



**March 2026**



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**Andrea Dial**



**Darla Shrum**



**Kim Houghton**

## Women's History Month: Celebrating the Women of ITS

This Women's History Month we're highlighting three leaders — **Kim Houghton**, **Darla Shrum** and **Andrea Dial** — whose careers and contributions have helped shape technology, learning and operations across our campus. Their stories show different paths into Information Technology (IT), but all share a commitment to mentorship, collaboration and creating opportunities for the next generation of women in IT. Read the full story on the ITS news page to learn more about their projects, what Women's History Month means to them and advice for women pursuing careers in tech.

To all women at ITS: Thank you for your hard work, leadership and dedication that is shaping the future of technology at Florida State University.

[Read More](#)

**ITS News**



## 2026 ITS RISE Together Showcase

Join us at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7, at the Augustus B. Turnbull III Florida State Conference Center for the third annual ITS RISE Together Showcase. This half-day conference is open to the entire FSU community to connect with thought leaders, attend hands-on sessions across three 50-minute presentation blocks and view ITS intern posters.

“The RISE Together Showcase represents the very best of Florida State University,” said CIO Jonathon Fozard. “It brings together research, instruction, innovation, security and student success in one unified experience. This event demonstrates how technology is not simply supporting the university’s mission, but actively accelerating it.”

Don’t miss this opportunity for professional development, networking and a glimpse into the innovations that are powering teaching, research and administration at FSU!

[RSVP Here](#)



## A Flavorful Afternoon: The ITS Chili Cook-off!

On February 19, we gathered for the highly anticipated Annual ITS Chili Cook-off.

With nine unique recipes in the running, the competition was impressive. The event was a fantastic opportunity for the teams to connect over some friendly rivalry and great food. Congratulations to **Daniel Leggett** who emerged as our first-place winner!

A big thank you to everyone who participated and helped make this such a successful team-building afternoon!

## Data & Analytics Team Delivers AI-Powered Wins for Research, Recruitment and Grants

The Information Technology Services Data & Analytics team recently delivered several AI-driven solutions for various FSU faculty and researchers that saved time and advanced research, recruitment and grant work. They transcribed and delivered more than 11,000 therapy recordings for the College of Medicine to train an LLM for a nutritional counseling app, which would have taken 7,200–12,000 hours and cost roughly \$250,000 with professional transcription, but was completed by one person in days using AI. The team also built a recommendation engine to help a high-demand FSU college retain students by suggesting alternative FSU programs, improved grant classification accuracy for sponsored research, and quickly identified humanities courses so a department could meet a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) deadline. Great work, Data & Analytics team!

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## Submit Articles for *Pursuits*

Whether it is an event your team is planning, an award your employee received or a project update, we want to hear from you. Submit today for your chance to be featured in next month's edition of *Pursuits*!

[Submit Here](#)

@FSU



## Florida State University Celebrates Partnership with Amazon Web Services

From predicting intersection collisions to revolutionizing healthcare data, the partnership between FSU Information Technology Services (ITS) and Amazon Web Services (AWS) is transforming the landscape of campus research.

Last week's FSU-AWS Researcher Showcase and Awards celebrated the incredible milestones achieved by our faculty and students. By removing traditional computational barriers, ITS is providing the FSU community with the high-powered cloud and AI tools necessary to turn months of data processing into days of discovery.

"This partnership is a powerful example of how Florida State is delivering on the strategic vision of President McCullough by investing in the technology

infrastructure that drives cutting-edge research,” said Associate Vice President & Chief Information Officer Jonathan A. Fozard. “Removing traditional compute barriers and broadening access to secure cloud and AI tools allows our researchers and scholars to move faster, design transformative research and secure the large-scale grants that empower long-term impact.”

[Read More](#)

## FSU Expands Stellic to Graduate and Professional Programs

Stellic, a collaborative academic planning tool, has supported undergraduate students at FSU since fall 2024 by providing a clear, shared view of degree requirements, planning and registration. This spring marks the first phase of expanding that same experience to graduate, law, and medical students. By extending an established undergraduate model to additional student populations, FSU is helping create a more consistent, coordinated approach to student academic support, planning and registration across the university.

