

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

A newsletter for faculty, staff and students of The University of Findlay

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## INTERNATIONAL ORIENTATION LEADERS TO EASE NEW STUDENTS' TRANSITION TO UF

Leading up to Orientation Weekend, many students will arrive on campus – including students who have traveled across oceans to get here. Many of those students will arrive on campus with questions about the University, the geographic area and the customs. But this year, international student orientation leaders will be on campus to answer those questions and help create a smooth transition to UF for approximately 300 new international students.

Penny Gerdeman, director of international student admissions and services, and the International Admissions Office staff wanted international students to feel like they were a more integral part of the UF community, which includes a larger number of international students participating in Orientation Weekend activities. After getting feedback from current international stu-

dents, they collectively decided to organize and train a group of orientation leaders specifically to help new international students.

Interested students were asked to complete an application, and qualified students were offered the opportunity to interview for the three-week paid position.

Eleven students were selected and met as a group Aug. 16 for a training workshop. The group took an extensive campus tour so leaders were able to identify all of the buildings on campus. A scavenger hunt



*Pictured left to right: Salman Ali Syed, Shu-Ching (Doris) Chang, graduate assistant Lei (Michael) Zhao, graduate assistant Maria Eugenia Velasquez, Omar Marquez, Zianli (Susan) Zhang, Ritwick Premnath, Komal Thakkar, Chandra Sekhar Chejerla, Kinjal Patel, graduate assistant Kalina Ivanova, Linda Dansoa Oseti, Treankamon Tongautit and Saud Fahad Allahyani.*

*See INTERNATIONAL, page 2*

## UF TEAM SEARCHES FOR FEDERALLY ENDANGERED SPECIES

The Hines emerald dragonfly, also known as the Ohio emerald skimmer, hasn't been seen in Ohio since the early 1960s, but Dwight Moody, Ed.D., professor of biology, is hoping to change that.

During summer 2007, Moody and several UF students traveled to places in Ohio such as Kitty Todd Nature Preserve, Toledo Metroparks, Akron Metroparks, McCoy State Nature Preserve, and 23 other wetlands and wildlife areas where they hoped to find Hines emerald dragonfly larvae.

According to Moody, it is suspected that the dragonflies, a federally endangered species found in diminishing wetlands, quickly establish their territory, mate, lay their eggs in or near crayfish burrows and leave the area, thus making it difficult to spot the adults. The aquatic larvae survive in the underground wet tunnels created by crayfish.

Researchers are reasonably certain that the dragonflies lay their eggs near the crayfish burrow, and the eggs are washed into the burrow by water. In

addition to dragonflies, other invertebrates including spiders and crickets live in burrows with crayfish. This type of biological relationship is an association – meaning that that one species is dependent upon another species for survival.

Devin Miles, a graduate student, and senior biology major Megan Tietje worked with Moody through the summer. Senior pre-veterinary major Christina Borck provided an extra helping hand when needed.

*See UF TEAM, page 2*

## UF TEAM SEARCHES FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES, CONT.

“The project has given me a new perspective on research,” said Miles. “Previously, I would have favored lab sciences, but having worked in the field on this project, I developed a fondness for working in a more natural setting.”

When the team members found a

crayfish burrow, they used a bilge pump to suck the water out and back in, taking only the living things to study and return to the burrow unless dragonfly larvae was found. Moody secured a permit to keep dragonfly larvae, which would be taken to Bob Glotzhofer,

senior curator of natural history with the Ohio Historical Society, for further study as the larvae grow into adulthood.

Thus far, the team has not found Hines emerald dragonfly larvae. “There are thousands of acres that we can’t cover in one summer,” said Moody. “That doesn’t mean it isn’t here [in Ohio].”

Moody’s team was working with funding from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources; Glotzhofer secured the grant. The other half of the Ohio grant-funded group was working in southern Ohio while Moody’s team focused on the northern part of the state. There are four relatively large Hines emerald dragonfly populations in Wisconsin, near Chicago, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and Missouri.



*Bob Glotzhofer (right), senior curator of natural history with the Ohio Historical Society, talks to UF students Devin Miles (far left) and Christina Borck (center) at Liberty Park in Butler County, Ohio.*



*The team uses a bilge pump to suck water out of crayfish burrows. Megan Tietje sifts through the water and debris to find Hines emerald dragonfly larvae.*

## UF IN TOP TIER OF “BEST COLLEGES”

The University of Findlay has been ranked by U.S. News and World Report as a top-tier Midwest university. The complete list of rankings will appear in the 2008 edition of “America’s Best Colleges,” which will be on newsstands Monday, Aug. 20, and is currently available online at [www.usnews.com/colleges](http://www.usnews.com/colleges).

The annual rankings, in which U.S. News groups schools based on categories created by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, provide

a resource for parents and students researching colleges and universities.

Schools are ranked based on key measures of quality including peer assessment, graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources and alumni giving.

Using a proprietary methodology, the annual U.S. News and World Report rankings are developed to help consumers evaluate and compare data compiled from more than 1,400 accredited four-year schools.

