

UNIVERSITY OF FINDLAY
GRADUATE COMMENCEMENT



CLASS OF 2026
MAY 2, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF FINDLAY GRADUATE COMMENCEMENT

Koehler Fitness and Recreation Complex
Saturday, May 2, 2026 at 9 a.m.

President Katherine R. Fell, PhD
Presiding

Prelude Music (8:30 a.m.)

* Academic Procession (9 a.m.)..... “Pomp and Circumstance”
Edward Elgar

Welcome Katherine R. Fell, PhD
President

* Invocation Zachary N. Zeleznik
Doctor of Physical Therapy, Graduate

* “The Star-Spangled Banner” Kerry S. Teeple, EdD
Assistant Professor of Teaching in Education

Commencement Address Christine M. Denecker, PhD
Vice President of Academic Affairs

Conferral of the Title of President Emeritus Chris Ostrander
Chair, Board of Trustees

Presentation of the Class Christine M. Denecker, PhD

Conferring of Academic Degrees President Fell

Assisting the President in Presenting Diplomas:

Jennifer R. Fennema-Bloom, EdD *Associate Professor and Chair of Language
and Culture, and Director of TESOL/Applied Linguistics*

Sean Farmer, MA *Instructor of Teaching in Intensive English as an International Language*

Cara Davies, PhD *Associate Professor of Anatomy and Neuroscience,
Director of the Anatomy and Neuroscience Lab, and
Chair of the Anatomy, Neuroscience and Health Sciences Department*

Debra Parker, PharmD *Dean, College of Pharmacy*

Julie D. McIntosh, EdD *Dean, College of Education*

* Please stand if able.

Recognition of Family Members, Faculty, Staff, and Trustees President Fell

* “Findlay Alma Mater Hymn” Led by Dr. Teeple

* Benediction Zachary N. Zeleznik

* Recessional

Please remain standing until the academic procession exits to attend the Arch Ceremony.

Individuals Seated on Stage: *(from left to right)* Kerry S. Teeple, EdD, Chris Ostrander, President Katherine R. Fell PhD, Jennifer Fennema-Bloom, EdD, Sean Farmer, MA, Cara L. Davies, PhD, Christine M. Denecker, PhD

Individuals Seated in the Assembly:

Faculty Marshal..... Diana M. Montague, PhD
Professor of Communication

Assistant Faculty Marshals Sarah Fedirka, PhD
Senior Lead for Mission and Identity and Director of the Watterson Center
Jacob Burmeister, PhD
Associate Professor of Psychology and Chair of Behavioral Sciences
Leah Brant, ‘03, M ‘22, , EdD ‘23
Assistant Professor of Teaching in American Sign Language

** Please stand if able.*



CHRISTINE DENECKER VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dr. Christine Denecker serves as Vice President for Academic Affairs at University of Findlay and has held roles as Associate Vice President for Learning and Innovation, Chair and Professor of English, and Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence. She graduated from Bluffton College with degrees in Communication and English education and earned her master’s degree in English and her PhD in Rhetoric and Writing from Bowling Green State University. Denecker’s career at UF began in 2002, when she was hired as a part-time instructor in the English department. Over a twenty-year span, she taught undergraduate and graduate courses in UF’s College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences and the College of Education.

Denecker is the founder of UF’s Teaching Partners Program, and much of her career has been dedicated to supporting the professional development of UF faculty. She currently serves as president of the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) and has served as president for the Ohio Alliance of Dual Enrollment Partnerships (OADEP). Her publications include the award-winning edited collection: *The Dual Enrollment Kaleidoscope: Reconfiguring Perceptions of First Year Writing and Composition Studies* and her research has been published in multiple peer-reviewed journals. Denecker’s forthcoming book, *Pedagogical Cross-Pollination: Reflections on Dual Enrollment’s Impact on Teaching and Learning* is under contract with Utah State University Press.

Her husband, Greg, a fellow educator, is a UF graduate, distinguished alum, and Hall of Fame athlete. They have two sons who are their greatest blessing.

