



ArchLink

- Your E-Link to The University of Findlay -

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August 2008

Welcome to ArchLink!

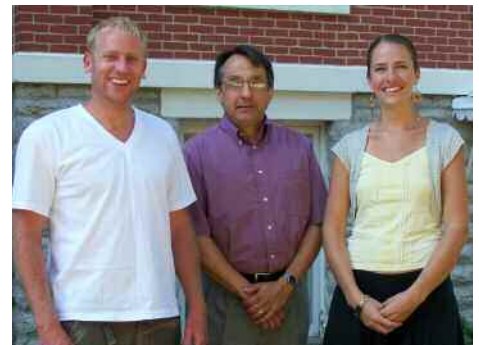


Greetings, alumni!

We were fortunate to have many alumni return to campus during the month of July. If you are vacationing in the Findlay area to see family and friends, take time to reconnect with your alma mater. Our campus is never more beautiful than when it is in full bloom!

Let us know when you are planning to visit so we can schedule a tour for you. You'll be amazed at the improvements, even if you've been away only a few years.

Speaking of coming back to campus – Homecoming 2008, Sept. 19-21, is shaping up nicely. Our theme this year is “Ignite Your Oiler Spirit,” and we will do that on Friday evening with a fireworks display. Also prior to the fireworks, the Harlem Wizards will play in Croy Center. Competing against the Wizards, the UF team – the Orange & Black Attack, comprised of alumni, faculty/staff and students, will be coached by former Findlay basketball coach Dr. James Houdeshell and former football coach Dick Strahm. As always, keep me updated by filling out the “What’s New with You?” form at www.findlay.edu, KEYWORD: Whats new.



Randy '01 and Jill (Stone '01) Tobin visited campus this summer, taking time to see a favorite professor, Dr. Dan May.

With Oiler Pride!

~~Dee Dee Spraw '93, M '00, director, Alumni & Parent Relations

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1. What's Happening on Campus?



New heating and air conditioning units were installed in each room of Bare and Fox residence halls.

• **Many campus improvements were completed this summer.** Fox and Bare residence halls received new heating and air conditioning units in each room. To accommodate the new units, each building also has new windows and upgraded electrical systems. With the increased popularity of group houses as a housing option for sophomores and juniors, the University added five houses to its offerings this fall. A total of 24 group houses, which accommodate between four and eight students, will be used this academic year. The UF Village was transformed with a fun new color palette on the walls and floors. Also in the Village, new workspace for student media WLFC 88.3, The Pulse, the Public Relations Student Society of America and the Envoy was created. New sidewalks and colorful landscaping also have enhanced campus this summer.

• **Welcome Week for returning students begins Aug. 25, and alumni and community members are welcome to attend several activities on campus:**

- Letters to military letter-writing campaign, hosted by Fort Pastor band, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., Monday, Aug. 25, in the AMU.
- Fort Pastor concert, 8 p.m., Monday, Aug. 25, in the Cory Street Mall. Rain site: AMU.
- Dr. Todd H. Albert presenting “Climate Control,” 7 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 26, in the AMU. Rain site: Old Main, Ritz Auditorium.
- Comedian Buzz Sutherland, 8 p.m., Friday, Aug. 29, in the AMU. Admission \$1 at the door.

• **Jerry J. Mallett, Ed.D., founder of the Mazza Museum of International Art from Picture Books at The University of Findlay, was honored July 15 with the dedication of the newly created “Dr. Jerry J. Mallett Institute.”**

More than 200 people attended the dedication ceremony in the Virginia B. Gardner Fine Arts Pavilion at which the Institute’s name was formally unveiled. A program recounting Mallett’s life and accomplishments preceded the unveiling. The Mallett Institute will serve as the umbrella organization encompassing the Mazza Museum and its related 28 educational programs and outreach activities. Also announced was the “Dr. Jerry J. Mallett Institute Endowment Fund,” established with a gift by Michael ’88 and Anne (Harrington ’89) Mallett and their children. The endowment fund will be used to support the operations of the Mazza Museum. Family, friends and museum enthusiasts have committed more than \$700,000 in honor of Mallett. Mallett, who has served as a professor of education at The University of Findlay since 1968, was instrumental in the 1982 founding of what was then known as the Mazza Collection: a collection of four pieces of original art from children’s picture books donated by Findlay College alumni Dr. August Mazza ’41 and his late wife, Aleda (Pfof ’41) Mazza. Mallett has devoted his life’s work to teaching children to read and promoting an appreciation of language arts, children’s literature and children’s book illus-



Celebrating the unveiling of the Dr. Jerry J. Mallett Institute on July 15 were (from left): President DeBow Freed, Ben Sapp '93, M'95, Jerry and Carol Mallett, Sue Beth Arnold '83, M'95 and Dr. Mariann Younger H'08.

trations. He has served as an elementary school teacher and principal, college professor, children's book author and children's literacy expert. For more details, [click here](#).

