

## Byron Pitts to Serve as First Guest Speaker in Freed Lecture Series at UF

Byron Pitts, contributing correspondent for 60 Minutes and CBS News chief national correspondent, has been chosen as the first presenter in the Dr. and Mrs. DeBow Freed Contemporary Christian Lecture Series.

Pitts is the author of "Step Out on Nothing: How Faith and Family Help Me Conquer Life's Challenges," released in 2009. In the book, Pitts shares the story of how faith and the encouragement of a strong mother carried him through many challenges including illiteracy and a persistent stutter.

He will speak at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 4, in the Winebrenner Theological Seminary's TLB Convocation Center, with a book signing to follow the presentation in the seminary atrium.

Honored with two Emmy Awards and other national journalism awards, Pitts is known as an evocative storyteller who produced thought-provoking coverage on the ground from Iraq and from Ground Zero after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. He also has covered the war in Afghanistan, the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the

presidential election recount in Florida and the refugee crisis in Kosovo, among others.

Pitts' book traces his roots to a working-class neighborhood in Baltimore, where his mother used his desire to play football as an incentive by requiring him to receive



*Byron Pitts*

*See BYRON PITTS, page 4*

## UF Students Study Reproductive Cell Biology Using Pig Embryos

For some UF students, a trip to the Dr. C. Richard Beckett Animal Science Building isn't necessary to study pigs. Instead, students in a reproductive cell biology laboratory, under the direction of Brian Whitaker, Ph.D., assistant professor of animal sciences, study pig embryos in the Davis Street Building.

Specifically, Whitaker's students are exploring the mechanisms that pig embryos use to alleviate oxidative stress, which researchers believe may induce early embryonic developmental blocks and retardation.

On a larger level, the students' research will contribute to the

science community's goal of the efficient production of in vitro-derived pigs by decreasing the high incidence of polyspermic penetration during in vitro fertilization (IVF).

UF is working in collaboration with several other universities. Virginia Tech, where Whitaker began working on this project, is the "central hub" and will compile the research results. North Carolina State also is involved with various parts of the research process.



*A. Risser Lee*

*Frozen boar semen is removed from the storage tank in order to be thawed for various experiments. L-R: Dr. Brian Whitaker, Audra Ligas, Tyler Schonauer, Ashley Okon, Allie Buck.*

*See PIG EMBRYOS, page 2*

# Pig Embryos Used in Student Research

*Continued from page 1*

Because UF students are studying embryos from live animal specimens, timing is crucial. Students, along with Whitaker, may be found at the laboratory any time of day or night, depending upon when the pigs' sperm and eggs arrive from various parts of the country.

During the research process, students conduct experiments to see if the cellular composition of the embryos has changed following the addition of antioxidant supplements.

Under Whitaker's guidance, students are learning how to create an experimental design, manipulate gametes, conduct IVF and perform typical in vitro research techniques. Each student is expected to compile and assist in analyzing and interpreting his or her collected data and present that research, through a scientific poster or presentation, at a regional or national conference and at UF's Symposium for Scholarship and Creativity.

"There is a basic understanding

that students interested in careers in research, graduate school and professional schools need to conduct research to be competitive in today's market," said Whitaker. "I ensure that each undergraduate researcher obtains a well-rounded and complete experience upon successful completion of his or her project."

## Students Launch Community After-School Japanese Program

Students from The University of Findlay, both Japanese and American alike, will begin teaching Japanese language and culture to elementary school children, grades 2-5, in an after-school program called Genki-Kids Japanese Club.

The program is directed and overseen by Dr. Hiro Kawamura, associate professor of Japanese.

Teaching methods will include song, dance, games and other fun activities in hour-long sessions.

The program begins on Monday, Feb. 28, and continues through Tuesday, April 5. Classes will be held in Davis Building 184 on the UF campus from 4-5 p.m. Free parking will be provided.

Registration is required. The

program fee is \$15; it will be collected on the first day of class Feb. 28. Checks can be made payable to The University of Findlay.

For more information, contact Dr. Hiro Kawamura, 419-434-4619 or via e-mail kawamura@findlay.edu. To register, contact Cathy Donovan, 419-434-4711 or via e-mail donovan@findlay.edu.

## Inspirational Speaker Marc Elliot to Address Support Staff Conference at UF

The University of Findlay will host a Support Staff Conference in the Winebrenner Theological Seminary TLB Convocation Center on Wednesday, March 9. The conference will begin at 9:15 a.m. and will end at 2:50 p.m.

This daylong conference is open by invitation only to the support staff members of the College 6. Approximately 225 attendees are anticipated. Human resource offices from Bluffton University, Defiance College, Heidelberg University, Ohio Northern University, Tiffin University and The University of Findlay will be hosting the event.

Keynote speaker Marc Elliot will share his inspirational life story of immense challenge, change and triumph in his presentations, "What Makes You Tic?" and "Make a Difference," at 10:15 a.m. and 1:45 p.m.

Born with a rare, intestine-compromising disease, Elliot had already encountered difficulties when he was diagnosed with the neurological disorder known as Tourette's syndrome.

He uses his life experiences to promote the value of tolerance and shares techniques for success. With humor, anecdotes and dramatic lessons, Elliot encourages the

audience to "live and let live!"