DOCTOR OF PHARMACY

Andrew J. Bauman Monroeville, OH
Elizabeth Bockey Lima, OH
Emma M. Bode Cincinnati, OH
Lane William Brooks Ottawa, OH
Cody J. Collert Mount Cory, OH
Kristen Ann Crutcher Radcliff, KY
Megan Elizabeth Culver Groveport, OH
Madeline Christine Deiderick Norwalk, OH
Jordan Clay Dubbs New Madison, OH
Walker Shane Elliott Plymouth, OH
Corrin J. Flowers University Heights, OH
Charity Diana Gottfried Tiffin, OH
Mollie Harber Circleville, OH
Olivia P. Harr Findlay, OH
Abigail Nicole Hatch Findlay, OH
Jacob Robert Holmes Cincinnati, OH
Nicholas Kapolis Akron, OH
Abigail Rose LaGreca Grafton, OH
Makya Lachey Matthews Wheelersburg, OH

Abrianna H. McManis Mc Arthur, OH
Elaine Ng Fremont, CA
Alec B. O'Reilly Richwood, OH
Sydnee Payer West Liberty, OH
Victoria Pocos Norwalk, OH
Hayden Russell Carey, OH
Garrett M. Sapp Findlay, OH
Julian Tarik Sawaged Brunswick, OH
Ryley Jean Schaefer New Bremen, OH
Francesca Eiko Sferrella Delaware, OH
Sierra Lynn Shoemaker Geneva, NY
Jessica Singh Hinckley, OH
Shelby M. Smart Glenford, OH
Nikolaus Spatz Mentor, OH
Yubizdely Ayleen Tanguma Rio Grande City, TX
Devyn Jess Warnement Republic, OH
Lauren Wolters Minster, OH
Sarah Elizabeth Zimmerli North Royalton, OH

DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Jeremy Baronner Erie, PA
Ryan Tanner Battisti Lewis Center, OH
Joshua Edward Bluell St. Joseph, MI
Mikayla Burns Milford, OH
Jeremy Burton Schoolcraft, MI
Angel Cancel-Roman Solon, OH
Jordan Cauton Lexington, KY
Bethany Suzanne Cuatt Jackson, MI
Jonathan Andrew Czerwony Munroe Falls, OH
Steven Paul DeClerck Waterford, MI
Leah Marie DeLuca Santa Rosa, CA
Alec Nathan Dible Ottawa, OH
Robert Mitchell Dill Charles City, VA
Kayleigh Eaton Washington, WV
Emily Edmond Valparaiso, IN
Kristy Dawn Fair Michie, TN
Janna Rachel Fulkerson Ina, IL
Shawn Gallagher North Branch, MI
Alyssa A. Gazarek Findlay, OH
Ryan Grant Myrtle Beach, SC
Emily M. Hadler Findlay, OH
Sarah Elizabeth Hale Waterford, MI
Michael Elijah Hammer Dandridge, TN
Robyn Hanson Decorah, IA
Grace Marcella Hoffman Ottawa, OH
Hannah Holmes Newark, OH
Justine Danielle Hunt Findlay, OH
Thomas Jerad Hunt Batesville, MS
Hussein N. Ibrahim Dearborn Hts, MI

Tori Jones Mount Orab, OH
Alexia Katsma Orange City, IA
Langston Toussaint Kennedy Blythewood, SC
Megan Anne Kerns Gates Mills, OH
Christine Aref Khattar Canton, MI
Natalie Rae Kohout Cincinnati, OH
Alyssa Renee Kreinbrink Ottawa, OH
Julia Magdalena Lodzinski White Lake, MI
Hunter R. Martin Attica, OH
Ashley Elizabeth Matson South Salem, OH
Alicia McLamb Mount Airy, NC
Jessica L. Mitchell Science Hill, KY
Alexander Michael Molina Huntington, WV
Shalaine Murray Miami, FL
Rainier Olea Navarro II Las Vegas, NV
Drew Nielson Delta, UT
Sydney A. Ommert Wakeman, OH
Kyongho Pak Lexington, KY
Elena Paul Oracle, AZ
William Prada Coral Springs, FL
Jacob Daniel Purvis Lynchburg, VA
Chloe Brynne Rase Charlotte, NC
Kylie E. Ray Pinckney, MI
Magdalene M. Ridenour Fort Wayne, IN
William Thomas Rouse New Franklin, OH
Rachel Saurman Twinsburg, OH
Madeline Kateri Sciarini Grand Rapids, MI
Joshua Bryant Sims Brookville, OH
Rashaun L. Smith Jacksonville, FL

