



ArchLink

- Your E-Link to The University of Findlay -

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December 2008

Welcome to ArchLink!



Holiday greetings from your alma mater!

Another year of accomplishments comes to a close with more than 430 students graduating on Saturday, Dec. 13, 2008, in Koehler Fitness and Recreation Complex.

As I reflect on this past year, we strengthened the bond between the University and our alumni, built upon positive relationships and increased participation, involvement and communication. As we move into 2009, we will continue to serve as the primary communication link between the University and its alumni.



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the Office of Alumni & Parent Relations

Thanks to all of you who let us know about new developments in your careers and in the lives of your families. It's rewarding and amazing to see the wide variety of positions and activities in which our alumni are engaged. Be proud of your alma mater and stay connected. Please keep me updated by filling out the "What's New with You?" form at www.findlay.edu, KEYWORD: Whats new.

On behalf of the entire staff of the Office of Alumni & Parent Relations and The University of Findlay family, we wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.

With Oiler Pride!

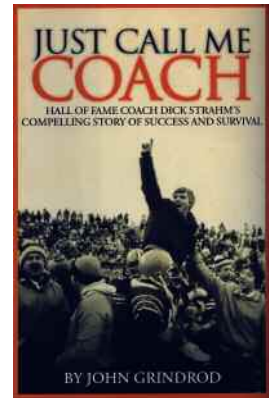
~~Dee Dee Spraw '93, M '00, director, Alumni & Parent Relations

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1. What's Happening on Campus?

- **Released just in time for Christmas, a biography has been written about Coach Richard “Dick” Strahm, UF’s legendary football coach,** who led Findlay teams to four National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) national championships in 1979, 1992, 1995 and 1997. “Just Call Me Coach,” by Lima freelance writer John Grindrod, chronicles not only Strahm’s successes on the football field, but his battles for survival against heart disease, stroke and cancer. Inspirational and full of anecdotes from a coaching career that spanned nearly 40 years, “Just Call Me Coach” portrays the character and competitiveness that made Strahm one of the most honored and beloved coaches in the nation. In 2004, he was named to the College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend, Ind., college football’s highest honor. Readers get a glimpse of his upbringing in Toledo, Ohio; his formative years as a coach at Lakota, Bryan and Warren Western Reserve high schools; and his foray into Division I football as a defensive coach at the University of Toledo and Kansas State University. In a turnabout, he decided to become head coach at small Findlay College, arriving in 1976. In a brief four seasons, he turned a struggling program into a national champion. Coach Strahm proved it wasn’t a fluke by earning three more national titles before retiring with a 183-64-5 record in 1998 after 24 years at Findlay. “Just Call Me Coach” may be purchased for \$24.95 plus \$1.50 tax and \$5 shipping and handling. To get your copy, call Diane Rowland at 419-434-4517 or e-mail rowland@findlay.edu for details.



- **UF’s Hospitality Management Club, with help from many UF student organizations, hosted the fourth annual Christmas on Campus event Dec. 6.** A total of 74 UF students hosted more than 70 children from the community who arrived on campus for an afternoon of making crafts and ornaments, watching a skit and playing games. Gifts, which were donated by UF faculty and staff, also were given to each child.

- **The University’s Office of Student Activities recently collected 395 toys for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves’ Toys for Tots collection drive.** Donations were given by UF students, faculty and staff. A Christmas celebration was held Dec. 4 at the conclusion of the on-campus toy drive. The Hancock County Marines have hosted the Toys for Tots drive for 21 years. This was the seventh year UF participated as a host site. Last year, 300 toys were collected from the UF community. All donations remained in Hancock County.



UF student Luther Mayfield is surrounded with a few of the 395 toys donated to the Toys for Tots drive on campus.

- **UF’s Campus Compact group, in coordination with Alpha Sigma Phi, Physical Therapy Organization and Mortar Board honor society, organized a Coats for Christmas collection drive** on campus earlier this month. The donated coats are distributed to Hancock County community members during a county-wide Coats for Christmas distribution event. In addition to 233 coats donated, monetary contributions also were collected for the purchase of 61 new hats, and 145 pairs of gloves.
- **Students and faculty at the English equestrian farm held the first Ride-a-Buck charity event Nov. 15.** Faculty and staff members, some of whom had never ridden a horse, were sponsored with donations from students, friends and family members. The participating “rider”

attempted to remain on a moving horse while sitting on pieces of paper representing the dollar amount of each rider's sponsorship. The money raised was donated to Chopin (Christians Helping Other People in Need) Hall, Clothe-a-Child and Canter Ohio.

