

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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

Volume 1, Issue 10

Oct. 24, 2003

LAPTOP PILOT PROGRAM LAUNCHED

By George Privateer
Assistant Director of Advertising

The University of Findlay prides itself on being an institution on the cutting edge of technology.

This semester, five UF faculty members are taking another step in the evolution of classroom teaching by participating in the "Teaching with Laptops" Pilot Program. Each student in four traditional classes was given a laptop to use for the semester. The purpose is to see how using a laptop computer in the classroom can enhance the learning and teaching experience.

Heading up the program is Cheryl Cape, academic technology specialist and faculty liaison with the TLTC. The idea for the program began when the mobile laptop stations that were available for faculty on campus were being underutilized.

Acknowledging the fact that some schools are beginning to require incoming freshmen to purchase their own laptops for in-class use, UF decided to initiate a pilot program to determine the viability of laptops in the classroom.

The importance of this decision was underscored this August when 80-90 percent of the entering freshmen who brought computers to campus brought laptops.

The five instructors who agreed to participate in the program are Terri LaRocco with her College Writing I class, Judith Lanzdorfer and her College Writing II class, Susan Lang and Dorothy Weaver and their freshman seminar class "Climbing the Techno-



Terri LaRocco, assistant professor of English, works with a student in her College Writing I class, taught in the Winebrenner Theological Seminary. This is just one of four classes participating in the laptop pilot program this fall.

Ladder to Success" and Mary Cameron and her Implications of Brain Research for Teaching and Learning class. Both of the College Writing classes are using Apple laptops, while the other two classes are using Dell PC laptops.

"Early reviews on the program are good so far," said Cape. "At the end of the semester, we'll have a panel of students and instructors to discuss the program. The crucial question is whether or not it helps the teaching in the classroom."

Each of the classes has used the laptops in different ways. With all of the classes taking place in the new Winebrenner facility, each laptop is hard wired to the University network. This allows students to email their assignments right to the professor at the front of the class and have their work posted on an overhead projector immediately.

Students in Mary Cameron's class created PowerPoint presentations on their laptops and simply took their computers to the front of the class and plugged them into the overhead projector to share with the class.

TLTC and ITS Academic Technology Services and Information Technology Services are handling the maintenance and repair of the laptops, although students are ultimately responsible for their machines should they damage or lose them.

A special area on the campus computer network has been set aside for students in the program to back-up their files in case of a hard drive crash.

The program is scheduled to continue in the spring. After the spring semester, the program will be re-evaluated, and a decision will be made as to its future.

FRIENDS CONTINUE TRADITION AT UF

Upper Sandusky natives Rondi Niederkoehr and Johonna Snyder have been friends for a long time. In fact, since the fifth grade, both girls have studied together and been instrumental in cheering various athletic teams on to victory, most recently at UF.

Niederkoehr, the daughter of Robert and Elaine Niederkoehr, is in her senior year at UF, majoring in communication/public relations and minoring in marketing. She is in her fourth year as a cheerleader for the UF Varsity Football Squad and has been a co-captain the last two years.

Snyder is the daughter of Jodi Johnson and Kevin Snyder and is a senior double majoring in hospitality management and marketing and carrying a 4.0 grade point average. She was the inaugural twirler for The University of Findlay Oiler Brass Marching Band and has been the feature twirler for the last four years.

Both young women work hard to support the efforts of the Oiler football team. In addition to their work in school and on the field, both students are active in other areas of campus.

Niederkoehr is active in the Public Relations Student Society of America

(PRSSA), serving as vice president in 2002-03 and the Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) organization, serving as public relations director for 2003-04. She was a cheerleading coach for the Findlay Midget League Packer's Cheerleading Squad in 2002-03 and was coach for the 2002 Findlay Central Middle School Competition Elite Squad. In addition, she works as information service coordinator for the Findlay • Hancock County Convention and Visitors Bureau and has been employed at the Findlay Country Club for four years.

