

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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

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STUDENT-ATHLETE RETURNS FROM CANCER

By George Privateer
Assistant Director of Advertising

Football, by nature, is a game of attrition. At some point, the physicality of the game wears you down, and the goal becomes not only winning but also surviving.

Surviving the game until the clock strikes zero. Surviving until the end of the grueling season. Just simply surviving the grind of practice and games, of hitting and being hit.

But for one member of The University of Findlay football team, surviving means so much more than a game.

For Steve Cotterman, life was good in the fall of 2000. The Elmwood High School graduate started his freshman year at Findlay. He played defensive tackle in all 10 games as a freshman, registering 25 tackles along the way. Couple this with the fact that he was playing football with his twin brother, Sam, an offensive lineman, and things were looking good for Cotterman.

That all started to change during the spring of 2001. Cotterman discovered a lump in his groin and decided to make a trip to the doctor.

"He told me that is was just a swollen lymph node," he said. He felt fine and went to work with the team for spring practice.

Things took a drastic turn during the summer, as Cotterman discovered more lumps and became very ill. Another trip to the doctor and a surgical procedure to determine what the lumps were produced a sobering result.

"The doctor told me I had non-Hodgkins lymphoma. He said I had a 20 percent chance of beating it," he said.

Nineteen years old, on top of the world...and now cancer. He was stunned. His mom, Lora, was crushed. When the initial shock wore off, Cotterman, with the support of his family and friends, committed to fighting it.

"My mom was devastated," he said. "But my Dad said, 'Just kick its (rear) and beat it.' So I never gave up."

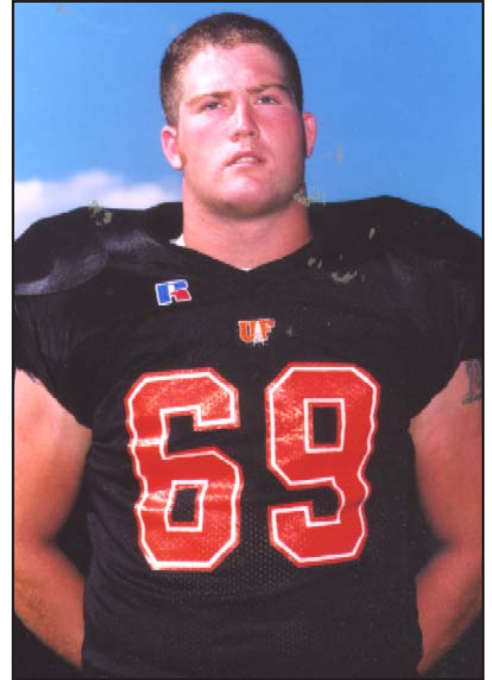
Cotterman underwent chemotherapy for seven months and would miss the 2001 season. While he was in chemotherapy, he continued to lift weights and wrestle with some of the heavyweights back at his high school.

But Cotterman wasn't going through this fight alone. Just like on the field, his teammates and coaches were behind him 100 percent.

"Those guys - they're the reason I'm here," Cotterman said of his teammates. "When I went to practice during chemo, they were always there with high-fives. The camaraderie helped me fight through it."

Head Coach Dan Simrell was also very supportive. "Coach Simrell was great. He didn't care about football. He just wanted me to get better," he said.

And get better he did. After chemotherapy, the cancer went into remission. And Cotterman went back to work on the football field, preparing himself for the 2002 season.



The weightlifting and wrestling during the chemotherapy paid off, as he returned to the team heavier than when he left. He came back strong, recording 20 tackles and a sack and becoming the only NCAA Division II athlete to win the Wilma Rudolph Student-Athlete Achievement Award in 2002.

When asked about what it takes to go through what he did, Cotterman says it's all in your attitude.

"Always be positive," he said. "My doctor said if you're positive, it'll all be fine."

No matter what football, and life, may throw at Steve Cotterman, you can bet that he'll have a positive attitude...and be a survivor. The game is not through with him yet.