- **UF, with tremendous support from the Findlay community, ranked third among college campuses nationwide for pounds of food collected during the Cans Across America food drive Nov. 12.** David P. Harr, director of dining service at the University, said Curry College was first nationally with 49,401 pounds of food collected, Western Illinois University second at 15,176 pounds and The University of Findlay third at 12,641.79 pounds. The University collection nearly doubled last year's total of 6,544 pounds. In 2006, the University was second in the nation among college campuses that participated. All of UF's donations were delivered to Chopin (Christians Helping Other People in Need) Hall in Findlay. The canned food drive was part of a nationwide effort, organized by the University's dining service, Sodexo, to break the Guinness® World Record for the largest food drive by a non-charitable organization in a 24-hour period. [Click here](#) for more information.



David P. Harr, director of dining service for Sodexo, chatted with WFIN-AM radio personality Kelly Greene during a live broadcast of "Phone Club" for the Nov. 12 collection for Cans Across America.

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2. Academic Update

- **The University of Findlay Economic Summit: New Problems – New Solutions will be held Feb. 6, 2009, at Winebrenner Theological Seminary.** A series of seven one-hour discussion sessions will examine the current economic crisis and how it affects northwest Ohio. Dennis Foster '67, a former trustee, is organizing the event. Among those serving as panelists are:
 - Paul Lacroix, partner, Deloitte & Touche
 - Amy Hackenberg, Senior Vice President, Huntington Bank
 - David Kay '74, retired CFO, Gibraltar Industries
 - William Landes '75, senior managing director, Gottex Fund Management
 - Robert Skaggs, CEO, NiSource
 - Terry Terhark '06, CEO, The Right Thing
 - Brent Whittington, executive vice president and CFO, Windstream Corp.
 - Tim Wicks, CFO, Yellow Roadway Corp.
- Many students don't understand the ins and outs of the stock market, but if educated about how the stock market works and the importance of it, students will become more aware. **"Money Lunch" is a radio show produced by Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) that airs at noon each Monday, Wednesday and Friday on UF's 88.3 WLFC** and is planned to run daily in the summer. Gregory Arburn, Ph.D., director of SIFE, initiated the radio program. Astolfo Marrufo is the voice of Money Lunch and has been on air since Oct. 13. The main purpose of the show is to increase financial market education through discussion of current issues, using easy-to-understand terms, and to educate future investors. Guest speakers this



SIFE members Shannon Lussier and Astolfo Marrufo broadcast "Money Lunch" on WLFC-FM three times each week.

semester have included faculty members from the UF College of Business. Community members also are welcome. [Click here](#) for details. To be a guest on “Money Lunch,” contact Marrufo at marrufo@findlay.edu.

- **Dr. ZhaoHong Han presented “Fossilization and Second Language Learning” Nov. 10, 2008, at the University. Many adult second language learners face difficulties improving their language skills** beyond a certain point. The presentation addressed the definition of fossilization, as well as how, when and why it happens. ZhaoHong Han, Ph.D., is an applied linguist specializing in second language acquisition. She is currently associate professor of linguistics and education in the TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) program of the Department of Arts and Humanities at Teachers College, Columbia University. For more more information, [click here](#).



Dr. ZhaoHong Han, a professor at Columbia University, spoke about adult second language acquisition on campus Nov. 10.



Students in Van Buren Elementary School's foreign language club learned some Chinese with the help of UF students from Taiwan, (l to r) Hui-Chen Sun, Tsung-Yin Yu and Nan Li.

- **Each Tuesday Oct. 14 – Nov. 18, six students from the University traveled to Van Buren Elementary School to teach foreign languages to students in VB's foreign language club.** Elementary school students volunteered to give up recess time in exchange for learning Chinese, Japanese and Arabic. Yousof Assahafi, who taught Arabic, said the students were eager to learn and enthusiastic. Each UF student also had the opportunity to observe an American classroom. Hui-Chun Sun, of Taiwan, observed a fifth grade writing class on Election Day Nov. 4. “It was really a special experience to me,” she said.

