

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

A newsletter for faculty, staff and students of The University of Findlay

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SPRING COMMENCEMENT TO GRADUATE 787

Louis Ricciardi, Emily Stewart, Ben Walton, Krissy Cheslock and William Danner are just five of 787 graduates who will participate in spring commencement exercises Saturday, May 1, at 2 p.m. in the Koehler Complex.

Louis Ricciardi,

who will earn a degree in technology management, has overcome some sizeable obstacles in his pursuit of a degree.



The Canfield, Ohio, native, was born deaf but was committed to continuing his education. He chose The University of Findlay, passing up a full scholarship to Youngstown State University, because of the treatment he received from the Office of Disability Services.

Leah Brant, an interpreter and graduate assistant, has worked with Ricciardi during his four years at UF.

"It has been wonderful to watch him change, grow up and mature in four years. He has always been very serious about what he is doing here. He is very smart. I don't know anyone who does not like him. And he is always smiling," she said.

In addition to involvement in numerous student organizations, Ricciardi was a member of the UF football team for two years and worked as an assistant to the running back coach for one year. He also has been an intern in the Office of Web Services during the past year.

Emily Stewart of Springfield, Ohio, will earn her bachelor's degree in

psychology and is graduating with magna cum laude honors.

After struggling with an illness and changing her major about halfway through her time at Findlay, Stewart is now on her way to graduate school. She has been accepted to both Loyola of Chicago and New York University for their programs leading to a doctorate in counseling psychology.

She worked as a student assistant for Dr. John Malacos and Dr. Ed Erner in their first-year seminar class this past fall.



Ben Walton of Upper Sandusky, Ohio, will earn his degree in communication/broadcast telecommunication with summa cum laude honors.

The winner of the communication program's prestigious Greenwood-Ehr Prize in Communication, Walton has been lauded as "simply the best video production student I've ever had in my 24-year teaching career" by Steve Beck, director and associate professor of communication.

St. Marys, Ohio, native **Krissy Cheslock** will receive her bachelor's degree in intervention specialist education with cum laude honors.

Cheslock has also overcome difficult life experiences and has earned her degree in just three years.

Since losing her mother to cancer a few years ago, Cheslock has been a mother to her brother and sister, who live in St. Marys. She makes frequent trips to her hometown each week in addition to coaching for the Grandlake

Volleyball Club, a travel volleyball organization.

William Danner of Hebron, Ohio, will earn his master's degree in occupational therapy, having attending the program's weekend college option.



For several generations, Danner's family has operated a funeral home. Having been trained as a mortician and working in the family business for a number of years, Danner decided to switch careers and become an occupational therapist.

He was recently recognized as the Outstanding Graduate in Weekend Occupational Therapy.

Of the 787 students graduating, 486 are undergraduates and 301 are receiving their master's degrees. There are 178 honors graduates.



The commencement speaker is Dr. Elaine Hairston, chancellor emerita of the Ohio Board of Regents. Her address is titled "The Power of One."

Hairston was with the Ohio Board of Regents for 19 years, serving as chancellor for eight years. She now is a consultant in higher education with Academic Search Consultation Service in Washington, D.C.

Also at commencement, the recipients of the Founders' Academic Excellence Award for Faculty and the Founders' Son and Daughter Award will be announced.

CLASSES OF '54 AND '04 TO DONATE CLOCKS

by Kelly Hancock
Student Intern

The classes of 1954 and 2004 are working to raise funds for a new addition to the campus of The University of Findlay.

They hope to raise \$60,000 to be used toward the purchase, installation and maintenance of three clocks placed on campus.

One will be near Henderson Dining Hall, one by the corner of Cory and Davis Streets near the Office of Admissions and the other behind Old Main.

Most of the funding for this project will come from alumni of the class of 1954. Some money will also be gathered from the class of 2004, from people who started at Findlay with the class of 1954 but did not graduate, or from anyone who would like to donate. The project has already raised more than \$4,100.

Anyone who donates more than \$1,000 will have the opportunity to have a plaque at the base of one of the clocks. Those people can have their own names inscribed into the plaque, or they can use it as a memorial and dedicate it to someone who has been important to them.

