

UF Tapped for Awards, Board Positions

The University of Findlay was well represented Oct. 2 at the Ohio Communication Association (OCA) conference in Springfield, when UF walked away with two awards, two board positions and the honor of hosting the organization's 75th conference in 2011.

Dave Foster, associate professor, and public relations student **Evan Rowland** were elected to serve on the OCA board.

In addition, **the Pulse** added one more honor to a long list when it received the 2010 Distinguished Student Organization Award at the OCA conference. Accepting the award were faculty adviser Chris Underation along with students Des-

mond Strooh, Lindsay McFadden, Elliott Shaffer and Evan Rowland.

Over the last three years, the Pulse has won 10 statewide awards from the Ohio Newspaper Association in areas including design, local features, news reporting, original columns, and sports reporting. Some of these awards have been given in competition with professional newspapers.

Leslie Thatcher, who graduated last



Lindsay McFadden, Pulse editor, and Desmond Strooh, graduate student media manager, pose for a photo with the Pulse's award.

spring with a major in health communication, was honored at the OCA conference with the Distinguished Undergraduate Student of the Year award.

One of Thatcher's most notable accomplishments was when she planned and facilitated the first Health Communication Symposium at The University of Findlay.

"Not only was the event successful with over 100 attendees

See UF TAPPED, page 2

Oiler Well Introduced by Health Center

Staff members at the Cosiano Health Center spend their days keeping campus healthy. This fall, they are continuing to do just that with the introduction of Oiler Well, a benefit program for employees of the University with the goal of improving the overall health of all employees and thus, keeping health care costs under control.

The in-house program, under the direction of Janice Macmann, R.N., wellness coordinator, will replace and improve upon the program previously administered by Blanchard Valley Hospital.

According to Macmann, there are many benefits to Oiler Well. Through the program, each employ-

ee can take advantage of a yearly health risk assessment (HRA) and ongoing support and consultation.

"A wellness program is designed to maintain or improve employee health before problems arise," said Macmann, who also noted that a focus on wellness has proven to decrease absenteeism and improve productivity and retention in the workplace. "We all benefit when the whole team is in place."

Because the University is self-insured for medical coverage, those costs are shared by every employee. One way to keep costs from increasing is to remain healthy and improve existing health issues.

Employee privacy will be respect-

ed; all Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) laws apply to Oiler Well. Neither anyone in the Office of Human Resources nor an employee's supervisor will know of any health information unless the employee chooses to tell them.

More information about Oiler Well will be forthcoming this semester. Information also will be available on www.findlay.edu,
KEYWORD: health services.



Marching Oiler Brass Brings Music Indoors

The Marching Oiler Brass will present its Third Annual Indoor Concert at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 31, in Winebrenner Theological Seminary.

The 64-member band will perform selections from its 13th season pregame and halftime shows. Music of the rock group “Chicago” will be featured along with a number of selections written by Duke Ellington.

“Viva la Vida” is the theme for this year’s senior show. The band will preview music from the show, which will be performed Saturday, Nov. 13, during the band’s final performance of the season during halftime of the football game at Donnell Stadium.

Special guests for the concert will include Lisa Geise, UF Oiler Brass feature twirler, and the UF dance team, under the direction of Julie

McIntosh, Ed.D., and coached by McIntosh and Dee Dee Spraw.

The sixth winner of the Ronald Cable Endowed Scholarship also will be introduced at the program.

Jack Taylor and Ron Cable, associate conductors, will lead the Oiler Brass. The concert will be narrated by “The Voice of the Oiler Brass,” Pastor Will Miller.

Tickets are \$5 for general admission, \$3 for seniors and students and free for UF faculty, staff and students. Tickets may



Senior members of the Marching Oiler Brass: (first row) Allison Tierney, Kim Funk, Kayla Meeks, Sarah Higgins; (second row) Jason Homan, Cory Nardecchia, Stephen Piwowar; (third row) Emily Ohneck, Rebecca Schehr, Emily Brungard, Sean Johnson

T. Baker

be reserved in advance at the UF Box Office by calling 419-434-5335 or may be purchased at the door.

