

Commencement Ceremony Welcomes New Grads; Nicholson Receives Doctorate

The University of Findlay held commencement ceremonies at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, in the Koehler Recreation Complex.

More than 430 graduates received degrees, many of whom participated in the ceremony on Saturday.

An honorary doctor of public service degree was presented to Norman Nicholson, former senior vice president of marketing at Marathon Oil Co. and distinguished community leader.

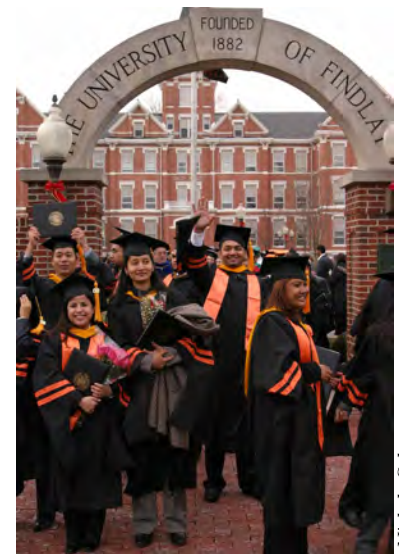
“During his active career and following his retirement, Mr. Nicholson has been extensively involved and highly effective in public service organizations,” said DeBow

Freed, Ph.D., president of the University. “The breadth and depth of his service in those organizations is laudatory.”

He served with distinction as a trustee of the University for 15 years when he was elected trustee emeritus and has served in that capacity for 18 years.

Newly elected Ohio attorney general Richard Cordray gave the commencement address. He talked about the form and substance of leadership, noting the discussion dates to the philosopher Plato.

Cordray advised students to seek out challenges in life; always ask
See COMMENCEMENT, page 2



Nichole Coleman

New graduates march through the Griffith Memorial Arch.

TESOL Students Share Their Language

Last month, six students in UF’s TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) program traveled to Van Buren Elementary School where they taught elementary students Chinese, Japanese and Arabic.

For six weeks, students in the Van Buren Elementary School foreign language club gave up recess time to learn from UF students.

“The students were eager to learn and enthusiastic,” said UF student Yousof Assahafi, who taught Arabic.

In addition to learning a new language, both the Van Buren students and the UF students learned more about each other’s cultures.

“Even though it was my first time to teach American students, it was not something like what is shown on the movies,” said Assahafi. “Students were polite, responsible, always on time and motivated. I liked how well mannered they were. In fact, I still remember when A.J. insisted that I get the first slice of the pizza during last-day party.”

UF students also

had the opportunity to observe

See TESOL STUDENTS, page 2



A. Rissler Lee

Nan Li, back left, and Hui-Chun Sun, right, play a game with Van Buren students while teaching them Chinese. Both students are from Taiwan.

Carter to Strengthen Occupational Health Program in Nepal

William S. Carter, Ph.D., director of environmental, safety and health management programs at The University of Findlay, was awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to help develop a collaborative occupational health program at Kathmandu University in Nepal during the spring 2009 semester, according to the United States Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

Carter will work with Dr. Sanjay Khanal to develop and expand the number of courses Kathmandu University offers in occupational health. The university has a well-developed environmental science program and seeks to strengthen its emerging occupational health

program. Carter will teach courses in occupational health and pollution monitoring. He also will conduct research on air pollution in the Kathmandu Valley.

Carter is one of approximately 1,100 U.S. faculty and professionals who will travel abroad through the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program this academic year.

The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields.



A. Risser Lee

Dr. William Carter will travel to Nepal to teach and conduct research for the spring 2009 semester as a Fulbright Scholar.

Commencement Ceremony Welcomes More Than 430 Graduates, Cont.

Continued from page 1
questions; and be persistent.

Following the ceremony, many graduates signified their achievement with the traditional march through the Griffith Memorial Arch in front of Old Main.

Additional photos are available online at picasa-web.google.com/TheUniversityofFindlay.

Prior to the ceremony, a baccalaureate service was held in Ritz Auditorium. Pastor Lance Finley, director of youth and family ministries for the Churches of God, General Conference, was the speaker.

Graduates and their families also were invited by the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations to enjoy lunch together in the Alumni Memorial Union.



Norman Nicholson shakes the hand of Dr. DeBow Freed after receiving an honorary doctorate.