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3. Alumni News & Events

- **Save the Date**

- **Sept. 25-26** **Family Weekend 2009**
- **Oct. 2-4** **Homecoming 2009**

- **Upcoming Events**

- **Dec. 13** Baccalaureate;
Ritz Auditorium, 10:30 a.m.
- **Dec. 13** Commencement Brunch;
Alumni Memorial Union, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- **Dec. 13** Graduate and Undergraduate Commencement;
Koehler Fitness and Recreation Complex, 2 p.m.
- **Jan. 17** Men's & Women's Alumni Basketball Reception;
Croy Gymnasium, VIP Room, 12:30-4:30 p.m.
- **Feb. 12** Pink Zone Day - Women's Basketball;
Croy Gymnasium, 5:30 p.m.
- **Feb. 14** Pink Zone Day - Women's Basketball;

- **Feb. 21** Croy Gymnasium, 1 p.m.
Alumni Board of Governors Meeting;
Stout Alumni Center, 1316 N. Cory St., 9 a.m.
- **Feb. 21** Ohio Veterinary Medical Association - Midwest Veterinary Conference
Pre-Vet Alumni Reception;
McKinley Room, Hyatt Regency, Columbus, 5-7 p.m.
- **March 6** Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., Alumni Dinner
- **March 8** Sarasota/Bradenton, Fla., Alumni Brunch
- **March 13** St. Petersburg, Fla., Alumni Reception
- **March 14** Tampa, Fla., Alumni Reception
- **March 27** OHSAA Boys' State Basketball Brunch;
Holiday Inn on the Lane, Columbus, 8-10 a.m.
- **March 28** San Jose, Calif., Alumni Reception
- **April 4** Oceanside, Calif., Alumni Dinner
- **April 24 & 25** Kalahari Family Event, Alumni Dinner,
Kalahari Resort, Sandusky, Ohio;
Saturday, April 25, 6 p.m.
- **May 1** Spring Thing: An Evening of Jazz with Jack Taylor;
Virginia B. Gardner Fine Arts Pavilion, 7-9 p.m.

- **Looking for a Christmas gift idea? Try a gift certificate for the Kalahari Alumni Weekend** from the Office of Alumni & Parent Relations. Visit the Web site at www.findlay.edu, KEYWORD: Alumni, or call the office at 419-434-4516.



- If you are planning to attend the Midwest Veterinary Conference in February 2009, **mark your calendar to attend The University of Findlay's second annual Pre-Veterinary Alumni Reception** on Saturday, Feb. 21, 2009, from 5-7 p.m. Watch for your mailing!



Dee Dee Spraw, director of alumni and parent relations; Sue Pirschel, secretary to the board of trustees; Danny Pfaltzgraf and Al Holtzcher board the bus for the game with Xavier.



Susan Hite '87 and Meg Heminger show their Oilers spirit.

- **On Nov. 7, a bus full of UF Oilers fans traveled to an exhibition game at Xavier University** in Cincinnati to cheer for the men's basketball team. In a closely contested game, the Oilers lost 76-79. The UF team is ranked first in the National Association of Basketball Coaches poll. The team is currently 5-0 in the season and 2-0 in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. The Oilers will face Grand Valley State in Allendale, Mich., on Dec. 13, 2008.

- **Dear UF Class of 1999 and Friends,**

A reunion celebration is being organized at The University of Findlay. Can you believe it has been 10 years since we walked over the stage in our caps and gowns? It is time to gather and reminisce over the memories we created during our Findlay years, as well as share with each other the many adventures we have had since that time. This invitation extends to all members of the UF Class of 1999, in addition to all our friends who traveled those years with us. Please plan to attend the festivities for Homecoming weekend at The University of Findlay, Oct. 2-4, 2009, and join the Class of '99 in a reunion celebration the evening of Oct. 3, 2009. Details will

follow in the upcoming months. A Facebook page titled “The University of Findlay, Class of ’99 10-year reunion & friends,” has been created. Please check it to get details as they develop! Cheers to all good times!

Best Regards,

Breana (Heinrichs) Koffler '99
<http://site.ufclassof1999andfriends.org/>

• **Congratulations Newlyweds:**

- *Matt & Jennifer Renee (Schroeder '04) Maag – June 7, 2008*
- *Robert & Ashley (Rausch '01) Dunbar – March 21, 2008*
- *Scott '04 & Elizabeth Grant – Dec. 29, 2007*

• **Welcome UF Newest Little Oilers:**

- *Jeff & Cari (Combs '96) Croy
Baby boy, Everett Paul, born Oct. 3, 2008.*
- *Jonathan & Rachel (Harder '00) Haigh
Baby girl, Jillian Elise, born Oct. 1, 2008.*
- *Aaron & Rebecca (McKibben '00) Schwarz
Baby boy, Blaize William James, born Sept. 15, 2008.*
- *Jeffery & Michelle (Wood '95) Hickel
Baby girl, Annie Maree, born July 15, 2008.*

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4. Alumni Spotlight

- **Jason Wagner M '03** took a misfortune and turned it into the opportunity of a lifetime. Perhaps it was creativity, carefully developed as an artist, that helped him turn a catastrophe into an advantage.