ITS has supported this expansion by clarifying data requirements, coordinating data integrations and addressing differences in academic support structures across the various student populations. Through close collaboration with campus partners, ITS has helped bridge technology gaps to ensure graduate and professional programs are supported alongside existing undergraduate frameworks. Future phases will continue bringing graduate and professional degree programs under the Stellic umbrella, strengthening clarity, reducing uncertainty and supporting students’ academic progress through shared, reliable systems.

[Learn More](#)

## FSU-Microsoft AI Symposium 2026

Discover how AI can accelerate your research and daily work at the [FSU-Microsoft AI Symposium 2026](#) happening on Tuesday, March 24, and Wednesday, March 25. Over two focused days, you’ll learn directly from Microsoft experts through real-world examples and guided, hands-on sessions. Whether you’re a researcher, faculty member or staff professional, you’ll gain practical skills through hands-on labs in Azure, Copilot and AI agents to enhance productivity and innovation.

**March 24** is open to participants in research disciplines and relevant adjacent support teams. It will feature speakers, slides and demos of AI for Research in the Microsoft Azure Ecosystem, along with hands-on workshops.

**March 25** is open to faculty, staff and researchers in relevant research areas and will allow participants to practice and explore Microsoft AI tools.



[Register Here](#)

## Federal ADA Title II Mandates

Florida State University is legally required under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the [U.S. Department of Justice's new rule under Title II of the ADA](#) to ensure all public-facing digital content is accessible to everyone. These are federal legal standards that apply to all state and local government entities, including public universities such as Florida State University.

**The DOJ requires compliance with WCAG 2.1 AA standards by April 24, 2026, effective from that date onward.** The DOJ rule mandates that digital content — including academic course content, videos, documents, and social media — meets Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 AA standards.

[Learn More](#)

## We Are IT



### RCC Spotlight: Dr. Thomas Stephan Juzek

Dr. Thomas Stephan Juzek joined FSU in 2022 as an assistant professor of computational linguistics. His research examines how AI-generated language interacts with human language, studying phenomena like lexical over-representation in LLMs and the emergence of AI-associated phrasing. Dr. Juzek utilizes the Research Computing Center (RCC) to run his large-scale, data- and compute-intensive projects.

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## Happy Anniversary!

Happy work anniversary to all the ITS employees celebrating milestone anniversaries with FSU this month.

### 40 Years

David Sammons

### 30 Years

Richard Arendes

### 20 Years

Rebekah Dorn

### 15 Years

Charles McCann  
Kelly Simon

### 10 Years

Blaine Fasone

### 5 Years

Semhal Redda  
Davud Dautbasic  
Alada De Nobrega  
Elizabeth Pitts  
Shantas Nixon

### 1 Year

Mark Peedin  
Serita Draper  
Lyann Cruz  
Rodriguez  
Harmony Thaxton  
Francisca  
Chinchilla  
Dan Adams

## Shout Outs

### Web Services Team Modernized FSU's Drupal WCMS

Shout out to the Web Services team (**Dave Burgess, Melissa Meschler, Kevin Borschel** and **Debbie Kelly**) for modernizing the Drupal Web Content Management System (WCMS) by migrating 380 websites from Acquia to Pantheon in just 30 weeks and processing 110+ myFSU Service Center cases. Special shoutout to **Vinson Thomas, Jaylen Savoie, Chad Patterson, Brad Bigelow** and **Landis Bing** for critical after-hours DNS support. This successful modernization effort strengthens FSU's digital engagement platform and position for future innovation. Congrats to everyone who made this happen!

## Count IT

# 825,427

sessions on the ITS website in 2025

## Join IT



Join our team! Browse IT [job openings at FSU](#).

[Systems Administrator](#)

[Data Engineer](#)

[ERP Analyst III](#)

[Enterprise Service Engagement Coordinator](#)

## Calendar



[R.A.D Demo  
Course with  
FSUPD \(Women  
Only\)](#)

03/11



[Social Hour at  
The Monroe @  
4:30 PM](#)

03/24



[ITS Town Hall  
and RISE  
Together  
Showcase](#)

04/07



**FSU**  
**INFORMATION  
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### Questions?

We are here to help. Contact the ITS Service Desk at 850-644-4357 or [its.fsu.edu/help](https://its.fsu.edu/help).

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