FGCI Hosts Speaker on Sustainability

The University’s Findlay Green Campus Initiative (FGCI) hosted Kent Portney, professor of political science at Tufts University, on Oct. 14-15.

On Oct. 14, Portney presented “Sustainable Communities and Campuses: Why Are They Important?” to a group of students, faculty and staff on campus.

“[Sustainability] isn’t about the birds and the fish. It’s about people,” said Portney. “We want

to ultimately improve things that affect human health.”

Portney studies cities’ environmental efforts in nearly 40 categories and ranks them according to how many of those categories are being met. Seattle, Wash., is at the top of Portney’s list, meeting more than 30 of his criteria.

In his research, Portney noted that neither median family income nor political party preference has a strong influence on which cities are

working toward greater sustainability, which means it is not limited to economically well-off cities or cities dominated by one political party.

While on campus, Portney also spent time with with student, faculty and staff groups. In addition, he gave a community presentation and spoke with community leaders about a potential 10-year sustainability plan for Hancock County.

UF Tapped for Awards, Board Positions

Continued from page 1

from the university and community and coverage from radio and television,” Cheri Hampton-Farmer, Ph.D., said, “but Leslie had emerged as a professional, one who had learned to maintain a positive relationship under demanding conditions.”

In addition to being honored during the awards ceremony, students and faculty members from Findlay participated in conference workshops. Hampton-Farmer along with Diana Montague, Jens Hatch and Crystal Weitz presented a workshop on their innovative work in

integrating academic service learning into the speech curriculum.

The panel from The University of Findlay discussed: “The Millennials Meet Aristotle: Academic Service-Learning Teaches New Dogs Old Tricks.”

Blue Herons Transport Researchers' Work

Every other Wednesday night, Terry D. Schwaner, Ph.D., dean of the College of Sciences, and his team of students and land owners venture to Spurgats' wetland in Findlay — a wetland that was scraped out of the ground in spring of 2007 and filled by the floods the following August.

Their purpose: to record information about the populations of bullfrogs, green frogs, leopard frogs, tree frogs, toads and a small number of chorus frogs that inhabit the wetland. The project began in October 2008 and the team started tagging the frogs with small tracking transponders in 2009.

Recently, the team discovered what Schwaner describes as “a needle in a haystack.”

“We know great blue herons are eating our frogs ... (we) located a heron rookery about six to seven miles away (from Spurgats' wetland) in a grove of huge sycamore trees,” said Schwaner. “It took us

about 10 minutes of scanning under the tree and ‘bingo’ – the scanner came up with a tag number.”

The tag that was found belonged to a frog that became prey for a heron that fed its offspring. After the herons feasted on the frog, the tag remained intact in the herons' droppings.

Schwaner keeps a small black data book with records of each frog that has been tagged. Details include type of frog, life stage of the frog, gender, body length, weight and whether the frog has been recaptured or not. This data allows researchers to understand how the individuals grow and provides estimates of their ages and the population sizes.

“Part of the study is to look at what happens to the frog populations as time goes on,” said Schwaner. “We want to know: will bullfrogs remain the dominant species in the wetland? What will be the balance? We're studying the frogs,



R. Cross

Jill Dentel, a pre-veterinary medicine and biology major, checks out one of the frogs found at the Spurgats' wetlands earlier this semester.

but we're also studying the vegetation ... to see how it's changing.”

See BLUE HERONS, page 4

Habitat for Humanity Campus Chapter Unites Students for a Good Cause

According to Melissa Beaver, president of The University of Findlay Habitat for Humanity Campus Chapter, the group has a specific focus on advocacy, education and building through leadership and volunteering. The campus chapter was founded in 2002.

“We get the students, faculty and staff involved in our organization to help speak for those who cannot, educate about our organization and other opportunities available, as well as volunteer to help families in our community and worldwide,” said Beaver, a senior criminal justice and sociology major.