Mohsin Ali Taher Bakersfield, CA
 Xavier A. Temple Carey, OH
 Justina Templeton East Dubuque, IL
 Lewis Everett Thomas Jr. Greenville, NC
 Taylor Nicole Thompson Dola, OH
 Mikayla Wade Dunbar Johnstown, OH
 Storm Emery Walling Connersville, IN

Sofia Diana Wassilko Canada
 Jacob Charles Wenzelman Perrysburg, OH
 Melissa Faye Westergard Mount Pleasant, SC
 Jacob M. Zarnosky Bellefontaine, OH
 Zachary Nicholas Zeleznik Findlay, OH
 Leslie Zoller Marietta, OH

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

J'Vann Agnes Agee Toledo, OH
 Janell Braxton Toledo, OH
 Robert Michael Brown Plain City, OH
 Marissa Marie Collins Toledo, OH
 Beth Ann Hench Defiance, OH
 Orion Jones Findlay, OH
 Sandra Kleman Ottawa, OH
 Caitlin Theresa Kosec Canfield, OH
 Emily Kriegel Delphos, OH

Brandi Ankney Laurita Findlay, OH
 Michael T. Losneck Parma, OH
 Jennifer Lynn McCafferty North Ridgeville, OH
 Tracy Rendleman Edgerton, OH
 Kimberly Ann Stark Edgerton, OH
 Christopher Tierney Pataskala, OH
 Veronica Mary Wadsworth Wickliffe, OH
 Aufwiedersehen Winfield Toledo, OH
 Joselyn Mary Yonker Newark, OH

DOCTOR OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Alyssa Brooke Bame Findlay, OH
 Ashlyn Leigh Coleman Kettering, OH
 Riley Michelle Metzker McComb, OH
 Ainsley V. Sherman Tiffin, OH
 Kirsten Elise Siefker Glandorf, OH

Brynn Elizabeth Smock Anna, OH
 Reagan Ward Morral, OH
 Leanne LaRue Wolters Minster, OH
 Anna Elizabeth Youngless Elmore, OH

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

Rachel Barnhart Thornville, OH
 Laura Renee Bowersox Centerville, OH
 Jacob Daniel Dodds Anna, OH
 Janice Patricia Kaufman Leipsic, OH

Katherine Leeth Middle Point, OH
 Brooke Mangas Ottawa, OH
 Beatriz Isabelle Querol-Cintron Leominster, MA

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES AND APPLIED LINGUISTICS

Timothy Edward Cunningham Jr. Youngstown, OH
 Yu Otsuki Japan

Deborah Ruth Swartzfager Findlay, OH
 Arazgul Atabayeva Turkmenistan

MASTER OF ARTS IN EDUCATION

Hannah Kait Baker Orrville, OH
 Jaret Baker Alliance, OH
 John Charles Bourne Ottawa, OH
 Bradley Ross Bowser Bowling Green, OH
 Hunter Michele Brackman Minster, OH
 Marie Brodman Tiffin, OH
 Jacob Daniel Brown Rawson, OH

Emily Lynn Coakley Upper Sandusky, OH
 Courtney L. Crawford Findlay, OH
 Carestin Nicole Cullman Toledo, OH
 Megan Ashley Darrah Ashley, OH
 Dawn Marylynn Daubenspeck Bucyrus, OH
 Jaycie Foes Bellevue, OH
 Alexander Donald Gabriele Poland, OH

Mary Gist Woodstock, OH
 Joseph Gogolin Hilliard, OH
 Corey Gould Marysville, OH
 Brianne Greer Findlay, OH
 David Henley Findlay, OH
 Gabrielle Holly Sandusky, OH
 Katelyn Marie Hubert Spencerville, OH
 Trystin Michole Kaplan Lima, OH
 Brennan Malaney Reynoldsburg, OH
 Anne Catherine McClory Tontogany, OH
 Gabrielle Miller Grover Hill, OH

Caitlyn Myers Logan, OH
 Leslie O'Toole Findlay, OH
 Anamika Sharma India
 Karen Lynn Sowers Findlay, OH
 Elizabeth Stahl Toledo, OH
 Jacob Michael Strayer Bellevue, OH
 Alexander Joel Weaver Pandora, OH
 Dillon Matthew Webster Findlay, OH
 Cordell Steven Wyatt Fremont, OH
 Nathan Zuercher Jenera, OH