Several activities are incorporated, including: Tours of the campus, Mazza Museum, or the Dr. C. Richard Beckett Animal Science Building, fitness stretching, women's health awareness and an achieving wellness tutorial.

This annual conference is scheduled with the purpose of creating and inspiring continuity and cohesion among the support staff members of the College 6.

For more information, contact Robert Link, business manager and director of human resources, at 419-434-6964.

# 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Black Tie Affair Celebrated

UF students and guests gather to celebrate Black History Month during the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Black Tie Affair held Saturday, Feb. 12 in the AMU. Hosted by the Black Student Union and sponsored by SGA, this year's theme was "MardiGras Masquerade." Black Tie royalty include: Jordan Yesesky, King; Kiara Porter, Queen; Ellis Jon Thompson, Prince; Victoria Chamberlin, Princess; Donald Day, Lord; Ashley Andrews, Lady; Daniel Ross, Duke and Andrea Butler, Duchess.



E. Shaffer

To view or download images from the Black Tie Affair, go to <https://picasaweb.google.com/TheUniversityofFindlay/14thAnnualBlackTieAffair#>.

## Campus Events Inform and Entertain



Woodrow Wilson Fellow Julius Coles, a leading expert on development in Africa, visits classes prior to his speech on "Africa in the New Millennium" on Wednesday, Feb. 9.



A. Risser Lee

Students interact with a variety of exotic animals, including "Horace the Hedgehog" as a part of the Night with Live Animals event sponsored by CPB on Friday, Feb. 18.



E. Granger

Professional singer Nate Gurley was a featured artist at the Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble's Third Annual Pops Concert on Sunday, Feb. 13.



E. Granger

David Coleman, the "Dating Doctor" gathers a crowd after his Valentine's Day presentation about building no-regret relationships.

# Byron Pitts to Serve as Guest Speaker

*Continued from page 1*

grades of B or higher in order to play, despite his illiteracy and difficulty with stuttering. With that goal in mind, Pitts raised his grades and was able to attend Ohio Wesleyan University, from which he earned a bachelor of arts in journalism and speech communication in 1982.

He began his career as a journalist in 1983 at WNCT-TV in Greenville, N.C., as a reporter and weekend sports anchor, moving on to stations in Virginia, Florida, Boston and Atlanta prior to joining CBS News as a correspondent for CBS Newspath, a 24-hour news affiliate service of CBS News, in 1997.

Pitts was named a CBS News correspondent in 1998 and worked in Miami and Atlanta before moving to New York in 2001.

The Freed Contemporary Christian Lecture Series was established in 2010 by The University of Findlay, Winebrenner Theological Seminary and the Churches of God, General Conference, in honor of Dr. DeBow and Mrs. Catherine Moore Freed, the 16th president of the University and his wife.

During his seven-year tenure as president at UF, Dr. Freed strengthened the University's ties with the Churches of God, General Conference, one of the institution's founders. The Freeds graced the University community with their gentleness and wisdom, their devotion to students and their commitment to excellence. Those who have come in contact with the couple have been inspired by the way they exemplify the values held by the three institu-

tions – the University, Winebrenner Theological Seminary and the Churches of God, General Conference, which are from the same lineage, yet unique in their missions and outlook.

Following this inaugural presentation, the series will continue to invite nationally known speakers to explore the nature of possible Christian responses to existing and emerging contemporary issues in an increasingly pluralistic world. The series is intended to engender reflection, discussion and values-based action on the part of the students, faculty and staff of each sponsoring institution, as well as the broader community. It is funded by private financial support from donors of each institution.

# UF College of Education Sponsors Online Expert Anastasia Goodstein

The University of Findlay's College of Education will host a special event highlighting the technological world in which American tweens, teens and early 20-somethings have become submerged.

"Totally Wired Teens" will be presented from 7-8 p.m. by award-winning blogger Anastasia Goodstein on Thursday, March 17, in Winebrenner Theological Seminary, TLB Auditorium. Admission is free and the public is welcome.

As the founder of Ypulse, an independent blog for teen/youth media and marketing professionals providing news, commentary and resources on commercial teen media, Goodstein reached a highly influential audience of agency,

brand and media executives as well as social marketers trying to connect with youth. The blog has been featured in several leading publications including USA Today, Business-Week, Forbes and Fast Company.

Goodstein was one of the first graduates of the Medill School of Journalism's new media program at Northwestern University, where she earned a Master of Science in Journalism in 1999. She is the director of digital programs for the Inspire USA Foundation. She has worked in media for the past 15+ years, having helped launch youth-oriented Web and television properties such as Oxygen, AOL and Current TV.

Goodstein authored the acclaimed book about teens and

technology called *Totally Wired: What Teens and Tweens are Really Doing Online*, the first inside guide to explore what teens are doing on the Internet and with technology.

Her program will focus on reaching today's teens. This means understanding the role technology plays in their wired lives. From social networking to virtual worlds and cell phones for tweens, Goodstein will offer insight into how teens are using technology and more importantly how to reach them in ways that are authentic and meaningful.

For more information about the event, contact Dr. Julie McIntosh, dean of the College of Education, at 419-434-4062 or [mcintosh@findlay.edu](mailto:mcintosh@findlay.edu).

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If you know someone who has done something "worth noting," on campus or within the community, send the information to [pattersonb@findlay.edu](mailto:pattersonb@findlay.edu).