## INTERNATIONAL ORIENTATION LEADERS TO EASE TRANSITION, CONT.

was held to introduce leaders to the various offices that new students may need to visit during their first few weeks on campus.

“It was great having leaders from different cultures spending a day together talking about their experiences,” said Gerdeman. “They all believe in what they’re doing and want to be mentors for the new students.” The countries of China, Ghana, India, Saudi Arabia,

Taiwan, Thailand and Venezuela are represented within the group.

The new orientation leaders began their duties Aug. 20 and will continue through Sept. 7. Responsibilities include working in the International Admissions Office, answering questions at the welcome house, performing proper check-in procedures and being available for the entire Orientation Weekend to help students through the orientation process.

## GREENWOOD, SCHMIDT REMEMBERED

A memorial service for Professor James Greenwood will be held at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 4.

A memorial service for Professor James Schmidt will be held at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 25.

Both services will be held in Ritz Auditorium, on the second floor of Old Main.

## WORTH NOTING

If you know someone who has done something “worth noting,” on campus or within the community or professional realm, send the information to Brianna Patterson, public relations officer, at [pattersonb@findlay.edu](mailto:pattersonb@findlay.edu).

Read FYI online at [www.findlay.edu](http://www.findlay.edu) using KEYWORD: FYI.

# SUMMER SEND-OFFS WELCOME NEW STUDENTS



A Summer Send-Off was held Aug. 19 at the home of Robert '57 and Catherine Pritts in Columbus. Pictured above left are new students from the Columbus area. Pictured above right are Emma McDougle and Amelia Acuna, admissions counselor. They attended the Summer Send-Off in Findlay at the Alumni House.

## ATHLETES RETURN FOR SOCCER ALUMNI GAMES



Pictured above: Meghan Innes '04 and freshman Amanda Backmayer



Pictured above: Jake Schramm, 2005 GLIAC offensive player of the year, and Michael Albert, 2007 team captain



On Aug. 10, future physician assistants attended a workshop where they learned splinting techniques. Andrew Klausung and Alex Horstman, pictured above, practice on one another.



Lloyd Jacobs, Ph.D., president of the University of Toledo, visited UF Aug. 17. While on campus, Jacobs saw the Mazza Museum, a science laboratory in the Davis Street Building and the Western Equestrian and Pre-Veterinary Center. A reception was held from 2 to 2:30 p.m. in the Gardner Fine Arts Pavilion for faculty and staff members to meet him.

# UF FACULTY AND STAFF FLOODED WITH ENTHUSIASM FOR NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

Through rain and high water, UF faculty and staff arrived with enthusiasm for the President's Breakfast at 7 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 21, in the comfortably dry Koehler Complex.

The event kicked off the opening of the new academic year. Following breakfast, DeBow Freed, president of the University, gave an address during which he spoke of the more competitive times ahead as the University continues to move forward. He mentioned the high acceptance rates of students from the pre-veterinary program into veterinary school and the high pass rates of health professions and teacher education students on licensing exams.

Freed noted many accomplishments of various programs, teams and clubs during the past academic year, citing a "good student culture" on campus. He added that student housing needs have been met with excellent cooperation. The number of students living on campus has increased by approximately 100 students a year for the past four years.

At the end of his address, Freed reminded those in attendance of the responsibility to help each student grow both academically and personally. "We are an oasis of care and concern for one another," he said. "We are the people who see the potential in others."

Pastor Will Miller, director of Christian ministries, also addressed the group noting, "our calling is higher than to simply educate." He encouraged all to teach students many things, through words as well as actions.

Other speakers included David Draper, president of Winebrenner Theological Seminary, David Ferguson, vice president for development, and David Emsweller, vice president for student services.

The University Family Picnic was held in the Koehler Complex at 5 p.m. Guests ate, visited with others and some even skated in the ice rink.



*At left, Sandy Saunders, director of facilities scheduling and events, draws the name of the winner of this year's reserved parking spot. All employees who support the UF Fund are included in the drawing. Saunders was the winner last year. Dave Ferguson, vice president for development, is also pictured.*

*At right, Ashley Dutridge, Kevin Kramer and Jeremy Stewart pose for a photo with DeBow Freed, University president, during the University Family Picnic in the Koehler Complex Aug. 21.*



## GEISE RECEIVES FELLOWSHIP

Mary Jo Geise, associate professor of computer science, recently earned a fellowship for graduate study in the Higher Education Administration doctoral program at Bowling Green State University (BGSU).

Geise's proposal was one of only 31 accepted from among 100 applicants. She has been approved as a full-time recipient with a \$10,000 yearly award for three years. Her cognate area of study will be in Institutional Research (IR) where she plans to work directly with BGSU's IR office during the 2008-2009 academic year.

Geise began the doctoral program

at BGSU in 2006 as a part-time student. She will continue teaching courses at UF and will graduate from BGSU with her doctoral degree in 2010.



*Mary Jo Geise*

The opportunity to apply for a fellowship was presented by the Association for Institutional Research and the National Center for Education Statistics. The purpose of the new national fellowship program is to increase the number of well-trained professionals in the area of institutional research

and increase the number of professionals who complete advanced degrees in that area of study.