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Muntazir Mehdi Ajani India
 Nikitha Yadav Avula India
 Meenakshi Avusala India
 Anita Aba Bassaw-Donkoh Ghana
 Sai Swaroop Reddy Bojja India
 Daniel Gerald Carter Perrysburg, OH
 David Cubillos Canada
 Sai Harsha Degapudi India
 Ma Kim Khrista E. DeMars Findlay, OH
 Raghuram Choudary Duddempudi India
 Corey Jacob Dudley Sylvania, OH
 Isabella Enyonam Dzoku Ghana
 Mahesh Yadav Eraganaboina India
 Bright Kwame Essel Ghana
 Abhishek Vali Gadidamalla India
 James I. Gladden Schertz, TX
 Zachary Hampshire Fremont, OH
 Wylie M. Harris Sylvania, OH
 James Alexander Hill II Pittsburgh, PA
 Blake Patrick Jones Van Buren, OH
 Cole G. Jones Massillon, OH
 Deekshitha Reddy Kamatam India
 Kingsley Asiome Kofigah Ghana
 Joice nissi Korani India
 Gideon Kwakye Ghana
 Aiden A. Lao Columbus, OH
 Wilfredo Ricardo Lara Franklin Peru
 Samriddhi Limbu Nepal
 Ibadullah Lnu India
 Keerthi Madanu India
 Madhulatha Mannem India
 Camilo Andres Marrugo Montano Colombia
 Andrew Joseph Micale Akron, OH
 Muzammil Ahamed Mohammed India

Allam Mohammed Abdul India
 Erin Elizabeth Mulcahy Lima, OH
 Mary Kelly Mulcahy Lima, OH
 Joy Benila Munganda India
 Alex Dwight Mutchler Bucyrus, OH
 Yashwanth Reddy Nagulapati India
 Naga Pavan Nalluri India
 Mitchel Curtis Nielsen Tiffin, OH
 Gary Ernest Nilson Macomb, MI
 Joseph Owusu Tikoli Annan Ghana
 Ethan Felix Palisoc Seattle, WA
 Satish Krishna Pandla India
 Jhanvi Patel India
 David Michael Peck Grove City, PA
 Alana Grace Pohlman Minster, OH
 Samantha Marie Posey Lima, OH
 Fahim Rahman Bangladesh
 Erin Leigh Randall Mount Blanchard, OH
 Rajiv Regmi Nepal
 Ann Samuelson Ottawa, OH
 Ayush Man Simanggaida Shrestha Nepal
 Jessica Singh Hinckley, OH
 Kennedy Renee Slovak Oregon, OH
 Madelynn J. Strayer Clyde, OH
 Hetasvi Dhansukhbhai Sutariya India
 Aditya Tadikonda India
 Manikanta Sai Thati Konda India
 Maheshbabu Thatimattla India
 Joshua Alan Thorbahn Ottoville, OH
 Krupa Nirmalsinh Vaghela India
 Jeroen Martijn Van Der Veen Netherlands
 Younan Kadidiatou Voli-Lou Côte d'Ivoire
 Laila E. Woods Deshler, OH
 Sarah Elizabeth Zimmerli North Royalton, OH

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL, SAFETY AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT

Collins Adu-Poku Addae Ghana
 Kingsley Agyapong Ghana
 Georgina Boateng Ghana
 Godfred Manfred Effah Ghana
 Celestine Etor Etor Kotoku Ghana

Hyoung-Min Roh Republic of Korea
 Rosemary Sampson Ghana
 Kenya Scott Baltimore, MD
 Vishrut Rameshbhai Sonani India
 Ervin White Jr. Tynes, NC

MASTER OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Mackenzie B. Robertoy Waterford Twp, MI

MASTER OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

Elise Abbott Parker, CO
 Deeyallah Al-Syoof Toledo, OH
 Arianna Isabel Aranda Toledo, OH
 Marina Ballatin Napoleon, OH
 Joshua Eric Bishop Findlay, OH
 Tori Bostwick Connersville, IN
 Hanna Madison Bumb Montpelier, OH
 Lindsey Lee Carson Findlay, OH
 Cole Austin Condon Versailles, OH
 Mikaela Christine Daugherty Findlay, OH
 Baylee Fay Grine Ney, OH
 Dunia Issa Issa Ypsilanti, MI