The clocks will be ordered the first week of May and should arrive at the beginning of September. They will be installed in September, and there will be a dedication ceremony during Homecoming weekend. The theme for Homecoming – “Time Marches On” – ties in with the clocks.

The design of the clocks will be a more traditional style to fit in with the architecture of the rest of the campus. One side of each clock will say “Class of 1954,” while the other side will say “Class of 2004.” Each clock will have a GPS feature that will ensure they are always synchronized with the national clock.

Along with the historical value, the clocks will serve a functional purpose. Jennifer Levos, senior class president, noted that because there are no other clocks around campus, students have no way of knowing what time it is without wearing a watch.

“Several students came up with the idea after standing outside Old Main talking before class and ended up being late as they lost track of time,” she added.

According to Dr. Richard Kern, UF historian, the idea of a class gift is a “long and honored tradition” at The University of Findlay. However, the past couple years, classes have really elaborated on the idea. Last year brought the bell tower to the center of campus, and this year will bring the clocks.

Anyone interested in donating can contact Charlie Shepard at ext. 4628 or shepard@findlay.edu.

UF APPRECIATION DAY PLANNED FOR MAY 6

The Office of Institutional Advancement is sponsoring the first “The University of Findlay Appreciation Day” in Findlay on Thursday, May 6, to promote the mutually beneficial relationship between the University and the local community.

Teams of community volunteers and UF alumni will be paired with UF faculty and staff members to visit area businesses. They will discuss UF’s services to the community, solicit donations to the UF annual fund and thank donor businesses for their previous support. Visits will be made between 9 a.m. and noon.

The funds raised from this event will support the University’s annual operations and academic programs.

Anyone with questions should contact Cindy Lahey, Office of Institutional Advancement, at ext. 5334 or lahey@findlay.edu.

EMPLOYEES HONORED FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

Twenty-seven UF employees were honored at a Recognition Awards Dinner on April 2.

Honored for 35 years of service was Jerry Mallett, while Donald Collins was honored for 30 years of service. Karen Yingling was honored for 25 years of service. Deanna Spraw and Randall Hertel were recognized for 20 years of service. Serving for 15 years were Daniel Hehr, Kathryn Bradford,

Susan Briggs, Maria Gamba and Dennis Mathern.

Those awarded for 10 years of service were Lisa Lanning, Andrea Gutierrez, Tyler Pendleton, Ahmed El-Zayaty, Bettye Myer, Glenn Miehls, Linda Werst, Karyn Westrick, Grant Wilkinson, Rita Sweet, Marie Marquart, Irma Hanson, Sue Flanders, Sara Hingson, Kathryn Kelly, Ogden Price and Diane Zeyen.

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

Campus Compact has been asked by the American Heart Association to recruit volunteers for its HeartWalk on June 19 at Riverbend Park.

The event is a three-mile walk with registration at 8:30 a.m. and the walk beginning at 9 a.m., rain or shine.

Team captains willing to recruit eight to 10 members for the walk are needed. If you are interested, contact Wayne Sneath at sneath@findlay.edu or ext. 5310.

PHI ALPHA THETA ANNOUNCES INITIATES

The history, political science and law and the liberal arts program has announced the spring 2004 initiates to the Xi Sigma Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta History Honorary Society.

They are Jeffrey Bensch, Bryan Emans, Miranda Lobdell, Benjamin Wiborg.

The honor society is dedicated to the promotion of the study of history.

CAMPUS EVENTS BRING ACADEMIC YEAR TO A CLOSE



OAR performed for UF students in the Koebler Complex April 14.



After tryouts on April 4, these women were named to the UF Dance Team.



A chorus of more than 100 singers, a 34-piece orchestra and three professional soloists performed The Creation on April 18.



UF international students enjoyed an activity of coloring Easter eggs.



OESHO sponsored Fear Factor 2004 on April 17.



Many awards were presented at the Honors and Awards Assembly April 15. Here, Mary Jo Geise presents an award to Nathan Anderson.



Dr. Freed congratulates Jacqueline Yip, UF's Student Employee of the Year.

UF STUDENTS TEACH ASL

by Kelly Hancock
Student Intern

Five students from The University of Findlay have actively helped elementary students learn American Sign Language (ASL) during the spring 2004 semester.

