

Findlay Ranks Again in A+ Schools List

The University of Findlay has been ranked by U.S. News and World Report as a top-tier Midwest university for the sixth consecutive year. UF also, for the second consecutive year, was named to the “A+ Schools for B Students.”

The complete list of rankings, which include more than 1,600 schools nationwide, will appear in the September issue of the U.S. News and World Report magazine, and is currently available online at www.usnews.com/colleges.

The annual rankings, in which U.S. News groups schools based on categories created by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, provide a resource for

parents and students researching colleges and universities.

Schools are ranked based on key measures of quality including peer assessment, graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources and alumni giving.

Using a proprietary methodology, the annual U.S. News and World Report rankings are developed to help consumers evaluate and compare data compiled from



A. Risser Lee

The University is ranked as a top-tier Midwest university for the sixth consecutive year. Above, students work as a team on the first day of fall classes.

more than 1,600 accredited four-year schools.

Faculty, Alumni Artwork Appears at TMA

Art by recent UF graduates Lauren Bagley and Audra (Dundore) Manriquez and faculty members Spencer Cunningham and Valerie Escobedo was selected to appear in the 93rd Annual Toledo Area Artists Exhibition, Aug. 26 – Sept. 25, in the Canaday Gallery at the Toledo Museum of Art.

Brian Kennedy, Toledo Museum of Art director, and Amy Gilman, associate director, were jurors for the exhibition, which celebrates the best of Northwest Ohio’s vibrant artistic community. One entrant will be chosen for a solo exhibition at the museum to take place in 2012.

Bagley submitted a woodcut, “The Bone King;” Manriquez

submitted a photograph, “Fountain of Youth;” Cunningham submitted a digital pigment print, “Court Day,” which received a Third Award; and Escobedo submitted oil on canvas, “Dave.”

All of the pieces in the show are included in an online catalog: <http://www.toledomuseum.org/exhibitions/taa>.

Bagley graduated in 2011 and is a fifth-year intern at The University of Findlay. Manriquez graduated in 2009 and is an art teacher in Upper Sandusky.

Cunningham is an adjunct faculty member at the University.



Valerie Escobedo poses with her oil on canvas, “Dave,” which was selected to appear in the Toledo Museum of Art.

Escobedo is an assistant professor of art.

Rain Gardens Help Flood-Control Efforts

The University of Findlay, through the Findlay Green Campus Initiative, has partnered with the local community to help protect the Blanchard River and work toward a solution to the challenges Findlay faces with flooding.

In early August, two rain gardens were planted. One is located on campus behind the Gardner Fine Arts Pavilion and the second is located at the Family Center on Blanchard Avenue.

A rain garden is a slight depression in the earth that drains storm water from parking lots and rooftops towards the plants so that the water and its contaminants are less likely to end up in the Blanchard River.

The effort was spearheaded by faculty members Mike Reed, Ph.D., professor of TESOL/bilingual education, Matt Hoostal, instructor of biology, and Ben Dolan, Ph.D., assistant professor of biology.

“It has just been a great collaboration between people on campus and in the community,” says Hoostal. “It was just one of those situations where a bunch of people had the same idea at the same time.”

Along with the rain garden, a community garden was planted at the Family Center and includes 25 plots for families as well as some larger plots for local organizations

including Chopin Hall and United Way. So far, the gardens are thriving.

“A main concern I had at the beginning was maintenance; we didn’t want everything to die,” says Hoostal. “People have been really committed. Even on the hot summer days, people were out weeding and watering.”

With the current level of commitment, the hope is that even more rain gardens will be planted.

“I think the idea is that people will see the garden, and it will be an educational device,” says Hoostal. “The flooding that has been happening is a direct consequence of how we’ve managed the landscape. The hope is that individuals will see the rain gardens and be motivated to start their own.”

Along with the native vegetation, the rain garden on campus features educational signs as well as sculptures donated by Ed Corle, associate professor of art. While it has a practical purpose, the garden adds a touch of beauty to the campus.



Ashley Ham, Mike Reed, Ph.D., and Ave Orlando take advantage of nice weather to work in the rain garden, located behind the Gardner Fine Arts Pavilion.

A. Rissler Lee

“I think anyone with an eye for nature and natural beauty will simply enjoy seeing more plants on campus and less pavement,” says Reed. “Rain gardens represent the type of simple but effective ways that can add to the attractiveness of a campus without spending a lot of money.”

The plan calls for three memorial trees to be added in late September. Faculty and staff are welcome to make a donation toward the trees, which will feature a plaque honoring the donor and the person being memorialized.

By Katie Baumgart

‘Barefoot in the Park’ Opens UF Theater

The University will present “Barefoot in the Park” at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 28, through Saturday, Oct. 1, and at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 2, in the Egner Center for the Performing Arts.

Reserve tickets by calling the UF Box Office at 419-434-5335.

“Barefoot in the Park” is a delightful romantic comedy written by Neil Simon. Set in the 1960s, the play tells the story of newlyweds who live in a sixth-floor walkup

apartment in New York City. Paul Bratter, portrayed by Tony Patti, is a conservative upcoming lawyer, and Corie Bratter, portrayed by Ella Stickrad, is a liberal freethinker.

Corie manages to “fix up” her conservative mother with a kookie neighbor in the building — thus the beginning of a hilarious adventure, filled with laughter, fights, making up and all living happily ever after.