Preston Sysouk Khambounmy Andover, MN
 Connor Matthew Krouse Kalida, OH
 Madison Marie Langhals Ottawa, OH
 Dakotah Olivia-George Miller Leo, IN
 Adelisa Omerovic Niles, IL
 Jillian Elaine Owens Phoenix, AZ
 Sofija M. Raudins Chagrin Falls, OH
 Emma Nicole Ruga Findlay, OH
 Christopher Arthur Skalski Somers, CT
 Andrew Testa Youngstown, OH
 Luna Charlotte Zhu Findlay, OH

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH INFORMATICS

Manvitha Achanta India
 Priyanka Alajpuri India
 Lokesh Aligeti India
 Jashwanth Reddy Ardha India
 Sai Murali Badugu India
 Hyendavi Bandlamudi India
 Sadalingam Bangi India
 Vittal Banoth India
 Sindhu Priya Battula India
 Amreen Begum India
 Devipriya Budharaju India
 Ajay Kumar Burra India
 Himabindu Chadapangu India
 Sanjana Reddy Chandrapu India
 Kishor Raj Chanemougam India
 Navya Chegudi India
 Naveen Chidirala India
 Vinay Kumar Dasari India
 Abhinav Sri Devarapalli India
 Mahvash Farzana India
 Naga Manasa Yadav Galam India

Sharmista Gangavarapu India
 Sneha Gare India
 Janhvi Yogesh Ghodkar India
 Jayasri Gonuguntla India
 Parinika Guntagani India
 Devesh Nayak Jatavath India
 Premakumari Kadiyala India
 Jhansi Rani Kokkiligadda India
 Sai Keerthana Kommalapati India
 Shivani Kunta India
 Hardikkumar Ranjitbhai Lad India
 Neelima Machavarapu India
 Anjali Maddi India
 Ambica Maley India
 Meghana Manchala India
 Sairam Mantena India
 Namratha Marampally India
 Aliyuddin Ahmed Mohammad India
 Anil Anisha Mudliar India
 Harshavardhan Reddy Nagireddy India
 Vishnu Srujitha Naralasetty India

Midhun Narra India
 Priyanka Neerati India
 Olive Neerudu India
 Elaine Ng. Fremont, CA
 Ayesha Nida India
 Sumanth Niraq India
 Divya Oggu India
 Ravindra Babu Ongolu India
 Velugurekha Pagidipalli India
 Nikitha Reddy Pakeer India
 Pragathi Palagati India
 Damodara Bala Sai Palla India
 Priyaben Vinodbhai Parmar India
 Anupama Reddy Patlolla India
 Bhargav Krishna Potru India
 Sowjanya Potti India
 Shilpa Puppala India
 Akhil Sainadh Reddy Ramala India

Anil Joshya Ramavath India
 Prathyusha Rangineni India
 Mano Ravichandran India
 Pavan Sai Radha Krishna Sanga India
 Arshiya Shaik India
 Fatiha Maryam Siddiqui India
 Sarah Siekierski Waterville, OH
 Durga Salini Surapaneni India
 Sindhu Pavani Tandai India
 Rohitha Theppala India
 Yammini Thumu India
 Sneha Tummala India
 Deepthi Veernala India
 Harika Venkannagari India
 Hrishikesh Vummenthala India
 Veera Charan Yadavalli India
 Pravallika Yarlagaadda India
 Jaya Vijaya Yennana India

MASTER OF ARTS IN RHETORIC AND WRITING

Hannah Farrington Manahawkin, NJ
 Olivia Hyatt Findlay, OH

Cora Elizabeth Purves Troy, OH
 Melissa Ann Risser Findlay, OH

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN APPLIED SECURITY AND ANALYTICS

Abdullah Adel Ahmed Saudi Arabia
 Navya Andra India
 Sai Lakshman Annabathula India
 Vineeth Avti India
 Ram Arun Balthu India
 Bibek Bista Nepal
 Gifty Asante Brobbey Ghana
 Rohith Chakinarapu India
 Medha Chandanamudi India
 Vineel Varma Cherukuri India
 MengTing Chung Taiwan
 Samantha Dalton Findlay, OH