The five student volunteers make bi-weekly visits to third and fourth grade classes at Washington Intermediate and St. Michael Primary schools in one-hour sessions. Each classroom is divided into two or three groups, and one UF student works with each group.

The UF students make a lesson plan for each visit. They have covered a variety of topics including math, mapping, famous people who have influenced deaf culture, and language and culture skills. These sessions are "enhancing" the curriculum that is already in place in the schools, noted Janice Blum, instructor of American Sign Language at UF. The activities apply ASL to the children's lives and lessons they are already learning.

The primary requirement for students to volunteer for the program is the completion of at least one semester of ASL and earning a B or better in that class.

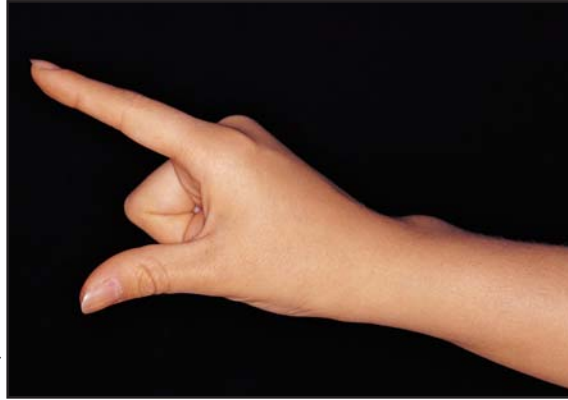
The community has been requesting a language program for younger kids, said Blum. The University also has programs similar to the ASL program with Spanish and Japanese.

Blum added that this has been a wonderful experience for both the University and elementary students. "The children are very accepting," she said. She commented that they are open to the ideas and concepts, and they enjoy learning. At the same time, the University students have gained trust in their abilities.

"We've given them confidence to work with others," Blum commented. She thinks that the University students will continue volunteering and actively

participate in service learning because of this experience.

Blum said that coordinating all the schedules proved to be difficult. In addition to finding a time when five UF students could meet, they also had



to plan around the schedules of the individual classes at the schools. The biggest challenge for the students was inventing the different lesson plans, because it was time consuming and sometimes difficult to think like a third or fourth grader. Blum added that implementing the lesson wasn't a problem: "That's too fun to call it hard."

KAKE SELECTIONS MADE

Dr. Judy Wahrman, assistant professor of education; Don Collins, assistant professor of psychology; Jim Schmidt, assistant professor of mathematics; and Jens Hatch, academic technology specialist for the Teaching, Learning and Technology Center, will travel to Japan with five UF students this summer.

The trip is part of the 2004 UF/Kake Bridge Program, designed to give participants cultural and educational experiences. Dr. Fumiko Harada, special assistant to the president, will accompany the group.

The students involved are Jason Kean, a junior education major; Amanda Wheeler, a junior computer science major; Kimberly Fisher, a junior graphic communication major; Mary Martin, a senior human resource management major; and Woon Min Kim, a senior Japanese major.

PRESENTATION CHOSEN AS ONE OF VERY BEST

Julia Perez-Gamboa, assistant professor of Spanish, attended the 2004 Ohio Foreign Language Association Conference in Columbus March 25-27, where she presented her paper "The Use of Video Clips in a Spanish Language Classroom."



The Ohio Foreign Language Association Board selected her presentation as an OFLA All-Star.

TUTORING WORK NAMES UF TO HONOR ROLL

The University of Findlay has been listed on the America Reads Honor Roll in *Federal Work-Study: How America's Colleges Use Federal Funds*, a publication of the Center for Higher Education Support Services, Inc. UF received the award for placing work-study students in a community service work-study tutoring capacity with Findlay City Schools. In fall of 2002, seven students were tutors at either Jacobs Primary or Washington Intermediate Schools. This academic year, 17 students have participated.

SUMMERSTOCK 2004

Always...Patsy Cline

July 7-10, 8 p.m.

July 11, 6 p.m.

Wait Until Dark

July 21-24, 8 p.m.

July 25, 6 p.m.

City of Angels

Aug. 4-7, 8 p.m.

Aug. 7, 2 p.m.

Aug. 8, 6 p.m.