Nichole Coleman

Two master of education graduates get ready for the processional prior to the ceremony.

TESOL Students Share

Continued from page 1

an American classroom. Hui-Chun Sun, who was a teacher in Taiwan, observed a fifth-grade writing class during which the classroom teacher talked

about the presidential election. She was surprised by the topic because in Taiwan, teachers are not permitted to talk about topics related to politics.

Fall Semester Wraps Up with Flurry of Activity



M. Blinn

Katie Emery and A.J. Grant pose for a quick photo during Christmas on Campus Dec. 6.



A. Rissler Lee

Megan Garner, Alex Hale, Dr. Greg Arburn, Jason Florence and Astolfo Marrufo help prepare a meal at the Findlay City Mission Dec. 2. The group also served the meal.



M. Marrash

Dr. DeBow Freed, UF president, talks with students while visiting residence halls with exam treats on Sunday night of exam week.



M. Marrash

Musician Ry Cuming performed during Midnight Munchies in Henderson Dining Hall Dec. 8.



M. Marrash

Sara Giessler and Jim Zimmerman pose for a photo during a student teacher recognition banquet. Students also prepared poster presentations about their teaching experiences.



K. Collett

Emily Jackson shows off her masterpiece during the confectionary art class cake display. Jackson's design, Happily Ever After, was voted first place by event attendees. Kayla Shannon earned second place, and Candice Kenney earned third place.

UF Faculty Members Author Books

Marianna Hofer, associate professor of English, recently read poetry from her new book, "A Memento Sent by the World," at Main Street News in Findlay. The book was published by Word Press. Many of the poems in the collection were inspired by places and people from Findlay and the surrounding area.

Mark Polelle, Ph.D., chair of the department of history, law and political science, is the author of "Fifty Great Leaders and the Worlds They Made," published by Greenwood Press. The book is an

introduction to leadership and includes case studies that illustrate leadership in action.

Quentin R. Skrabec Jr., associate professor of business, released a book earlier this fall, "Pig Iron Aristocracy: The Triumph of American Protectionism," published by Heritage Books Inc. The Pig Iron Aristocracy of Ohio, Michigan, Illinois and Pennsylvania not only was the foundation of American manufacturing but also the root of our present-day political parties.

Matt Stolick, Ph.D., associate

professor of philosophy, authored "Otherwise Law-Abiding Citizens: A Scientific and Moral Assessment of Cannabis Use," published by Lexington Books. The book is a comprehensive account of the major meanings and moral justifications of cannabis use and cannabis law.

Anthony Wilgus, associate professor of social work, contributed a chapter, "Triangles at the Time of a Chronic Illness and Death," to the book "Triangles: Bowen Family Systems Theory Perspectives," published by The Haworth Press.

Blackley Earns NCAA National Honors

Former standout track and field star Kirby Blackley of The University of Findlay has been selected for the prestigious NCAA Today's Top VIII award, which will be given to her on Jan. 15, 2009, at the NCAA Honors and Delegates Celebration at the Newseum in Washington, D.C. She will be presented the award in front of an audience of up to 1,800 individuals from NCAA member institutions.

"Over the years, we have had a lot of great student-athletes here at Findlay but Kirby definitely stands out," said Steven Rackley, director of athletics. "Not only is she a great athlete but she was also a tremendous student and wonderful person as well. In the NCAA, this is one of the greatest honors an athlete can receive and I am so excited for Kirby because she is very deserving of this award."

To receive the award, student-athletes are judged on athletic ability and achievement, academic achievement and character, lead-

ership and extracurricular activity involvement. The awards are then presented to eight outstanding student-athletes whose intercollegiate athletics eligibility expires this year.

Selections were based on 2007-08 winter and spring sports seasons and the 2008 fall sports season.

"Kirby's athletic and academic achievements at The University of Findlay have been truly remarkable," said head track and field coach Marc Arce. "In over 30 years of coaching I have not seen anyone as focused and determined both on and off the track as she has been. To win two national titles, 14 conference titles and earn both a bachelor's and master's degree in five years speaks for

itself. She is by far the most decorated student-athlete I have been associated with and is truly deserving of the recognition she has received."



Kirby Blackley is the recipient of the NCAA Today's Top VIII award.

FYI is published by the Office of Public Information. Send story ideas to Brianna Patterson, public relations officer, at pattersonb@findlay.edu or call 419-434-4345.

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