Ayoub Mohammad Eabidawi Jordan
 Eyad Halawani Saudi Arabia
 Zachary L. Jellison Findlay, OH
 John Wesly Korani India
 Alexis Nicole Scott Sylvania, OH
 Lakshmi Chandu Tirumalasetty India
 Deepthi Veldanda India
 SatyaSaiPavanKumar Vidiyala India
 Bimal Wagle Reynoldsburg, OH
 Bipin Wagle Nepal
 Lohith Yeleswarapu India

MASTER OF ARTS IN PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION

Jeremy Hunt Oak Park, IL
 Jeremiah Keith Jackson Columbus, OH
 Amanda Rae Kosal Findlay, OH

Grace Kaye Scott Pinckney, MI
 Brice Kent Tarbox Findlay, OH

FINDLAY ALMA MATER HYMN

*Findlay, our Alma Mater,
Our praise we sing to thee;
Findlay, we here do pledge thee
To ever faithful be.
Findlay, when'er we leave thee,
We never will forget thee!
Findlay, our Alma Mater,
Our hearts will stay with thee.*

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WELCOME

The Harold (Herk) '54 and Patricia (Gohlke) Wolfe Center for Alumni, Parents & Friends congratulates and welcomes the graduates as members of the UF Alumni Association.

Alumni Association: 419-434-4589 • alumni@findlay.edu
Samuel Yates '16 is president of the Alumni Association Board of Governors

THE GRIFFITH MEMORIAL ARCH CEREMONY

As the recessional is played, graduates process in a formal line to the Griffith Memorial Arch at the front of the campus. There, members of the UF Board of Trustees, the president, administrators and members of the faculty congratulate them as they exit out through the arch, formally signifying their graduation. The Griffith Memorial Arch tradition is distinctive to the University of Findlay and is among the longest-standing graduation traditions at any college or university in the state of Ohio.

Graduates are asked to walk through the arch and then join friends, family and faculty near college pennants placed on the front lawn for final farewells. Graduates from the Colleges of Health Professions, Pharmacy and Sciences will convene near pennants on the north side of the lawn, and those from Business, Education and Liberal Arts will gather on the south side of the lawn.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEO

A professional photographer will photograph each student receiving a diploma from the president. Proofs will be available online at graduationfoto.com.

The Office of Marketing and Communications will capture images of many members of this year's class as they participate in the traditional Griffith Memorial Arch ceremony. Images will be available for download or purchase at http://flickr.com/photos/uf_images/.

Today's ceremonies will be broadcast live by UFTV on its YouTube Channel: UFTV Productions. A quick link is available at www.findlay.edu/commencement. After the ceremony, you may view the video on the channel for free at any time (please allow up to 24 hours for the YouTube upload process).

Scan the QR code, or visit online at
www.findlay.edu/commencement
for more information.



A NOTE ON ACADEMIC PROCESSIONS

Commencement is the most formal convocation held by the University and begins with a procession led by our faculty marshal who carries the University's ceremonial mace. The mace carried today has been in use on our campus since 1982. It is a staff ornamented with a sheaf of gold rods and a golden sphere. The sphere, engraved with the symbols of the University, identifies our relationship to the Christian church. The lamp of learning symbolizes our academic mission; three crosses of Calvary; a towel, basin, and pitcher represent Christian servitude; and a Celtic cross represents outreach.

Following the marshal in the processional are representatives of the Board of Trustees, senior administrators, and faculty members arranged by rank and seniority. The robes worn by members of the University faculty and administration represent the academic regalia traditionally seen at commencement ceremonies throughout the United States. First used in European universities in the 14th century, academic regalia have become standard commencement attire in the United States. Regalia include a distinctive robe, hood, and cap. The robe is a dark color, most often black, with bands of color on each sleeve and on the front of the garment. The bands on the sleeve indicate the degree level with three horizontal bands representing doctoral level degrees. The lining of the hood reflects the colors of the university from which the wearer's highest degree was conferred. The color of the trim identifies the individual's principal field of learning.

Colors of representative fields of learning are noted below:

Arts, Letters, Humanities	White
Commerce, Accountancy, Business.....	Drab
Economics	Copper
Education	Light Blue
Fine Arts	Brown
Journalism.....	Crimson
Occupational Therapy.....	Rhodes Blue
Pharmacy	Olive
Philosophy	Dark Blue
Physical Education	Sage Green
Physical Therapy	Peacock Blue
Public Health.....	Salmon Pink
Science.....	Golden Yellow
Social Work.....	Citron
Veterinary Science.....	Gray

Students may elect to wear an orange stole of gratitude during the ceremony and following the ceremony present the stole to an individual who made a significant impact on them.