- **The University's Concert & Lecture Series '08-'09 season** will bring four professional performances to the stage at Winebrenner Theological Seminary. Each concert is at 8 p.m. Contact the UF Box Office at 419-434-5335 for ticket information.

- Sept. 12, Toledo Symphony Orchestra, Pops and the Piano with Julie Spangler
- Oct. 24, Toledo Opera, "A Rigoletto Tapestry"
- Jan. 23, 2009, Toledo Symphony Orchestra, Classics Concert
- Feb. 20, 2009, Toledo Symphony Orchestra, Classics Concert



Chelsea Tipton II, conductor, and the Toledo Symphony Orchestra in concert at the Winebrenner Theological Seminary auditorium.

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2. Academic Update

- **Just prior to the start of summer, 14 UF students traveled to the Okefenokee Swamp in southern Georgia** with Terry Schwaner, Ph.D., dean of the College of Sciences, and Bethany Henderson-Dean, Ph.D., assistant professor of biology. Schwaner wanted students to experience the geography and wildlife of a swamp and reminded them that this part of northwest Ohio used to be the Great Black Swamp before it was drained. While in Georgia, students traveled by canoe to look at alligators. They saw large alligators sunning themselves as well as mother alligators with nests of small babies. "The only thing between us and the alligators was the canoe," said senior pre-veterinary medicine and chemistry major Erica Giles, who may pursue a conservation-focused career as a result of the trip. The students also searched for snakes. "When we'd see a snake or a lizard, we would stop and barrel out of the van to see it," commented sophomore pre-veterinary medicine major Michael Pesato. "It got a little intense, and we would all end up running in and out to catch a glimpse and hold some snakes."
- **Dr. Andrea Wilke Koepke is the new dean of the College of Health Professions** at The University of Findlay, effective July 1. Since 2000, Koepke was the dean of the School of Nursing at Anderson University in Indiana, where she also was a tenured professor. Koepke began her academic career as a faculty member at Anderson in 1976. Koepke is an experienced health professions administrator and has initiated B.S.N., M.S.N. and related degree completion programs in a number of delivery formats. She is dedicated to community health care and has fostered several international exchange and service learning activities. At Anderson, she oversaw all academic assessment activities and was coordinating their institutional self-study for continuing accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). She has served as an accreditation evaluator for the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education since 1998, as well as a consultant evaluator for institutional reviews with HLC since 2004. Koepke has a D.N.S. from Indiana University, and both an M.A. and B.S.N. from Ball State University. She resides with her husband, Ron. They have two grown children. For more information, [click here](#).



Dr. Andrea Koepke



UF student Rachael Gross enjoyed a demonstration in the dairy at Rakuno Gakuen University in Japan.

• **In June, six pre-veterinary medicine students experienced a three-week study tour to Rakuno Gakuen University in Ebetsu, Hokkaido, Japan.** Students Natalie Ede, Melissa Lord, Sarah Flipse, Jessica Diefenbacher, Jade Braman and Rachael Gross were accompanied by Hiroaki Kawamura, Ph.D., chair of the department of language and culture. The study tour is part of a continuing partnership with Rakuno. During the spring 2008 semester, five undergraduate Japanese students visited Findlay for three weeks. While on campus, those students gained hands-on experience with a focus on equestrian studies. They also had the opportunity to experience other parts of American culture, just as

UF students experienced the Japanese culture this summer. One of the most memorable parts of the trip to Japan was the opportunity to observe veterinarians behind the scenes at the penguin exhibit at the Asahiya Zoo, the most popular zoo in Japan. Other experiences included visiting the animal hospital on campus, which is the largest veterinary hospital in Asia; job shadowing at a teaching hospital; milking dairy cows at Rakuno cow stables; riding in a hot air balloon with Rakuno students; and bicycling from the dormitory to campus every day.

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3. Alumni News & Events

• **Save the Date**

- Sept. 19-21, 2008
- Sept. 26-27, 2008

Homecoming 2008 (Please note date change)
Family Weekend

• **Upcoming Events**

- **Aug. 22, 2008**

Freshman move-in day & orientation;
 Development Office welcome carnival for parents and students
 (Calling any alumni that would like to volunteer to assist.)

