

# Programs Mark Host of Anniversaries as UF Approaches 125th

**As The University of Findlay approaches its 125th anniversary in 2007, three of its academic programs are marking significant anniversaries this year.**

While the Nuclear Medicine Institute (NMI) celebrated its 40th year of offering quality education to nuclear medicine technologists in April 2006, approaching anniversaries include both the western equestrian studies program, which will mark its 30th anniversary with a celebration at the Quarter Horse Congress in October, and the environmental program, which will celebrate 20 years with an open house and dinner during Homecoming weekend Oct. 6-7.

In addition, the Mazza Museum of International Art from Children's Picture Books is undergoing a major renovation and addition project as it prepares to celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2007.

## **Western Equestrian Studies Turns 30**

Founded in 1976, the western equestrian studies program was one of the first of several successful "niche" programs that would lead to tremendous growth for the University. The program was based on the expertise and national reputation of local equestrian Dale Wilkinson, who ran the training aspect of the program and renovated his 72-acre farm to accommodate the students and horses, investing nearly half a million dollars in the facility. The main arena at the western farm was named for Wilkinson in 2005.

At first, equestrian studies was a two-year associate's degree, but it quickly became evident that a four-year degree was needed. Clark Bradley, another nationally respected horseman, was hired in 1978 to take the program to the bachelor's-degree level. Steve Brown, who trained under Bradley, was named director



of the western riding program in 1984 and continues to provide leadership for the program.

Both associate's and bachelor's degrees are now offered, with students taking a full selection of equine science courses in conjunction with the riding sequence. Classroom studies range from course work in animal nutrition, reproduction, judging and farm management to basic requirements in the liberal arts disciplines. Equestrian students often add a second major to expand their employment opportunities within the industry.

In 1984, The University of Findlay purchased Wilkinson's property after he moved his horse training business to Georgia. Today, the equestrian facility includes the Dale E. Wilkinson Arena, 300 horse stalls, tack rooms, a second smaller arena, several wash stalls, classrooms and

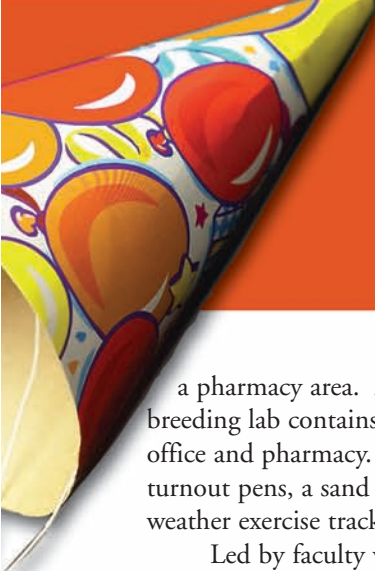
## **[Happy Anniversary!]**

### **2006**

**Nuclear Medicine Institute - 40 Years**  
**Western Equestrian Studies - 30 Years**  
**Environmental Studies - 20 Years**

### **2007**

**UF SIFE Program - 30 Years**  
**Social Work Program - 30 Years**  
**Mazza Museum - 25 Years**  
**English Equestrian Studies - 15 Years**



a pharmacy area. A separate artificial insemination breeding lab contains an additional classroom, veterinary office and pharmacy. Located outdoors are all-weather turnout pens, a sand ring, paddocks and a 1/6-mile, all-weather exercise track.


Led by faculty who continue to train and compete and are universally recognized for their expertise, the program has established a national reputation for excellence including two Intercollegiate Horse Show Association national team championships.

### Two Decades of Environmental Studies

Another niche program that has established a national reputation is the environmental program, both the academic side, the environmental, safety and occupational health program, and the training component, the School of Environmental and Emergency Management (SEEM).

Academic programs now offered include a bachelor of science degree in environmental, safety and occupational health management, with a degree completion program for those who have already earned an associate's degree at another institution; a master of science degree in environmental, safety and health management; and master's level certificates. Both the degree completion program and master of science degree can be completed via the Internet, and students from more than 30 states and eight foreign countries have completed environmental, safety and health courses for academic credit.

The academic curriculum added a training component in 1989. Training courses are now offered in areas including hazardous materials management, emergency response, Occupational Health and Safety Administration safety courses, construction safety, environmental regulations, and may be delivered either on campus or on-site, as well as by live, interactive web-cast.



Environmental studies now claims more than 1,000 graduates of its academic programs and has offered training to more than 90,000 emergency and hazardous materials specialists all over the globe.

All of these alumni are invited to reconnect during an anniversary celebration slated for Oct. 6-7.

During the 2007 anniversary year itself, programs



celebrating their own anniversaries will include the SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) program and the social work program, both of which will mark 30 years in 2007, which will also mark the 25th anniversary for the Mazza Museum and of the pre-veterinary program, while the English equestrian studies program will celebrate 15 years since its founding.

Among those programs, work is already under way on the expansion of a unique asset that had its beginnings during The University of Findlay's 100th anniversary celebration.

As UF was marking its 100th anniversary, each academic division was asked to consider a special initiative to celebrate the occasion. For the teacher education division, that special initiative was the Mazza Museum of International Art from Children's Picture Books, the world's first and largest teaching museum devoted to literacy and the art of children's picture books.

Dr. Jerry Mallett, now executive director of the museum, turned to alumni August ('41) and the late Aleda (Pfof '41) Mazza, who donated four artworks valued at \$1,700. What began as a collection of four pieces now numbers more than 3,000, and draws area children as well as art enthusiasts from all over the world.

The 8,000-square-foot addition now under construction will provide space for a classroom, children's art studio, art resource library, storage vault, preservation and restoration center, and a gift gallery.

A recent gift of \$1 million from Michael Gardner and his wife, Robin Gardner, both Findlay residents, enabled the campaign for the Mazza addition to exceed its \$2.2 million goal, and to begin work so construction will be completed in time for the 25th anniversary of the Mazza Museum in 2007.

Celebrations abound, and academics are alive and thriving!