OUR HISTORY

In June 1889, the first graduating class of then Findlay College received their diplomas. Both graduates, one man and one woman, had begun their studies just three years earlier in a brand new Old Main. Their graduation was the culminating step of a process that started in 1881 when the Churches of God, General Conference, conceived of establishing a college in Northwest Ohio. Co-founded in 1882 by the church and the citizens of the City of Findlay, Findlay College was quickly incorporated as an educational institution and 10 acres of land was acquired on the then rapidly growing outskirts of the city. Old Main cost \$50,000 to build and construction took four years. Findlay College officially opened on Sept. 1, 1886 with 70 students.

In 1923, the Griffith Memorial Arch was constructed as a memorial to former student and faculty member, Caddie Griffith, who died unexpectedly of the flu. The arch has become a significant part of campus tradition with students walking through the arch as both a new student and then again at Commencement.

Old Main remained the only building on campus until the construction of the Renninger Gymnasium in 1925. The gymnasium is now home to the University's Environment, Health, Safety, and Sustainability Program as well as the All Hazards Training Center.

The University's Christian heritage is evident throughout our history. In 1942, the Winebrenner Graduate School of Divinity was established. It became a separate institution in 1961, but the connection to UF has remained strong. The now Winebrenner Theological Seminary is located in the University's Winebrenner Building and UF collaborates with the seminary to offer undergraduate degrees in religious studies.

Findlay has welcomed international students since its inception and the size of its international population has grown since the establishment of an Intensive English Language Institute in 1975. Today, students from more than 30 countries outside of the United States attend the University of Findlay, enriching the educational experience for all students at UF.

In 1989, in response to a growing campus, Findlay College changed its name to the University of Findlay, and the school introduced one of its first master's degree programs, now known as the Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) and Applied Linguistics.

The first president, Rev. John Latchaw, guided the College through the early years of establishing Findlay College on the foundation of academic excellence, service, supportive community, and Christian faith that are still hallmarks of a Findlay education today. Since Rev. Latchaw, 16 other presidents have continued to fulfill the mission of the university to equip students for meaningful lives and productive careers. Our current president is Katherine Fell, PhD, who was named president in 2010 as the University's first female president.

Throughout its 140+ year history the University has continued to grow and adapt its educational offerings, facilities and instructional approach to meet the needs of students and the industries they serve. This is evident in the growth of our campus, which now includes nearly 400 acres including the 80-acre main campus and two expansive animal science and equestrian farms. The newest addition to campus is the 75,000-square-foot Center for Student Life and College of Business. This building, opened in 2017, was significantly supported by donors and has become the new hub for campus activity.

The pace of advancement has never diminished. Today, the University of Findlay continues to deliver on the promise of academic excellence, transformative experiences, and a supportive community that is grounded in the Christian faith. Every student can take advantage of experiential learning opportunities beyond the classroom. Just as the first two graduates of Findlay College were prepared for their futures, today's graduates walk through the arch prepared to lead meaningful lives and productive careers.

GRADUATING CLASS GIFT

The Class of 2026 created the Findlay Forward Class of 2026 Scholarship for their graduating class gift. The scholarship will be awarded in 2026-27 to a current student at the University of Findlay based on financial need and selected by the Office of Financial Aid. It will provide a one-time scholarship to help the recipient(s) complete their degree.

The following graduates contributed toward the Findlay Forward Class of 2026 Scholarship and have earned their Philanthropy Cord:

Andrew Bauman
Elizabeth Bockey
Kristen Crutcher
Walker Elliott
Olivia Harr
Abigail Hatch

Jacob Holmes
Abigail LaGreca
Makya Matthews
Elaine Ng
Sydney Payer
Victoria Pocos

Jessica Singh
Jacob Strayer
Madelynn Strayer
Yubizdely Tanguma
Devyn Warnement
Sarah Zimmerli

Additional gifts may still be made toward the graduating class gift at give.findlay.edu or by contacting thefindlayfund@findlay.edu.