- **Aug. 23, 2008**

Women's (1 p.m.) and men's (3:30 p.m.) soccer reunion games;
 DeHaven Field, Alumni Office cooking hamburgers & hotdogs

- **Aug. 25 & 26, 2008**

Information booths on campus to direct students to classrooms
 and answer questions (Alumni Board of Governors)

- **Sept. 17, 2008**

UF faculty/staff alumni appreciation luncheon

- **Sept. 19 & 21, 2008**

Homecoming – Ignite Your Oiler Spirit

- **Sept. 19, 2008**

Alumni Board of Governors meeting, 5 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

- **Sept. 26 & 27**

Family Weekend

- **Dec. 13, 2008**

Commencement brunch;

- **Dec. 13, 2008**

Alumni Memorial Union, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Baccalaureate;

Ritz Auditorium, 10:30 a.m.

- **Dec. 13, 2008**

Graduate and undergraduate commencement;

Koehler Fitness and Recreation Complex, 2 p.m.

- **You have an opportunity to volunteer!** We are just a couple weeks away from Welcome Week and the beginning of a new academic year. Alumni are invited to help welcome the Class of 2012 by assisting new students and their families with moving in on Friday, Aug. 22. Also, you can connect with first-year students by working with them on community service projects on Saturday, Aug. 23. This will be the sixth annual service day. As we reflect on the past five years, we have many successes to celebrate and have an established presence in the community.



Denny Zahler '70, right, was one of last year's alumni volunteers who helped welcome students and families to UF.

- **On Saturday, Aug. 23, we need about 60 volunteers:**

(30 in the morning, 30 in the afternoon) to supervise individual groups of first-year students as they go out into the community to complete their service projects. You can volunteer for the morning (8:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.) or the afternoon shift (12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.), or if you're really up for a good time you can volunteer for both shifts!

- **Also on Saturday, we need eight volunteers:** four in the morning (7:45 a.m. – 10 a.m.) and four in the afternoon (11:45 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.) to help with registration and "traffic control" at peak points of the day.

Our volunteers will get lunch, a T-shirt and our undying gratitude. We set up the projects, groups and transportation — you just have to show up with helpful hands and a smile. If you have questions or wish to volunteer, contact Crystal (Jones) Weitz, coordinator of the Campus Compact Center for Service and Learning at cjones@findlay.edu / 419-434-6671 or Bryan Golding, coordinator of new student registration, at goldingb@findlay.edu / 419-434-4842.

- A group of UF alumni and friends formed a team called The University of Findlay Baseball for the April 12, 2008, Columbus Multiple Sclerosis Walk. They walked in honor of UF baseball coach Troy Berry '92, M '99, raising \$3,468 toward a cure for MS. The entire walk raised \$358,579.65. "Obviously those who know and love Coach Berry have a strong desire to help find a cure for MS. We hope to continue in our efforts to raise money for the fight against MS in the years to come," said Josh Schoenberger '01.



Those participating in the Columbus MS walk were: (top row) Chris Gast '00, Kirk Graven '02, Matt Banks '02, Jake Littlejohn, Jeff Blair '98, Chris Cropper, Josh Schoenberger '01; (middle row) Katie Wright, Katie Graven, Diana Cropper, Jeremy Whittlesey '02, Erika Schoenberger; (bottom row) Rondi (Niederkoher '04) Littlejohn, Lori Trushel.

- **Brochures for Homecoming 2008 will be mailed soon!** Your alma mater has something planned for everyone! Meanwhile, to find a schedule of activities go to www.findlay.edu, KEYWORD: Homecoming.

- **Congratulations Newlyweds:**

- *John & E. Lorene (Whitt '99) Leis – June 21, 2008*

- *Ross & Stacy (Elling '02) Gerken – June 28, 2008*

- *Jeremy & Tamara (Hansen '02) Reese – July 4, 2008*

- **Welcome UF Newest Little Oilers:**

- *Patrick & Noelle (Vikre '02) Espy*

Baby girl, Elle Francesca, born April 26, 2007

- *Jeff & Wendy (Christiansen '93) Wallace
Baby boy, Henry, born March 5, 2008*
- *Phillip '02 & Rayna (Kaczmarczyk '00) Babb
Baby boy, Killian Casey, born April 8, 2008*
- *Jeff & Dawn (Henderson '99) Davis
Baby girl, Faye Maxine, born June 15, 2008*

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4. Alumni Spotlight

- **Roberta Phillip '98** is determined to make a difference for at-risk youth involved in the foster care and juvenile justice systems. For her passionate commitment to helping youth see greater potential in themselves, she was recognized with a scholarship in her name to assist in making higher education more than a dream for these young students.