CANYON SHARES BOOK RELEASE WITH MAZZA MUSEUM AUDIENCE

Christopher Canyon celebrated the national release of his newest book at a Mazza Museum event on Saturday, Sept. 6, that drew a crowd of more than 300 people in the Alumni Memorial Union.

Canyon adapted and illustrated John Denver's song, "Sunshine on My Shoulders." Featuring whimsical characters with a stylized 1970s look, the book is published by Dawn Publications. It is the first of four books Canyon plans to illustrate based on Denver's music.

A musician as well as an artist, Canyon played his guitar and sang the words to the song as the audience enjoyed viewing pages of the book on the large, on-stage screen.

Canyon previewed the initial sketches of his next book, which is based on a lullaby called "Ancient Rhyme." Denver chose dolphins as a metaphor for all life,



Dr. and Mrs. Freed welcome Mr. Canyon to UF.

Photo by Charlene Hankinson

a symbol that translated nicely into Canyon's artwork.

In a mellow voice reminiscent of Denver's, Canyon sang two more songs, "Wind Song," and "Country Roads," before presenting Dr. Jerry Mallett, director of the Mazza Museum, with a set of four original illustrations from the book.

The evening was underwritten by Mr. and Mrs. John Luther, who have established an endowment to fund visiting artists.

ATHLETIC SPONSORS ASSIST PROGRAMS

The University of Findlay is fortunate to be benefitted by the following sponsors of the athletic program:

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- Steve's Dakota Grill
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WINEBRENNER INVITES STUDENTS TO CHAPEL

Winebrenner Theological Seminary invites UF students, faculty and staff to attend their chapel service each Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. in the second floor chapel room.

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR HOSTS PROGRAM

Volunteers for the HOSTS Mentor Reading Program at Washington Intermediate School are needed again this year.

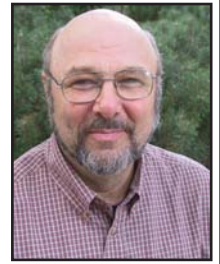
The program, which involves reading to a child one hour per week, enjoyed great success last year due in large part to the efforts of the UF family.

Volunteer forms are available by contacting Dr. Jason Slone at x5860 or slone@findlay.edu.

NEW FACULTY PROFILE: DR. JOSEPH KUNICKI

New to The University of Findlay this fall is Dr. Joseph Kunicki, associate professor of mathematics.

A 1994 graduate of The Ohio State University with a doctoral degree in mathematics education, he also has bachelor's and master's degrees in mathematics from Youngstown State University, in 1986 and 1988, respectively.



Prior to coming to UF, Dr. Kunicki was associate professor of mathematics at Quincy University in Quincy, Ill., since 1995. From 1994-95, he was an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics at Western Illinois University in Macomb, Ill. He has also taught at OSU, Columbus State Community College and Youngstown State University.

Dr. Kunicki also worked as an abstrator/selector for the Science, Mathematics and Environmental Clearinghouse of the Education Resources Information Center in Columbus, Ohio.

The author of many articles and reviews, Dr. Kunicki has also done consulting work and is a member of numerous professional organizations.

COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS

All UF employees, including part-time and adjunct faculty, receive complimentary tickets to UF athletic events.

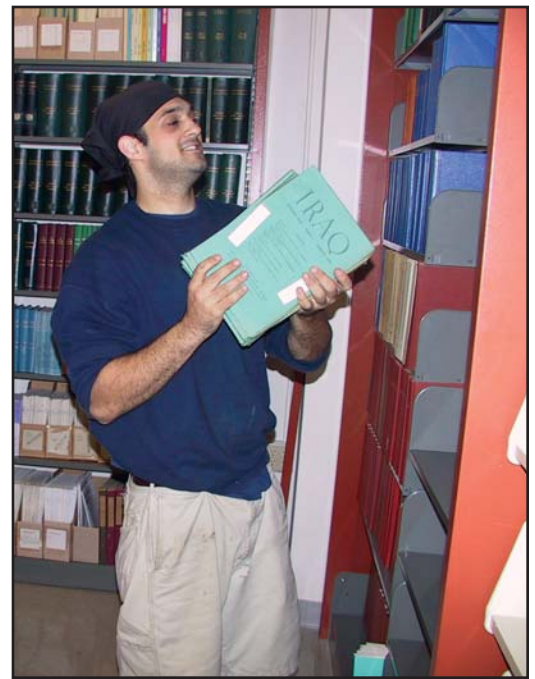
Tickets are available for the employee, his or her spouse or mate and any children under age 18 living at home.

