Zooming in on Autonomous Systems Research

BOCA RATON, Fla. (Nov. 14, 2017) — Autonomous systems such as drones are increasingly used in research and daily activities — in the air, on the roads and in the ocean — whether we see them or not. How we best design autonomous systems and make room for them in our lives, while protecting our privacy and safety, is among the questions explored at a recent autonomous systems faculty planning meeting.

More than thirty faculty gathered on the Boca Raton campus to hear engaging presentations on a vision for autonomous systems research and education. The meeting kicked off with remarks from College of Engineering and Computer Science Dean Stella Batalama, Ph.D., College of Science Associate Dean for Research Warner Miller, Ph.D., I-SENSE Fellow Dimitris Pados, Ph.D., and Tech Garage Educator/Scientist Scooter Willis, Ph.D.

The energetic crowd of autonomous systems enthusiasts, engineers and scientists zoned in on several key themes to move FAU's autonomous systems research agenda forward, including:

- measures to avoid collisions
- using autonomous systems to energize K-12 and collegiate STEAM curriculum
- applying drones in practical situations, such as pre- and post- storm reconnaissance
- next generation trauma care, and
- visualization of various underwater conditions.

The group also explored more provocative, existential questions such as "are animals and humans 'autonomous systems'?" As momentum in this area grows, FAU plans to partner with local law enforcement agencies, the Department of Defense, and federal sponsors to make autonomous systems a key university strength.

For more information, visit the group's website. Email the Associate Vice President for Research, Karin Scarpinato, Ph.D., if you'd like to join this group.

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