

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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

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## OHIO SECRETARY BLACKWELL VISITS UF

As a young man, Ohio Secretary of State J. Kenneth Blackwell heard Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. speak, and King's words inspired him to lead a life of public service.

In that speech, Dr. King exhorted his listeners to choose between being people who are made by history and being people who make history.

"History is not advanced by accident or blind chance," Blackwell said.

Throughout his long career in politics, he has striven to be someone who influences history for the better.

The secretary discussed this principle and others during his presentation, "Diversity in Politics and the 2004 Election," on Wednesday, Feb. 16 in the Alumni Memorial Union.

Blackwell, who is pursuing the Republican nomination for governor in 2006, began his speech by talking about how his life experiences have shaped his political and world views.

Blackwell was raised in Cincinnati where his family lived in a public housing community in 1940s and 1950s.

His parents emphasized hard work, saving money, education and leading a God-centered life as the keys to getting ahead in the world.

His family's experiences with racism taught Blackwell that life wasn't necessarily fair and that the United States, while the best country in the world, was far from perfect.

"I always knew that we had a fundamental challenge on our hands," Blackwell said.

These lessons were drummed into him during his college years, when he

became more politically active as president of the Black Student Union at Xavier University. His reputation as a person who questioned social practices and demanded change came back to haunt him when he was denied a draft in the NFL because of his political activism.

Blackwell had the opportunity to put his principles to test in 2004, when he oversaw election policies in Ohio, the key state in the presidential race.

"I've been refined by heat; I've been in the fire," he said. "I'm the most refined politician in the state of Ohio."

Despite the scrutiny placed on Ohio's election practices and the accusations of wrongdoing on Blackwell and Ohio's part, Blackwell touted the accuracy of Ohio's election results and the bipartisan, fair structure of the state's board of election structure.

Shifting to his outlook on Ohio and his ideas for improving the state, Blackwell focused on how Ohio's economic status is tied to its population demographics.

Pointing out that Ohio leads the nation in the loss of 25- to 39-year-olds to other states, Blackwell said he believes that the state's aging, less affluent population is unfairly burdened by inordinately high state taxes.

This burden, combined with the loss of young workers and families, is the primary source of Ohio's economic woes, according to Blackwell.

"The future is tied to making Ohio younger," he said. "We need jobs and income to keep young people."

Spending by the state government



Photo courtesy of Laura Beach

*Ohio Secretary of State J. Kenneth Blackwell discussed his experiences in living a political life in a Feb. 16 speech at UF.*

has increased by 71 percent in the past 10 years, he said.

"There has never been a state in the nation that has taxed and spent its way into prosperity," according to Blackwell.

He proposes an amendment to the state constitution that would cap increases in Ohio government spending at the rate of inflation plus the percentage of the state's population growth.

In concluding his presentation, which lasted approximately one hour, Blackwell urged his listeners, regardless of their political perspectives, to become more politically involved.

"Democracy is not a spectator sport," he said.

Blackwell's visit to campus is the highlight of the University's Black History Month activities.

Prior to his speech, Blackwell had dinner with seven UF students. He also toured the Mazza Museum.

# PROMISES, PROMISES RUNS THROUGH FEBRUARY 27

The University of Findlay's music and theatre programs will present the musical comedy *Promises, Promises* Feb. 23-26 at 8 p.m. and Feb. 27 at 6 p.m. in the John and Hester Powell Grimm Theatre.

*Promises, Promises*, with music by Burt Bacharach, lyrics by Hal David and book by Neil Simon, is based on the 1960 Academy Award-winning motion picture, *The Apartment*.

*Promises, Promises* takes place in New York City during the swinging Christmas season of 1968. C.C. "Chuck" Baxter is a young bachelor accountant in a large insurance company. Always eager to move up in the company, Chuck allows his married superiors to use his apartment to romance their mistresses. However, from afar, Chuck falls in love with Fran Kubelik, a company cafeteria worker, who, unknown to Chuck, is being taken to his apartment by his own boss, J.D. Sheldrake.

