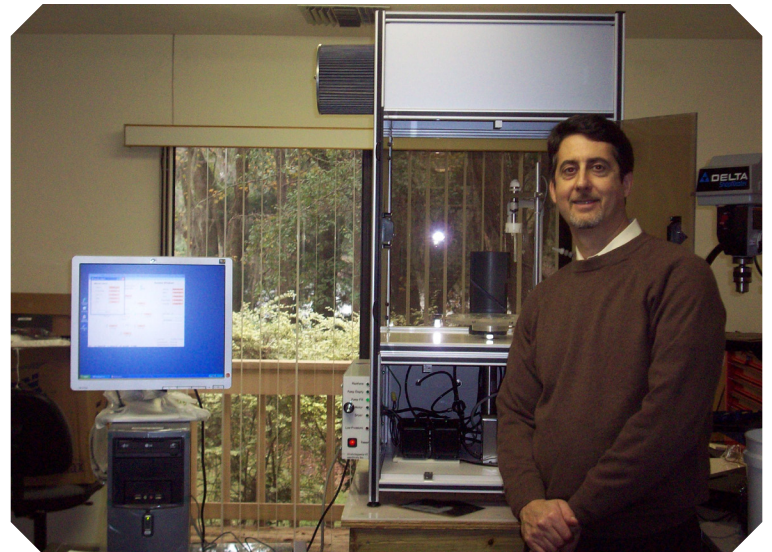
He credits the grant he received from the LCRDA for helping him reach this level of success.

"Part of owning your own business is knowing that your fortune is in your own hands," said Schlenoff. "Most entrepreneurs will tell you that funding is critical to success. The grant money I was awarded was instrumental in helping me obtain a new working space to enhance the operation of my robotic system."

Schlenoff also takes pride in the fact that his business is helping the local, regional and state economy. He purchases all of his equipment from suppliers located in Florida, including one company in the Panhandle that he personally visits to custom order the parts. To help fill orders for his robotic system, Schlenoff employs engineering students from the local universities.

"Joe's technology company is proof that supporting and investing in Leon County's tech start-ups with commercially viable products and services is a smart strategy to spur economic

development," said Linda Nichol森, executive director of Innovation Park. "This was our goal when we started the grant program five years ago and we are really pleased to see the significant outcomes for the grant winners."



▲ Joe Schlenoff, president of nanoStrata, Inc., with his patented Strato-Sequence 6 robot.

Apply Now for the 2010 Commercialization Technology Grant

The Leon County Research and Development Authority is accepting applications for the annual Innovation Park Technology Commercialization Grant program. Entrepreneurs developing technology-related products and services can receive up to \$15,000. The grants will be awarded to individuals from local businesses, universities and research labs on a competitive award basis. The deadline to submit an application is Wednesday, March 31, 2010 no later than 1 p.m.

Applications and information about the grant program can be downloaded at www.innovation-park.com or by contacting Innovation Park Executive Director Linda Nichol森 at (850)-575-0343 or lnichol森@inn-park.com.

Technology Helps Bring Free Online Textbooks to Students



A joint initiative between the University Press of Florida and the Orange Grove Digital Repository is reducing the costs of traditional textbooks and providing students

access to online textbooks and scholarly monographs free of charge. The new Orange Grove Texts Plus is part of the Florida Distance Learning Consortium (FDLC) located at Innovation Park.

“The Orange Grove can house any resource faculty members need for teaching. For students, the Orange Grove can significantly cut the cost of their education if open access textbooks are adopted for use,” said Susie Henderson, Orange Grove Project Director and FDLC Associate Executive Director. “The content of open textbooks is licensed to allow anyone to use, download, customize or print at no charge, which means every student can have equal access.”

Over the past two decades, textbook costs have increased at

twice the rate of inflation and, in Florida, often exceed the cost of tuition. Orange Grove Texts Plus was established to fight this trend by providing students and instructors free downloads as well as the ability to purchase bound books priced 40-50 percent less than similar textbooks available at retail outlets, including online discounters.

Orange Grove Texts Plus currently houses more than 145 open-access textbooks, with more resources added regularly. Faculty may choose to use an open-access textbook “as is” or will soon be able to develop a custom textbook from one or more open textbooks and any personally developed resources.

To view the textbooks and other resources available on Orange Grove Texts Plus, visit www.orangegrove.org.