The 100-year flood that occurred in Findlay during August 2007 swamped Wagner’s house located near the Blanchard River and washed out the foundation. Without a home, but with a mortgage to pay, Wagner moved back home with his parents and returned to his job as an art teacher at Glenwood Middle School since 2003.

Coping with his losses, Wagner came up with a plan to tour Europe and Australia during the 2008-09 school year while documenting the art and architecture and putting it on a Web site along with videos and lesson plans to share with other art teachers and students. Using a sabbatical that will guarantee him a job when he returns, Wagner said he sees the year as a chance to start over. “I’m not married, and I don’t have a house holding me back,” he said. “You only live once.”



Jason Wagner M '03 as he traveled through 15 European countries during his sabbatical.

Wagner noted that most art teachers don't have the resources that other teachers have, such as textbooks and teachers' guides with print-off tests and worksheets. "Art is not really looked at as something people take too seriously. That bothers me because it has a place in everybody's lives. I'm somewhat of an art advocate," he commented.

"As a teacher you don't have enough time to spend on your own artwork or your lessons, so this year probably is going to be one of the most crucial years in my educational career because I'm going to get to focus on my lesson planning, documenting artwork, learning about artists, taking pictures and making artwork," he said.

Between mid-August and mid-October, Wagner traveled through 15 countries in Europe. He planned his trip around Busabout tours and public transportation, stayed with friends and at hostels, and used travel guides to find economy meals. He also found renting bicycles was a good way to get around quickly and cheaply.

All along the way he blogged his commentary to go with his pictures on his Web site, "Where's Wagner: A Quest for Art and Design," at <http://www.grizzart.com>. Breathtaking scenery, awe-inspiring architecture and close-ups of interesting details were all photographed with an artist's eye, and made available for sharing.



Jason Wagner took this night-time photo of the illuminated Brandenburg Gate in Berlin. On top of the columns is a sculpture of the goddess of victory driving a chariot pulled by four horses. Completed in 1791, the gate now serves as a symbol of the unified Germany.

He has completed a number of worksheets and lessons based on his trip to share, and he is in the process of producing podcasts about careers in art for use in the classroom. "I want to teach kids how to use the creative side of their brains because I think you can become better at anything. You'll be more intuitive, whether you're a doctor or a mechanic or an engineer, if you have that creative side to your brain and understand how to use it."

When he was 18, Wagner set a goal to go to grad school to become a teacher. Knowing he wanted to teach, he took a different approach to achieving his bachelor's degree at the Columbus College of Art and Design. He took classes in as many art disciplines as possible instead of traditionally focusing on one. He has a background in painting, printmaking, ceramics, glass blowing and photography. "I knew that I was making myself a really valuable art teacher," he said. Following his plan, he enrolled in The University of Findlay's master of arts in education, graduating in just one year while supporting himself as a substitute teacher.

Wagner spends his summers in upstate New York in the Adirondack Mountains where he serves as art director at Camp Chateaugay, supervising 15 employees. Chateaugay attracts children from wealthy families around the world. In addition to featuring all kinds of outdoor and water sports, theatre and dance, the arts and crafts offerings include weaving, stained glass, enameling, ceramics, woodworking and glass blowing. "It's pretty much like a kid's dream, and since I'm a big kid, it's pretty much my dream. I can't think of a better summer job," he said.

Next, Wagner is planning to spend five months "down under," traveling to Australia and New Zealand. He will leave at the end of December and return on Mother's Day. "I'll still be working on producing worksheets and stuff for the classroom and getting some lesson plans togeth-

er,” he said. He also intends to participate in some adventure sports, such as surfing, scuba diving, skydiving and bungee jumping “to take care of the ‘bucket list,’” he noted with a smile.

Wagner said that he always knew he loved his job, but didn’t know how much he would miss it during this sabbatical year. “I’ve always thought that maybe I should be an artist, but I love the interaction with kids,” he said.

He also gained a greater appreciation for life in the United States, saying, “We’ve got everything at our fingertips that we could possibly need. I’m not going to take it for granted anymore. A lot of kids grow up hating school, but it’s one of the greatest privileges that we have as Americans.”

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5. Oiler Sports



Kirby Blackley was chosen for the NCAA Today’s Top VIII award.

• **Former Findlay track and field standout Kirby Blackley will receive the prestigious National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Today’s Top VIII award**, which will be given to her on Jan. 15, 2009, at the NCAA Honors and Delegates Celebration at the Newseum in Washington, D.C. She will be presented the award in front of an audience of up to 1,800 individuals from NCAA-member institutions. To receive the award, student-athletes are judged on athletic ability and achievement, academic achievement and character, and leadership and extra curricular activity involvement. The awards are presented to eight outstanding student-athletes whose intercollegiate athletics eligibility expires this year. Selections were based on 2007-08 winter and spring sports seasons and the 2008 fall sports season. [Click here](#) for more details.