Roberta Phillip '98

A 1998 UF graduate with a degree in biology, she first joined the Americorps program and went on to teach high school biology and chemistry in Key West, Fla., for more than three years. Her experiences helped her decide that she wanted to earn a higher degree that would enable her to affect policy for youth, she said, leading her to enroll in the Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, Ore.

While in law school, Phillip began teaching street law, an introduction to personal rights, as part of a government class at Rosemary Anderson Alternative High School in Portland that primarily serves at-risk, low-income students of color. In 2004, her second year in law school, she set up a mentoring program that matched students from the high school with law students, in particular, members of the Black Law Student Association and the Minority Law Student Association.

The goal of the program is for at-risk youth to be able to “look to their mentors, see themselves and dream more and achieve more than they otherwise thought possible,” Phillip said. Although she graduated from law school in 2006, she continues to be involved, instilling her vision for the program. Going into its fifth year, the mentoring program has served more than 70 at-risk youth.

The Black Law Student Association, through the Lewis and Clark Law School, instituted the Roberta Phillip Scholarship to benefit students who graduate from Rosemary Anderson Alternative High School. A reception and fundraiser honoring Phillip was held on April 26, 2008.

Phillip also serves on the board of the Oregon Minority Lawyers Association and is chair of the board for the Pangaea Project, a 10-month leadership development program. Pangaea provides at-risk youth with a global perspective by sending them to Ecuador or Thailand for five weeks to work on social justice issues.

In March 2008, Phillip was named director of programs and agency relations for The National Crittenton Foundation, also located in Portland. The foundation is an umbrella organization more than 20 agencies in 20 states that serve at-risk youth and their families who are involved in some system of care. Currently, she is working through a grant to develop a “know your rights” guide for pregnant and parenting teens in the foster care system.

“The work, honestly, is exactly the type of work that I had hoped to be doing with my life, so I feel like I’m in a position where I can effect change for kids in a positive way,” Phillip said.

- **Meredith (Allen) Scerba '01**, director of events for the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission, was featured in the April 28, 2008, issue of Crain’s Cleveland Business magazine as one of a series on “Twenty in Their 20s.”

Scerba is making her mark in Cleveland as an energetic, enthusiastic promoter of the city’s assets. Employed by the Sports Commission since 2005, she has helped organize events that have brought recognition and millions of dollars of revenue to the city. She has promoted sports competitions from basketball, boxing and weight-lifting to Tae Kwon Do, synchronized swimming and even jump-roping.

In January 2009, Cleveland will host the World Figure Skating Championships.



Meredith (Allen) Scerba '01

In addition to bidding for sports competitions, Scerba has helped create events that generate a dependable source of revenue year after year. For example, the Continental Cup, an international youth soccer tournament attended this year by 1,500 kids and their parents, had a \$2.3 million impact on the city during a five-day timeframe, she noted.

Although the Sports Commission doesn’t handle running the actual competitions, it does about everything else, according to Scerba. The Sports Commission is responsible for marketing, securing sponsorships, event logistics, housing and recruiting volunteers.

Her largest event, to date, was the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Women’s Basketball Final Four in 2007. She recruited more than 1,100 volunteers and assisted with organizing collateral events that included the Women’s Basketball College Association annual conference that brought in 1,200 coaches, an NCAA women’s basketball all-star game, the salute dinner for the teams and Hoop City, a basketball trade show. In addition, she implemented a new after-school program that promoted healthy lifestyles for youth that has been continued as a legacy from the event, Scerba said.

The National Association of Sports Commissions named the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission the 2007 Sports Commission of the Year, and the NCAA recognized the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission by honoring it for the Best Event of the Year in 2007. As a result, the NCAA has set a new standard in which the host cities in the future must create local special programming that continues to impact the city after the event, she pointed out.

Scerba, who previously was event coordinator for the Cleveland Cavaliers for three years, has been fortunate in combining her love of sports with her dual major in marketing and business management. “It’s been a really exciting adventure. I love it,” she said.

She and her husband, Matthew Scerba '99, met at The University of Findlay where they were both on the Aquaoilers swim team. Among her favorite memories of Findlay, Scerba cited teachers Robert Rustic, assistant professor of business, "I really liked his teaching style," and adviser Linda Kniss, now retired as an assistant professor of business, "She always gave me great advice." She said of Don Collins, student-athlete academic counselor, "He really helped me stay motivated and committed to what we were doing."