“[The chapter] was started after a group of UF students participated in an alternative spring break trip

to Cleveland ... When they returned from this service trip, they decided to start a student organization based on service, and they chose Habitat for Humanity,” said Crystal Weitz, group adviser and Campus Compact coordinator.

Currently, the group has more than 70 members who regularly attend meetings.

“You will see our officers and members talking about Habitat on campus,” said Beaver. “Everyone seems to know that HFH builds homes and is a different way to volunteer their time than in a normal organization.”



E. Granger

Rika Ito and Nikki Heyne hammer boards together at West Park, where the group worked to rehabilitate a playground, in the same neighborhood where students have helped build Habitat for Humanity homes.

For Beaver, the appeal of Habitat for Humanity is simple: it's all about volunteerism.

See HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, page 4

Blue Herons Transport Researchers' Work

Continued from page 3

The research team is composed of Schwaner, Chris White, biology faculty member, and other UF faculty and students and community members. During their every-other-Wednesday endeavors, they usually stay at the wetland from 8:30 p.m. until about midnight – sometimes as late as 1 a.m. or 2 a.m.

“Our student volunteers are keen to go out and collect material. We catch the frogs by hand or net, and sometimes on canoe. Occasionally we use funnel traps. Once we catch them, we bring them to a central point, weigh them and tag them,” said Schwaner. “What is nice about

this project is that the landowners have really cooperated with our efforts – they even come out to help. Their neighbors and their children come out as well, so it’s kind of a community research project.”

Schwaner says the students’ research is mainly conducted outside of class.

“What we’re teaching students are field methods of gathering and analyzing data. There are classes dedicated to data collection, and this serves as a field extension of what’s done in research methods projects and coursework,” said Schwaner.

“It gets our students out in the field once every two weeks. Many

have never even caught a frog – I have pre-vet students who have never done this,” said Schwaner.

“Injecting a pit tag into a frog is a little different than doing it for a horse, a cow, a dog or a cat ... They’re learning lab techniques, too. If the work goes to the point where we have enough quality data to present in a poster or publish, we can send out documents with students’ names on them for their portfolios. A published work makes them ‘immortal’ in the field – we like that idea.”

By Hannah Wurm

Habitat for Humanity Campus Chapter Unites Students for a Good Cause

Continued from page 3

“Volunteering is probably the greatest feeling in the world for me,” said Beaver. “I was a founding member of Builders Club (a youth group of Kiwanis) in middle school and have not stopped since ... I usually put volunteering before homework – don’t tell my professors – because of the great friends you make and the overwhelming joy that it brings to the recipients’ lives as well as my own.”

The organization is active on campus with events planned for almost every month during fall and spring semester.

For its first large event, the chapter is co-sponsoring, with the Wilderness Club, Building Green and Beyond on Nov. 5. The event

will focus on building green and green activities, with booths focusing on energy efficiency, recycled products and more.

Other major events include the alternative spring break trip and the group’s house sponsorship.

During the spring break trip (also referred to as the Collegiate Challenge), a group of 32 individuals travel to another state to build homes, take cultural trips of the area and reflect on experiences throughout a week of service. Beaver says all are welcome to apply for a spot on the trip.

The group’s house sponsorship is the event Beaver considers the largest and most important. According to Weitz, the chapter set a goal in 2008 to fully fund and build a local

Habitat house by 2015 in partnership with the local affiliate, Habitat for Humanity of Findlay/Hancock County. More than \$27,000 has been raised for the project thus far.

With a full schedule and a growing group, Beaver says it is important to stay focused and appreciate the “little things.”

“We have the most passionate and altruistic members of any organization I know of on campus,” said Beaver. “I want to sincerely thank those members and all of the other people on campus who have responded to our e-mails, helped us fill out paperwork, listened to our ideas (and) donated to our cause ... without those little things our organization would not exist.”

By Hannah Wurm

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.