Several of the songs in *Promises, Promises* became very popular in the late 1960s and early 1970s. "I'll Never Fall

in Love Again," "Knowing When to Leave" and the title song, "Promises, Promises," each reached the top-40 lists with renditions by such performers as the Carpenters and Dionne Warwick.

Dr. Micheal F. Anders is the producer and music director for UF's production, and Vicki McClurkin is serving as stage director.

*Promises, Promises* stars Matthew Harris as C.C. "Chuck" Baxter, Jaclyn Hilborn as Fran Kubelik and Gregg Wozniak as J.D. Sheldrake. Other cast members include Kyle Kutchenriter, Derin Tolu, Erik Christensen, James Stephani, Sean Kesckes, Mandy Blatchly, Chelsea Riggs, Nikki Marie Coe, Jenilee Baker, Yuko Nakayama, Matt Tyahur, Megan Christy, Christen Mathern, Alexis James, Jennifer Gerdeman, Christine Hollington, Chris Leitner, Jim Conley, Valerie Randolph, Satoko Komazawa, Alejandro Ramirez, John Patterson, Matt Waugh, Amanda Boyce and Levi Perkins.

As of Feb. 22, all performances of *Promises, Promises* are sold out.

## SPRING CAREER DAY OFFERS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

UF students will meet with potential employers at a Spring Career Day on Tuesday, March 1 from 10:30-2:30 p.m. in the Koehler Fitness and Recreation Complex.

More than 30 area and national businesses are currently scheduled to meet with UF students for full-time, part-time, internship/co-op, summer and volunteer job opportunities. Among these businesses are the Blanchard Valley Center, the Bowling Green Police Department, Cedar Point Amusement Park, the Findlay Family YMCA, the Hancock County Council on Aging and the U.S. Navy

Officer Program.

All UF students are encouraged to attend the fair. Students will have the opportunity to meet with employers to find out what employers are looking for when they recruit new employees. They may also leave resumes with potential employers.

Students are required to bring resumes and to dress professionally.

Students may prepare for the Spring Career Day by visiting the Office of Career Services for resume and job fair tips.

For more information, call 419-434-4665.

## STUDENT SPEAKS AT O.I.L.E.R. LEADERSHIP LUNCH

A UF student leader was the featured speaker at the University's monthly O.I.L.E.R. Leadership Luncheon on Wednesday, Feb. 23 in the Endly Room.

Angelic Muhammad, a senior psychology major, gave a talk titled "Dream the Dream... Diversity in Leadership" as part of the University's celebration of Black History Month.

According to Muhammad, a native of Detroit, her experiences as a young, black, single mother have taught her to turn negative circumstances into positive ones.

"By being a black female, I feel that it is a little harder to do something positive in life. As a single mother, going to school full-time and working two jobs, I went through a lot of things that I don't want others to go through," she explained. "I hope that through my talk I can help others turn the negative things in their life into positive things by teaching them how they can learn from it."

Muhammad has taken her own advice to heart. After graduation in the spring, she plans to continue her work with Pennies for Single Parents Striving for Higher Education, a non-profit organization that she is in the process of establishing. According to Muhammad, the idea for the new organization came from her challenges in paying for higher education and from encouragement she received in a grant writing class she took at UF.

In addition, Muhammad is very active on campus, participating in theater, the Black Student Union, Psy-Key Club and mentoring programs. She is also active in the community through her work with area youth.