She and Matt, who is a group health, safety and environmental assurance leader for Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC in Elyria, Ohio, love to spend their summer weekends water skiing and wakeboarding. They reside in Westlake, Ohio.

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5. Oilers Sports

- **The Oilers volleyball team finished the 2007 season with a 19-14 record.** Findlay, which has won four Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) South Division titles during its association with the NCAA Division II ranks, finished with an 8-9 record in the league last year and will be looking to improve that mark during the fall with a young and energetic squad. Despite graduating two key players, Findlay expects to build upon its success in 2007 with an experienced group of returning players, including sophomore Courtney Niemeyer, and four talented newcomers.



Courtney Niemeyer



Jonathan Bell

- **The Oilers football team enters the 2008 campaign with 34 letter winners returning** and 23 players who started at least one game last season for Findlay. Leading the group of returning players will be juniors Jonathan Bell, Joe Knopick and Anthony Fields who were all named honorable mention all-GLIAC last season. Offensively, Findlay returns 18 letter winners and a total of 13 players who started at least one game last season. The group, while still young, has gained valuable experience against the rugged GLIAC schedule and looks poised to take a step forward in 2008. Defensively, the Oilers return 16 letter winners and 10 players who started at least one game last year. As with the offense, the group of players on defense is young but talented and will also look to improve on a solid 2007 campaign.
- **The University of Findlay men's and women's track and field teams were rewarded for their excellence in the classroom as well as in competition** as both teams earned academic all-American status according to the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA). The men's squad ranked 10th nationally with a cumulative grade point average of 3.180, while the women were 19th at 3.360. On the men's side, upcoming senior James Eric was one of 109 student-athletes in NCAA Division II to be named academic all-American. On the women's side, graduated seniors Kirby Blackley and Pamela Bullock were named academic all-Americans along with upcoming seniors Jessica Latham and Erin



Kirby Blackley

Lines. Junior Stephanie Charnigo and sophomores Lindsey Schmitmeyer and Kelly Beamer also were selected for the honor.

- Check out Oilers sports at <http://www.findlay.edu>.

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6. Alumni Support

- **THANK YOU! To those alumni who gave generously to The University of Findlay** during this most recent fiscal year, which ended June 30, 2008, a special “thank you” is in order. Alumni support increased over last year and outpaced the totals for the past five years as well. **During fiscal year 2008, 1,443 alumni made gifts totaling more than \$710,000**, compared to \$260,000 the previous year from 1,449 alumni. According to Charlie Shepard, director of development, the increase in support is due to the efforts of the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations to further engage alumni through meaningful events and activities and the growing confidence of alumni that the University is fulfilling its purpose in a strategic and well-conceived manner.
- **Members of the Class of 1958 — celebrating their 50-year reunion — and members of the Class of 2008 are joining together to establish the University Archives as a class project.** Located in Shafer Library, the University Archives will provide the University a repository for past and present documents and artifacts. The Archives will be dedicated during Homecoming this September. This is a much-needed University project, and we seek additional financial help to complete the initial phase. Contact James Houdeshell, Stout Alumni Center, 419-434-4551, regarding gifts to the University Archives.
- **The University’s annual Applause! recognition reception will be held on Friday evening, Oct. 10, 2008.** This event recognizes those who have made significant contributions of time and resources to The University of Findlay and says “thank you.” Individuals who have contributed \$1,000 or more in cash to the University during the preceding fiscal year, which ended June 30, 2008, will receive invitations to this special and fun event.

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7. FYI Campus Newsletter

- Want to know what is happening on campus between *ArchLink* issues? UF has a bi-weekly newsletter called *For Your Information* that is circulated on campus. The newsletter includes feature stories and pictures of campus activities. Check out *FYI* online at <http://www.findlay.edu>, KEYWORD: FYI.

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8. Spread the Word...

- If you know other alumni who would like to receive *ArchLink*, please forward this message.
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- If you received *ArchLink* from another alum and would like to sign up for it, you may [click here](#) to fill out a form or e-mail your name, graduation year, major and home address to archlink@findlay.edu. Please add archlink@findlay.edu to your address book/contact list.
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 - The Office of Career Services is here to help! If you have a hiring need or are looking for just the right person for your organization, please go to www.oilerjobs.com to post a job through The University of Findlay. Contact us directly at 419-434-4665 or careerservices@findlay.edu if you have questions or to learn more about how we can help fill your employment needs!

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**The mission of The University of Findlay is to equip our students
for meaningful lives and productive careers.**