Audra Mihalic

• **The top-ranked Oilers men’s basketball team is off to a 5-0 start** and has been paced by senior Josh Bostic, who is averaging 18.0 points and 6.5 rebounds per game. Bostic was named the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) Player of the Week on Dec. 1, 2008, the third of his career.



Josh Bostic

• **The women’s basketball team has a 5-0 record** and is led by junior Audra Mihalic, who is averaging 17.8 points, 6.0 assists and 5.6 rebounds per game. Mihalic was named the GLIAC Player of the Week on Nov. 25, 2008, the first of her career.

• **The Roughneck wrestling team is ranked 13th in the nation** and started the season with a 0-4 record in dual meets, mostly against NCAA Division I programs. Senior Hiram Smith is currently ranked fourth nationally in his 184-pound weight class.

• Check out Oilers sports at <http://www.findlay.edu>.



Hiram Smith

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6. Alumni Support

- **Opportunity is knocking: Your IRA is the key.** If you're looking for the most tax-effective gift to make to a charitable organization, your individual retirement account (IRA) may very well be the best choice. Included in the \$700 billion economic bailout bill (H.R. 1424, The Financial Rescue Package) signed by President George Bush is a **two-year extension of the IRA rollover provision** that expired at the end of 2007. The provision exempts from taxable income any fund transferred from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to a charitable organization provided the donor is age 70 1/2 or older, the rollover is no more than \$100,000 and the contribution is a direct gift to a charity. The provision is retroactive from Jan. 1, 2008, and will apply to gifts made through Dec. 31, 2009. Contact Ann Brossia in The University of Findlay's Office of Development at 419-434-4794 to see how you can take advantage of this tax-advantaged extension.
- **Is this the time of year that you make philanthropic gifts to your favorite charities? If so, please remember The University of Findlay.** Gifts to the University can be made easily by visiting www.findlay.edu, and clicking on "Give to Findlay" in the lower right corner. Or, you also can make an end-of-the-year gift using appreciated stock from your portfolio. By doing so, you receive a charitable income tax deduction in the year of the gift as provided by law, and you don't have capital gains taxes to pay. If you are interested in making a gift using appreciated stock, please contact Ann Brossia at brossia@findlay.edu or call 800-472-9502 ext. 4794. You also can visit www.findlay.edu, KEYWORD: "Planned Giving," to learn more about making a gift of appreciated stock.
- **Support The University of Findlay's Campus Green Initiative!** The University of Findlay is working to make our campus a little "greener." If you would like to help out, you may send a gift with "green initiative" in the reference line. Following are several small projects that you may wish to help support and the related gift amount required:
 - A used bicycle for a student to reduce automobile use, for a gift of **\$20**.
 - An automatic thermostat regulator, for a gift of **\$40**.
 - A motion-based light switch, for a gift of **\$50**.
 - A sunshade for the sunroom section of the bookstore, for a gift of **\$500**.
 - A sunshade for the sunroom sections of the Cave, for a gift of **\$800**.

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7. FYI Campus Newsletter

- Want to know what is happening on campus between *ArchLink* issues? UF has a bi-weekly newsletter called *For Your Information* that is circulated on campus. The newsletter includes feature stories and pictures of campus activities. Check out *FYI* online at <http://www.findlay.edu>, KEYWORD: FYI.

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8. Spread the Word...

- If you know other alumni who would like to receive *ArchLink*, please forward this message.
- If you received *ArchLink* from another alum and would like to sign up for it, you may [click here](#) to fill out a form or e-mail your name, graduation year, major and home address to archlink@findlay.edu. Please add archlink@findlay.edu to your address book/contact list.
- You're receiving *ArchLink* because you have submitted your e-mail address to The University of Findlay via the Alumni E-Mail Directory, AlumNotes or by signing up for *ArchLink* on the Web site. The University of Findlay will not sell or give your e-mail address to a third party. If you do not wish to receive *ArchLink*, simply send an e-mail to: archlink@findlay.edu and place "remove" in the subject line.
- The Office of Career Services is here to help! If you have a hiring need or are looking for just the right person for your organization, please go to www.oilerjobs.com to post a job through The University of Findlay. Contact us directly at 419-434-4665 or careerservices@findlay.edu if you have questions or to learn more about how we can help fill your employment needs!

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**The mission of The University of Findlay is to equip our students
for meaningful lives and productive careers.**