# A FANTASTIC FEBRUARY AT FINDLAY



*Phillip Lucas taught his forensic science students how to reconstruct a crime scene by measuring a blood splatter on Feb. 8.*



*Several current UF students, including Kyle Kutchenriter, holding microphone, answered questions from prospective students and their parents at Spring Preview Day on Feb. 21.*



*Columbus-area alumni and Dr. Ray McCandless reminisced about their days at UF by looking at yearbooks during an alumni gathering Feb. 19 in Dublin, Ohio.*



*Findlay High School's Pantasia Steel Band played lilting tunes during the Feb. 11 Bach's Lunch event in the AMU.*



*Students dressed up in formal wear for this year's Black Tie Affair on Feb. 12. With the theme "The Royal Ball," the dance featured blue-and-white decoration and fun music.*



*Black Tie Affair photos courtesy of Laura Beach*

# SYMPOSIUM ADDRESSES DYING ISSUES

The University hosted a symposium, "Learning about Death, Dying and Grieving for Public Emergency Personnel," on Tuesday, Feb. 15 in the Alumni Memorial Union.

According to a study conducted by the United States Department of



Photo courtesy of Eric Lee

*Ohio Auditor Betty Montgomery was the keynote speaker for the "Learning about Death, Dying and Grieving for Public Emergency Personnel" symposium held on campus Feb. 15.*

Justice, a law enforcement officer takes his or her own life every 17 hours. Additionally, a law enforcement officer is killed in the line of duty every 57 hours. Also, law enforcement officers typically encounter accident, murder and other disaster scenes on the job. This symposium was intended to help public emergency personnel better deal with issues related to death and dying that they face in their work.

Symposium speakers addressed these issues, as well as the psychological and physical effects on the law enforcement officer's spouse survivors, co-workers, family and friends. Another key topic that was discussed was the proper procedures for the notification of immediate family of their loss.

The keynote speaker was Betty Montgomery, Ohio auditor and former Ohio attorney general.

In her speech, Montgomery acknowledged that emergency personnel are under "enormous pressure to do the right thing and say the right thing."

She cautioned them against making

a mistake she had made in using humor to diffuse the intensity surrounding an emotionally sensitive case.

"You have to understand that there are people who are going to be affected by what you do and how you do it," she said.

Other speakers included Allen County Sheriff Dan Beck; Linda Pope, president of the Ohio Chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors Inc.; Phillip W. Lucas, lecturer in criminal justice at UF; and Don Dewey, president of Bio Clean Team Inc. in Lebanon, Ohio.

This event was a pilot program sponsored by the University in affiliation with the State Office of Criminal Justice Services, Eoff Insurance Agency, Merrill Lynch Investments and Factory Direct International.

UF graduate student Larry Musser, who retired from Hancock County government after 33 years, organized the symposium as a thesis project in his pursuit of a master of liberal arts degree.

## SPEAKER DISCUSSES BUSINESS, ACHIEVING PERSONAL GOALS

Dr. Vimal S. Kumar, a graduate of Findlay High School and UF and area entrepreneur, spoke on campus Wednesday, Feb. 23 in the Ritz Auditorium.

Dr. Kumar spoke on entrepreneurship and how to not let personal goals be limited.

Dr. Kumar is a medical practitioner and highly successful entrepreneur. He established the Key Pain Management Center in Sandusky, Ohio. In addition to his medical career, he is chairman and CEO of Universal Clay Products, as well as chairman and CEO of Lyman Harbor Marina Entertainment Complex, both in Sandusky.

His unique educational and professional experience began at UF, where he majored in liberal arts. While at UF, he was a member of the SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) national championship team. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in pre-medicine from The University of Toledo and a doctorate of medicine from the Medical College of Ohio.

Dr. Kumar is the son of Dr. Shiv Gupta, professor of business and economics at UF.

## BGSU JAZZ GROUP SINGING AT BACH'S LUNCH

The University of Findlay will hold a Bach's Lunch event on March 4. Each free performance is held at noon.

The Bowling Green State University Jazz Singers are scheduled to perform in the North Multi-Purpose Room in the Alumni Memorial Union.

For more information about Bach's Lunches, call 419-434-4606 or 800-472-9502 or e-mail studentactivities@findlay.edu.

*FYI* is published by the Office of University Relations. Contact Summer Douglass at x4731 or sdouglass@findlay.edu to submit information.