

## Commencement Ceremonies Are Dec. 17

Approximately 260 degrees will be awarded by The University of Findlay during fall commencement ceremonies at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, in the Koehler Fitness and Recreation Complex on campus.

Nearly 125 master's degrees will be awarded, as will more than 120 bachelor's degrees and 14 associate's degrees.

Mayor-elect and an alumna of the University, Lydia Mihalik, will give the commencement address. Mihalik graduated from The University of Findlay with a bachelor's degree in political science in 2002. In November, she was elected the city of Findlay's first

female mayor with more than 73 percent of the vote.

Since 2004, Mihalik has served as the grants administrator for the Hancock Regional Planning Commission. Involved in the community, Mihalik has served as a member of the board of trustees for the Hancock County Agency on Aging and chair of the Public Division of the 2010 United Way campaign. She also has been a member of the Findlay Rotary Club and the Hancock County Republican Central Committee.

Known as Lydia Carpenter while she was a student, Mihalik was recruited from her hometown in

Syracuse, Ind., to play forward on the women's basketball team. She holds women's basketball records, ranking third for 19 rebounds in a game, and 12th for top-scoring seasons with 410 points. She also is a former volunteer assistant coach for The University of Findlay's women's basketball team.

Mihalik is married to fellow UF alumnus Drew Mihalik. They have two children, Joseph, 6, and Elizabeth, 4.

The University's traditional Arch Ceremony will immediately follow commencement at approximately 3:30 p.m. at the Griffith Memorial Arch.

## Campus Celebrates the Creation of 125 New Endowed Funds; \$9.2 Million Raised

The University of Findlay celebrated with a campus reception the creation of 125 new endowed funds on Friday, Dec. 9. The 125th Endowed Funds Drive began on July 1, 2006, and was publicly launched during the University's 125th anniversary in February of 2008. This marks a milestone in the University's overall fundraising efforts.

The goal of the 125th Endowed Fund Drive was to encourage alumni, parents, faculty and staff to create 125 new endowed funds to support student scholarships and core elements of the University's academic mission to equip its students for meaningful lives and

productive careers. The University's supporters demonstrated their confidence in the institution and its students by responding with overwhelming support for this initiative.

During the campaign, more than \$9.2 million has been pledged and donated to the University's endowment. Of the 125 endowed funds that were established, 91 are for student scholarships,



Some of the faculty and staff members who contributed to the 125th Endowed Funds Drive are pictured above. Nineteen faculty and staff members created endowment funds, and 15 University departments endowed funds as well.

A. Risser Lee

# DPT Students Help Local Children, Agencies

Students in the doctor of physical therapy (DPT) program gained hands-on experience this fall by working to fulfill a need in the Findlay community.

An advanced pediatrics class taught by Joyce Lammers, physical therapy instructor, traveled to the day care center at the YMCA of Findlay to conduct developmental screenings for children.

According to Lammers, the screenings are required as stated in Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. In Ohio, the agency responsible for addressing the need is called Help Me Grow, which conducts regularly scheduled screenings for the community at large.

"In years past, Help Me Grow had the staff and funding to provide additional developmental screenings at community day care settings," said Lammers. "With recent budget cuts from the state and federal government, they are unable to go to each individual day care as they have in the past."

"A developmental screening is not intended to diagnose a child,"

said Lammers. "If there were concerns with a child, we noted that and made suggestions to discuss the concerns with the child's physician. (We also) suggested that the family contact Help Me Grow for a comprehensive developmental assessment."

"The most valuable thing I gained from participating in this service learning project was being able to take what we learned in the classroom and from lectures and apply it to a professional practice situation," said Katie Yarnell, DPT student. "We could see the application of our skills as we went through the project."

"During spring semester, we are going to a different day care



*Katie Yarnell, a DPT student, conducts a developmental screening for a child at the YMCA daycare center in Findlay.*

to provide this same service," said Lammers. "We will then do this on a yearly basis ... as we become more familiar with the process we hope to add more day care settings. As long as there is a need, we will continue to provide this service."

*By Hannah Wurm*

## Social Work Students Attend Annual Symposium

During the first week of November, Anthony J. Wilgus, associate professor of social work, and five social work students attended the 48th Annual Symposium on Family Theory and Family Psychotherapy held in Arlington, Va., at George Mason Law School.

The symposium featured guest speaker Raghavendra Gadagkar, Ph.D., professor at the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore, India. Additional speakers pre-

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## 125 New Funds Created

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eight are for faculty development and awards, two are for study abroad programs and 24 will directly benefit specific academic programs.

During the 2011-2012 academic year, the amount available to award to students in scholarship support from endowment funds is \$801,108.

The 125th fund was established by Ronald and Doris Niekamp. The Ronald and Doris Niekamp Basketball Endowment Fund will support the men's varsity basketball program at UF. Nineteen faculty and staff

members created endowment funds, and 15 University departments endowed funds as well.

The University continues to raise funds for students through its Give Voice to Your Values campaign, which has a goal of \$40 million and was publicly launched in September of 2010. To date, more than \$27 million has been raised and pledged toward the goal. For more information, or to support the Give Voice to Your Values campaign, call 419-434-5334 or visit [www.findlay.edu](http://www.findlay.edu), KEYWORD: Voice.

# Campus Has That Christmas Spirit



Above and at right, the Hospitality Management Club hosts Christmas on Campus Dec. 3, bringing more than 75 area children to campus for games, snacks and gifts.