Snyder has been a member of the Upper Sandusky Kendalettes since she was four years old. In addition, she is president of SIFE, having served in

that capacity since 2001. She was a member of the SIFE competition team from 2001-03 and is a member of the Aristos Ekλεκτος Honor Society, the Hospitality Management Association and Tau Omega Phi Academic Honorary Society. She is also an associate adviser for Explorer Post 2306. Snyder is employed in the Office of Student Retention Services.

From the Upper Sandusky Rams to The University of Findlay Oilers, these two young women have made their community and their University proud.



UF REPRESENTED AT OT CONFERENCE

Several faculty members represented the University well at the Ohio OT Association annual conference Sept. 25-27 in Akron.

Dr. Thomas Dillon, OT program director, and Mary Beth Dillon, academic fieldwork coordinator, gave a presentation on "Reducing Anxiety About Taking the National Certification Exam."

Assistant professors Jackie Chamberlin and Rosalie King presented on "Affective Education: Promoting Personal and Professional Growth in Occupational Therapy Students."

YOUR COMMENTS WELCOME

The University of Findlay is seeking comments from alumni and friends in preparation for a periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting body. The University will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit Feb. 23-25, 2004, by a team representing the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the Higher Learning Commission. UF is accredited at the master's degree level.

Readers are invited to submit comments regarding substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Address them to: Public Comment on The University of Findlay, Commission on Institutions of Higher

Education, Higher Learning Commission, 30 N. LaSalle St., Suite 2400, Chicago, IL 60602.

Comments must be in writing, signed and include the name, address and telephone number of the person providing the comment. Comments cannot be treated as confidential.

All letters must be received by Jan. 23, 2004.

ROUNDTABLE SCHEDULED

The campus roundtable group will discuss *Diversity: The Invention of a Concept* by Peter Wood on Friday, Oct. 24, at 4 p.m. in Terry Conference Room, Alumni Memorial Union.

UF TEACHES STUDENTS OF ALL AGES



Ken Hammtreee plays the role of Tecumseh at Senior Forum on Oct. 8.



Vicki McClurkin instructs students in Theatre 150 "Acting I for the Stage."



This student takes advantage of a nice afternoon and pauses to make a phone call near the new Bell Tower.



Dr. Milt Peters decided to teach one of his classes in the gazebo.



Artist Steve Elmore, owner of a gallery in Sante Fe, N.M., that specializes in historic Native American art, discusses one of his works at a lecture Oct. 8.

UF, CHAMBER COMBINE FOR BUSINESS EXPO 2003



Nancy Friedman, the Telephone Doctor, gave the keynote address at Business Expo 2003 on Oct. 9. More than 250 people attended her presentation on customer service and communication skills.



Heather Riffle, coordinator of special programs and academic adviser, discusses academic offerings with visitors to Business Expo.



Harold Huffman, recruiting coordinator for SEEM, and Diane Zeyen, publications coordinator for SEEM, displayed what the School of Environmental and Emergency Management at UF has to offer local businesses.

FACULTY IN PRINT

David Foster, associate professor of communication, has had numerous items published in recent years. His article "A method of comparing follower satisfaction with the authoritarian, democratic and laissez-faire styles of leadership" was published in *Communication Teacher*, 16, No. 2, 4-6 in 2002. The article was reprinted in the instructor's manual with *The Art of Public Speaking* (eighth edition) by Stephen E. Lucas.



He also published "Conducting effective class discussions: Some helpful guidelines from the art of cross-examination" in *The Journal of Public Advocacy*, 4, 34-41 in 1999. Foster was also the editor of this journal and was responsible for determining its content and overseeing all aspects of its publication.

In 1998, Foster published "National Presidential Debates: Some Lessons that Could be Learned from the N.E.D.A." in *The Journal of Public Advocacy*, 32, 5-10.



Dr. G. Richard Kern, professor emeritus of history, has authored a chapter on The University of Findlay for the book, *Cradles*

of Conscience: Ohio's Independent Colleges and Universities, published by Kent State University Press. Released in 2003 to coordinate with the Ohio bicentennial, the book chronicles the history of 42 of Ohio's private educational institutions in a collection of essays. Chapters trace the evolution of institutions from their founding to how each has adapted its mission and identity to meet the challenges of modern life. The book is edited by John Oliver, Jr., James Hodges and James O'Donnell.