Vicki McClurkin will direct the show, and Heather Bryant is stage manager.

Kristina Pritchard will portray Mrs. Banks (Corie’s mother); Cody Parsons is Victor Velasco; Andrew Hargrove is the Telephone Repairman; and Preston Eberlyn is the Delivery Man.

Findlay Remembers Sept. 11, 2001



Dr. Katherine Fell, UF president, addresses community members at the Healing Field flag memorial, which was held at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. The display of hundreds of U.S. flags commemorated the 10-year anniversary of those who died Sept. 11, 2001, and honored military men and women who are serving and have served.



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On campus, University students, faculty and staff members gathered together around the flag pole in front of Old Main on Friday, Sept. 9, to reflect on the events of Sept. 11, 2001.

Patricia Brown Visits Campus as Alumna

The University welcomed visiting executive and alumna Patricia Brown on Thursday, Sept. 22.

Brown met with faculty members and students throughout the day and offered a public lecture, "Communicating in a Turbulent Global Business Environment."

In the photo at right, Brown, center, speaks with a group including Gary Johnson, Ph.D., dean of

the College of Liberal Arts, left, and Hannah Wurm, a senior communication major, right.

Brown is vice president of marketing for Dealer Strategic Planning Twenty Group and was vice president of global branding and communications at Cooper Tire & Rubber Co.



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Smith, Milligan Retire from Service at UF

With a combined total of 75 years of service to The University of Findlay, Donna Smith, director of the Academic Support Center, and Sharon Milligan, associate professor of physical education, retired on Sept. 15.

Though Smith said it is difficult to pinpoint just one defining career moment, she said, "every time a student succeeds is a defining moment for me."

When asked what she'll miss most about the University, Smith's answer is simple: "the people."

Milligan had similar thoughts.

"I will so miss the enthusiasm and the great amount of energy the students have," said Milligan. "The students have helped keep me young. This environment is so academically stimulating. I hope to stay connected with the University by continuing to take classes and enjoying the cultural richness here. I will also attend sporting events."

In the photo at right, Milligan, left, and Smith, right, pose together during a retirement reception held in their honor in the Davis Street Building on Sept. 15.



E. Shaffer

Richey Lends Expertise to Local Opiate and Drug Abuse Prevention Task Force

Last fall, John Richey, instructor and director of the health informatics program, was invited to participate in a new community program designed to address, and educate the community on, opiate drug abuse prevention.

Called the Hancock County Opiate and Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Task Force, the project is spearheaded by Precia Stuby, executive director of the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Hancock County.

The task force is divided into four committees, including health, education, community and medication collection. Richey volunteers on the community committee, which maintains four goals: to educate the community, to leverage resources, to use and monitor tracking and trending and to provide future reporting.

Richey says he was called in for assistance in developing a database to support the project on a long-term basis.

“What I was asked to do was to design and develop a full data-

base using Microsoft Access,” said Richey. “The first thing we needed to know was what data we needed to collect. We’re now collecting about 25 different metrics, reported from 15 to 20 different local organizations, representing various systems, including the county medical system, education system (including The University of Findlay), criminal justice system, treatment system and employment system.”

The goal is to collect data first, then analyze it by looking at patterns and trends. Once trends are identified, we determine which are favorable and which are unfavorable. We celebrate the favorable trends and specifically address the unfavorable ones.”

Richey’s background in health informatics is not only relevant, but it also is useful for the task force.

“In health informatics, we say, ‘if you don’t measure it, you can’t manage it.’ So that’s why I was brought on board – to help decide what we want to collect and ... to leverage our resources to address the unfavorable trends I men-

tioned. If we can leverage resources in a meaningful way, we can have a profound impact.”

Involvement in the task force is significant to the University for a number of reasons.

“We (the University) are a large part of this community. We serve in these types of volunteer activities because we have civic pride and deep community awareness on this campus, and we care,” said Richey. “We have a vested interest in the outcome of this project and we can use our own resources to benefit our community. To me, it’s as simple as that. It’s also great to offer students opportunities to be involved in these types of projects, both in and out of the classroom and for faculty to make meaningful community connections.”

For more information on the Hancock County Opiate and Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Task Force, contact the ADAMHS Board via telephone at 419-424-1985 or via email at aaltman@bhg.org.

By Hannah Wurm

Many Groups Will Visit Campus This Fall

The University will host several professional conferences and workshops on campus this fall. These groups, among others, will be on campus within the next month:

- Ohio American Sign Language Teacher Association annual conference, Sept. 23-24; hosted by the Department of Language and Culture
- Ohio Communication Association’s 75th annual conference,

Sept. 30 and Oct. 1; hosted by the Department of Communication

- Project NExT, for new mathematics faculty at an Ohio college or university, Oct. 20-21; hosted by the Department of Mathematics
- Ohio Section of Mathematics Association of America, Oct. 21-22; hosted by the Department of Mathematics
- Ohio Consortium of Physical Therapy Programs for Clinical

Education yearly continuing education conference, Oct. 28; hosted by the Department of Physical Therapy

For information about hosting a professional organization on campus, contact the Office of Facilities Scheduling and Events at facilities@findlay.edu.

FYI is published by the Office of Public Information. Send story ideas to Brianna Patterson, public relations officer, at pattersonb@findlay.edu or call 419-434-4345.

If you know someone who has done something “worth noting,” on campus or within the community, send the information to pattersonb@findlay.edu.