

Invited Speakers



College of Business

Timothy Jakacki

College of Business Alumni Speaker

Timothy Jakacki serves as president of Bixby Medical Center in Adrian, Mich., and Herrick Medical Center in Tecumseh, Mich. He served as president of Defiance Regional Medical Center in Defiance, Ohio, from 2006 to 2009 and president of Fostoria Community Hospital in Fostoria, Ohio, for nine years prior. With a total of 33 years experience in the healthcare field, Jakacki holds a master of business administration degree from The University of Findlay and a bachelor's degree in public affairs and community service from the University of Toledo. He also attended the Cleveland Clinic School of Radiologic Technology and graduated from Robinson Memorial Hospital School of Radiologic Technology in 1975.

Jakacki is an active member of the American College of Healthcare Executives, Michigan Hospital Association Legislative Policy Committee and Small and Rural Hospital Committee of the Ohio Hospital Association. He serves on the Lenawee economic development board and administrative committee, Lenawee YMCA board and Lenawee Great Start coalition. Jakacki has been married to his wife, Debbie, for 34 years and has two children, Kristin O'Shea (Kevin) and Jordon, and two grandchildren.



College of Education

Greg Denecker

College of Education Alumni Speaker

Greg Denecker graduated from Blissfield High School in Michigan in 1990 and attended The University of Findlay on a basketball scholarship. At UF, Denecker enjoyed a strong academic and athletic career, and received many honors. Upon graduating magna cum laude in 1994, Denecker accepted a position at Allen East High School where he taught social studies and coached varsity boys' basketball for five years. During that time, he obtained a master's degree and a principal's certificate from Bowling Green State University. Denecker returned to UF to obtain a superintendent's license.

From 1999-2000, Denecker served as the principal at Arcadia High School. In 2000, he was named the high school principal at Bluffton Exempted Village Schools, and held the position until June 2007 when he was named Superintendent of the Bluffton School District.

In 2004, The University of Findlay honored Denecker by inducting him to the Athletic Hall of Fame as the fourth all-time scorer in the history of UF men's basketball with 1,854 career points. He is married to Dr. Christine Denecker, UF associate professor of English. Together they have two sons: Gabe, age 10, and Luke, age 7.



College of Health Professions

Richard Hopkins, MPAS, PA-C

College of Health Professions Alumni Speaker

Richard Hopkins graduated from The University of Findlay with a bachelor of science degree in 2003. He also received a master of physician assistant degree from The University of Nebraska, specializing in orthopedics and sports medicine. Hopkins has since worked at Northwest Ohio Orthopedics and Sports Medicine.

In 2008, Hopkins returned to The University of Findlay as a faculty member for the physician assistant program, which now awards a master of physician assistant degree. For the program, Hopkins teaches courses in emergency medicine, general surgery, physical assessment and clinical medicine, as well as instructs surgical skills, medical ethics and electronic medical records. He continues to practice clinically in office and surgical settings.



College of Pharmacy
Scott M. Gier, Pharm.D., R.Ph.
College of Pharmacy Speaker

Scott Gier, Pharm.D., R.Ph., is the director of pharmacy at Wyandot Memorial Hospital in Upper Sandusky, Ohio, a 25-bed critical access hospital. He also is the pharmacy director at Triumph Hospital of Mansfield, a 33-bed, long-term acute care hospital serving medically complex patients. In both facilities, Gier serves as a working manager, dividing time between management and dispensing functions.

Gier also performs a telepharmacy remote order entry service for several Michigan hospitals through Indispensable Healthcare and serves as a drug utilization review medical technical adviser for the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, performing drug usage reviews for the State of Ohio as required by OBRA 90.

Gier graduated summa cum laude from the University of Toledo College of Pharmacy in 1990 and completed his doctor of pharmacy at Ohio Northern University in 2008. Gier is an avid collector of pharmacy antiques and has a full-scale 1890s pharmacy museum in his home.



College of Science
Michelle Koch
College of Science Alumni Speaker

Michelle Koch graduated from The University of Findlay with a bachelor of science degrees in environmental, safety and occupational health and biology with ecological emphasis in May 2007. As a student, Koch held an internship with Marathon Oil Co. and received a full-time position with the company upon her graduation. Her duties focus on air and greenhouse gas regulations. Koch is responsible for environmental regulatory advocacy and routinely works with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other national organizations on shaping national environmental laws. She is also involved with the implementation of environmental regulations at Marathon facilities.



College of Liberal Arts
Amy Rogan
College of Liberal Arts Alumni Speaker

Amy Rogan is the assistant news director at the Ohio News Network (ONN) where she has worked for 10 years, nine years as a newsroom manager. Rogan also serves as an adjunct faculty member at Mount Vernon Nazarene University.

Before joining ONN in 1999, Rogan worked as a producer and assignment editor for WCMH, NBC 4, in Columbus. She also served as an editor and assignment editor at WKEF in Dayton, where she launched her career.

Rogan is a 1994 graduate of The University of Findlay and received the Old Main Award in 2002, which honors alumni under the age of 36 for outstanding accomplishments. She also received a master of science degree in marketing and communication from Franklin University.

Rogan is married with a 14-year-old daughter and 11-year-old son.