UF identification must be shown to receive tickets. Tickets may be picked up in the Koehler Complex during normal business hours or at the gate on the day of the game. This does not refer to post-season play.

CAMPUS REMAINS ACTIVE, WTS LIBRARY MOVES TO SHAFER



Audrey Stoffel (left), secretary, and Ashley Winebar (right), president, welcome potential members of Circle K at the Student Organization Fair Sept. 9. Circle K is co-advised by George Privateer and Andrea Simmons, also pictured.



The Winebrenner Theological Seminary library moved its holdings into Shafer Library during the week of Sept. 8-12.



Heather Hochstetler, a freshman graphic design and visual arts major from Orrville, Ohio, works on a sketch of the new Old Main Bell Tower.



These students stop to look at what the Wilderness Club has to offer.



The Catalyst Church was one of several area churches represented at the Church Open House Sept. 10.



A representative from St. Andrew's United Methodist Church talks with a student.



Photo by Pat Taylor

The UF Marching Oiler Brass performs at the Oiler football home opener on Aug. 30. The band will be back in action for a half-time show during Homecoming on Sept. 20.

OT PROGRAM EARNS 10-YEAR REACCREDITATION

Dr. Thomas Dillon, director of the occupational therapy program, and the faculty and staff of the OT program at The University of Findlay definitely have something to feel confident about.

On April 29, 2003, the program was notified that the traditional and weekend master of occupational therapy programs had received the maximum reaccreditation (10 years) from the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education of the American Occupational Therapy Association.

As Dr. Dillon explained, "Such a level of reaccreditation is possible only when the occupational therapy programs are deemed to be in substantial compliance with all the academic standards required by ACOTE."

This level of accreditation is reflective of the high quality of the occupational therapy program at UF and can be attributed to the efforts of the University administration to recruit and employ highly qualified faculty and to the collaborative efforts between OT

faculty and students to develop and participate in a variety of innovative learning experiences.

The ACOTE report specifically cited nine strengths of the OT program:

1. The president's knowledge of the field of OT, his recognition of OTs' unique contributions and his foresight and commitment that led to the program's development.
2. The support of the program by the dean and assistant dean.
3. The program director's implementation of sound curriculum even in the face of transition.
4. The faculty's commitment to students and dedication to the program and the professional experience faculty bring to the program.
5. The creative and progressive development of community-based experiences in non-traditional settings.
6. The positive representation by students and their respect for the profession.



Photo by Joe Glick

Occupational therapy students get hands-on experience in the OT Home.

7. The program's support staff and their organization.
8. The OT Home, a technology-in-daily-living demonstration home, which was cited as a cornerstone of the curriculum and an exceptional community resource.
9. The fact that the curriculum is innovative, articulated and reflected in the course offerings.

TAYLOR COMMISSIONED TO COMPOSE

Jack Taylor, professor of music and director of bands, has been commissioned by St. John's Lutheran Church in Findlay to compose a work in honor of the church's 125th anniversary.



The piece, entitled "Canticle," was composed in July 2003 and will be premiered on Sunday, Sept. 21. The work is written for choir with piano accompaniment.

Fred Schmidt, senior choir director at the church, will conduct the piece. Jeffrey Breitigam, band and choral director at Arcadia High School, will be the pianist. The church's pastor is the Rev. Christian Dittmar.

FYI is published by the Office of University Relations. Contact Kathryn Kelly at x4731 or kelly@findlay.edu to submit information.