G. Needler



A. Rösser Lee

Two students admire a Christmas tree, decorated by members of Alpha Sigma Phi, at the Public Relations Student Society of America's Deck the Trees event on Dec. 6. The theme was I'm Dreaming of a Green Christmas.



E. Shaffer

Thomas Carey conducts the University's orchestra on Dec. 7 during its Christmas concert, which featured traditional holiday music and the "Don Quixote" suite for strings and harpsichord.

## Symposium Allows Students to Actively Participate and Learn from Professionals

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sented research and ideas about topics relevant to social work and the Bowen theory, which according to Wilgus, is a theory "that roots the study of human behavior in the natural sciences."

Though the symposium is for professionals, students from The University of Findlay were granted a \$400 waiver in exchange for volunteer work during the event.

"One of the greatest aspects of this opportunity is that our students are able to do more than sit passively and listen to speakers," said Wilgus. "They actually have a chance to actively participate. We're the only university that brings students, so we have a small network there."

"Nearly all of these sessions apply to The University of Findlay's social work program," said Lauren Burke, senior social work and equestrian

studies major. "... I was shocked that, as some of the youngest people attending the conference, we were still able to understand and challenge ourselves to the material."

Wilgus has taken students to the annual symposium for more than 20 years. He says it is not only an academic experience for the students, but also a diverse cultural experience.

*By Hannah Wurm*

# Local Students Participate in Art Exchange with Students from Japan

As a student teacher at St. Michael School in Findlay, Heidi Croy, a graduate student in the College of Education, came up with a project to combine her passion for art and her interest in “internationalizing education.”

At the beginning of the school year, Croy contacted Jennifer Henry, an alumna of the University who teaches English in Japan at a UF-Kake-affiliated school. UF and the Kake Foundation have an extensive relationship that involves numerous exchanges and programs.

“I contacted Jennifer and said I’d love to do some kind of exchange,” said Croy. “She had approximately the same number of seventh-graders as I have fifth-graders, so she sent me their names, and I paired them with my students. They created a postcard with anything they wanted to send to the Japanese students ... then on the back, they wrote questions to their pals. I made sure every question was different so we could learn as much as possible about the Japanese students.”

Before crafting the postcards, Croy talked to the class about both culture and communication.

“This was an exercise in communication as much as it was anything creative or cultural,” said Croy. “The students had a cursory understanding of the culture in Japan, but I wanted them to discover more through the other person they were communicating with, and I wanted it to be as authentic as possible ... to do that, we discussed asking deeper questions rather than ones

that would get a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ response.”

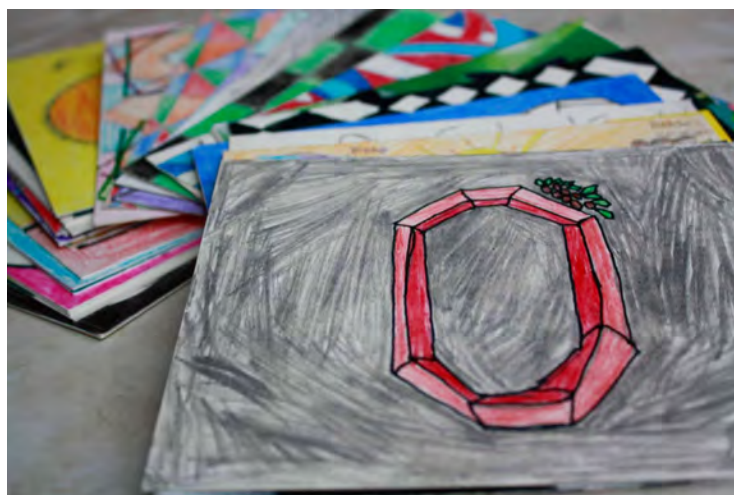
Croy said her hope was that the students would gain a deeper understanding of other cultures and customs.

“I think it’s important we make sure students are aware that we live in a world with other people, cultures and customs,” said Croy. “It’s so important to reach out.”

Before Thanksgiving, the postcards were sent with a blurb about the school and an assortment of St. Michael School pens, American flags and stickers. Croy said she received a confirmation that the package arrived in Japan on Nov. 29.

In the future, Croy hopes to see this project expand.

“I’m hooked. Wherever I am hired, I want every grade to do this with different countries to build connections around the world,” said Croy. “If we get young people looking outside our own borders, learning how other people live and being aware of the fact there are other people in this world, then I think that can only be beneficial to learning about the global community in a meaningful way.”



H. Croy

*The postcards pictured above were designed by fifth-grade students at St. Michael School in Findlay and mailed to seventh-grade students at a school in Japan. The project was initiated by graduate student Heidi Croy, who teaches art at St. Michael School.*

Chris Sippel, coordinator of international education, says activities like Croy’s art exchange create cultural awareness among young students.

“Conversations with different people from different cultures help young people define themselves and define their places in the world. Communities and schools that encourage these exchanges are giving their young people the greatest chance for success in today’s global society,” said Sippel. “The University of Findlay should be proud that alumni and current students are engaged in helping these young people learn about the world. Taking the initiative to bring people and cultures together is an important part of education, and it is wonderful that members of the UF community are providing this education both locally and globally.”

*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](mailto: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](mailto:pattersonb@findlay.edu).