New Hurricane Forecasting Methods Prove Successful



At the beginning of last year’s hurricane season, a group of scientists from Florida State University’s Center for Ocean-Atmosphere Prediction Studies (COAPS) issued their first ever tropical storm activity forecast.

Led by Dr. Tim LaRow, the team used the FSU/COAPS global spectral model to make their prediction and the results were very impressive.

Through the state-of-the-art computer program run on FSU’s high performance supercomputing cluster, Dr. LaRow and colleagues Lydia Stefanova, Dong-Wook Shin and Steve Cocke performed 23 years of re-forecasts, or hindcasts, using sea surface temperatures determined by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) from 1986-2008. The FSU/COAPS model performed very well for the entire 23 years using this data, and the agreement between the model predictions and the actual storm counts was very high.

For the 2009 Atlantic hurricane season, the team predicted below-normal tropical activity for the Atlantic Ocean—a mean of eight named storms, four hurricanes, and a below-average value of 65 for the accumulated cyclone energy (ACE; a measure of the cumulative duration and strength of the season’s storms).

At the end of the season, the researchers found that the COAPS predictions were very close to the actual numbers—nine named storms, three hurricanes, and an ACE value of 52.

The success of the COAPS forecast for the 2009 Atlantic hurricane season and the 23 years of re-forecasts adds to the growing research in forecasting seasonal tropical cyclone activity using dynamical computer models.

FSU/COAPS is located at Innovation Park. For more information about the global spectral model visit, www.coaps.fsu.edu.



Letter From the Chairman



This year Innovation Park will reach a significant milestone. In October, the oldest research park in Florida turns 30 years old. Yes, it was three decades ago when a small tract of undeveloped land in Southwest Leon County was transformed into a self-supported community asset that is now home to more than 50 organizations employing over 2,000 citizens.

Over the years, Innovation Park has been an engine for economic growth in Leon County and a center for scientific discoveries that have gained worldwide attention. Our park is filled with a remarkable breadth of scientific research in fields as varied as renewable energy, transportation, magnetics, health sciences, and materials research. Through its affiliation with both Florida A&M University and Florida State University, the park continues to draw in smart, ambitious innovators testing and creating technologies that will benefit future generations. Their work also broadens the economic base of this community by attracting new industries to Leon County and generating small business start-ups.

The Leon County Research and Development Authority (LCRDA) is charged with managing the park and supporting all of the entities that call Innovation Park home. We don't take this task lightly and we strive to identify new ways to enhance the research park and make it a place that fosters research, business development, technology transfer and economic growth.

As we celebrate the last 30 years of accomplishments, the Authority is already looking ahead to the future. While much has been achieved at Innovation Park, I am thrilled at what the next 30 years will bring to this community.

Tom Barron, Chairman
Leon County Research and Development Authority

SciGirls Camp Organizers Planning for 2010

SciGirls is a two-week, hands-on summer camp organized by the National High Field Magnetic Laboratory and WFSU to inspire rising sixth through tenth grade girls to pursue careers in science. Campers travel to a variety of area sites, engaging in hands-on activities that underscore important science principles. The 2010 SciGirls Camp is scheduled for July 19-30. Camp organizers are looking for sponsors to help provide \$300 scholarships for each camper to attend. In addition, SciGirls is looking for area scientists and engineers interested in conducting activities or hosting a site visit to teach campers more about their daily work.



For more information or to help sponsor a SciGirl camper, contact Pat Dixon at pdixon@magnet.fsu.edu or (850) 644-4707 or Kim Kelling-Engstrom at kkelling@fsu.edu or (850) 487-3170.

Authority Members

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Tallahassee Community College



UPCOMING EVENT CALENDAR

INCUBATOR OPEN HOUSE ON JANUARY 27TH

The Incubator at Innovation Park is hosting an open house on Wednesday, January 27, 2010 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Keynote speaker Ron Baker, president of CFO Today, will give a presentation on “Franchising Your Business.” Mr. Baker will be sharing his experience and insights on how he turned his local accounting services company into one of the fastest growing franchises in the United States. His Tallahassee-based company offers accounting services that specifically address the needs of businesses with revenues of less than \$1 million a year. The Incubator open house is an opportunity for start-up technology-related companies in the community to tour the newly renovated office space, network and learn more about the small-business resources offered by the FAMU Small Business Development Center.

To RSVP for the open house, contact Jennifer Pency at Jennifer.pency@saltermitchell.com or (850)-681-3200.



▲ *The Incubator at Innovation Park.*

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