

# Voices of Experience

Four veteran faculty members, who have a combined 126 years at Findlay, share their opinions of what's changed, what's stayed the same and some highlights of their interactions with students.

"As I reflect on the last 25 years of The University of Findlay, amidst the many changes the constant has been the excellent students who have attended. My fondest memories are tied to time spent with students as they understand new concepts, develop into capable mathematicians and grow through their experiences here.

Connected with this joy are changes that have enhanced the experience. In 1982, textbooks were in black and white. A textbook that we selected for calculus that included trigonometric functions from the start was considered unorthodox. Computer software on mainframe computers was used in classes, but not graphing calculators, which were first used in a pilot program at UF in the late 1980s. Graphing calculators and new ideas on teaching and textbooks have enhanced the entire academic process.

What will today's students remember of their years at UF? They find our current technology, textbooks and teaching styles to be very familiar and not "new" the way the faculty may. So I hope instead that they will think back fondly on the excellent faculty and how we helped them understand new concepts, develop into capable mathematicians, and grow through their experiences here."



"I began as an adjunct at Findlay in 1980 and became full-time in 1985. The greatest change over the years that comes to mind is our growth — growth in the size of our campus, the number of buildings, faculty, programs and students! In addition, I have seen a growth in our status among universities and to whom we compare ourselves.

What has remained the same is our care and concern that is reflected in the faculty and staff who put in long hours, and sometime odd hours, to work with students.

Graduation always makes memorable moments. Because I work with at-risk students, each graduate is special. There was "Jason" who came in as an at-risk student and graduated having earned the Founder's Son Award and "Jennifer" who came in as an 18-year-old single mother with one of the lowest entry scores we ever admitted, but graduated four years later. There was "Sarah" whom I overheard telling a writing tutor that she couldn't spell, so I introduced her to a special phonic spelling dictionary. She couldn't wait to tell me that she and her mom and brother had spent an entire Saturday night looking up words. I could go on and on.

I would hope that I speak for many of us who have been here 25-plus years. Ours is not a job but a calling. Being here and working with students is what we are meant to do. We come in different sizes, shapes and genders, but underneath, we all have the same heart."



**[Anne G. Albert]**

**Co-Director of Mathematics  
Assistant Professor**

**[Donna M. Smith ]**

**Director, Academic Support Center  
Assistant Professor**

## [Dr. Shiv Gupta]

Professor of Marketing

"The main thing, I enjoy working with students, and they are always participants in innovative ideas. That makes my teaching a fruitful fulfillment in life.

Some of my memories are business classes that did consumer perception research for three years on the Pinto and Mustang cars for Ford Motor Co. The first Students in Free Enterprise team began in 1977, with subsequent teams going on to earn five national championships, placing second six times and earning 14 regional championships.

Education is an intangible product. We teach, but we don't know the outcome. The success stories of former students make the intangible tangible. When a student calls and informs me how he or she is doing, that makes my day. I get numerous calls and that gives me encouragement to continue doing the things that I do the best.

Among the success stories, some of them are: William Landes '75, one of the top stock market analysts on Wall Street and CEO of 2100 Capital Group; Joseph Gaffney '80, retired as executive vice president for operations for American National Can and currently director of golf operations at a resort



in Phoenix; Jennifer Payne-White '86, who turned her SIFE experiences into the business Gifts in Time; Kevin Moyer '80, also a former SIFE member, who is president of the Fluid Division of Dana Corporation; Pamela (Moses) Beall '78, director of business development at Marathon Petroleum Co. and a UF trustee; and Eugene Fernandez '77, process improvement coordinator for the business transformation office at Marathon Oil Co.

As a director, I enjoyed working with my colleagues and developing the business program, adding new courses, developing new majors — for that the credit goes to the University for providing the freedom to do all those things."

## [Dr. Jerry J. Mallett]

Director of the Mazza Museum  
Professor of Education

"Some of the greatest changes I've seen in the institution during my time here include the expansion of campus, particularly converting North Cory Street into a mall, Winebrenner Seminary moving back to campus and the recent purchase of the former Findlay campus of Owens Community College. Growth has come as a result of many 'niche' programs, and more international students on campus contribute to cultural understanding. The change in the composition of our Board of Trustees and the change of name from College to University have

been critical to our success. But even with all of the growth, the friendliness of campus has remained the same over the years.

A special memory is the excitement of seeing 'Godspell' and 'Jesus Christ Superstar' during the same school year in Croy Gymnasium (the largest space we had at the time). 'Jesus Christ Superstar' blew out the electricity, and most of the musical had to be done on auxiliary power. But the show went on and was still a smash hit!

Of course, for me, the most memorable events center around the Mazza Museum, especially the dedication of the Mazza Collection in 1982, the creation of the Mazza Enthusiasts and our Mazza National Advisory Board, the dedication of the Virginia B. Gardner Fine Arts Pavilion in 1994 and the recent groundbreaking for the building addition."

