

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

A newsletter for faculty, staff and students of The University of Findlay

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STUDENTS, FACULTY CONTRIBUTE TO BLUE WHALE RESEARCH IN SEA OF CORTEZ



Front row, L to R: Ursela (research team member), Lauren Bisson, Molly Smith, Susan Young, Lucia Campellanos (EPI), Dwight Moody. Back row, L to R: Wesley and Betsy (research team members), Laura Sass, Bretta Bauman, Brian Labuhn, Tonya Kieffer, Gwynne Rife, Ron Stoner and Sam Rose (EPI).

Last month, seven UF students were the first student group from the United States to take part in an international blue whale research study, working under the direction of well-known whale researcher Jorge Urban, Ph.D., in the Sea of Cortez.

Students on the trip included senior Susan Young, biology major; sophomore Molly Smith, adolescent/young adult science education major; junior Lauren Bisson, biology major; senior Laura Sass, senior adolescent/young adult science

education major; senior Bretta Bauman, biology and pre-veterinary major; and graduate students Tonya Kieffer and Brian Labuhn.

Led by faculty members Gwynne Rife, Ph.D., associate professor of biology, and Dwight Moody, Ed.D., professor of biology, the group arrived in La Paz, Mexico, the capital of the Baja California Sur state, Feb. 17 to meet their hosts – representatives from Ecology Project International (EPI). The organization partners students and scientists worldwide, working to improve and inspire science education and conservation efforts worldwide through field-based student-scientist partnerships.

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UF STUDENTS FINALISTS FOR JASCO 8TH ANNUAL JAPANESE LANGUAGE SPEECH CONTEST

Three UF students were selected as finalists for the Japan-American Society of Central Ohio (JASCO) 8th Annual Japanese Language Speech Contest at The Ohio State University in Columbus. They competed against only seven other finalists on Saturday, March 3.

Students selected as finalists in the competition included sophomore Chung-Yang Cheng, Taipei, Taiwan, master of business administration graduate student; senior Kenneth Skapik, Adena, Ohio, Japanese and technical

management major; and freshman Erin Taylor, Oregonia, Ohio, Japanese and marketing major.

To enter the 2007 Japanese Language Speech Contest, each student was required to write an original three-minute speech in Japanese, practice it and record it on tape. A manuscript written in Japanese also was required with each submission.

“It was difficult coming up with a topic,” said Taylor. “It took me around a week to practice my speech so that I

could tape record it and send it into the competition.” Taylor’s topic was “Why I Study Japanese.”

Students studying Japanese, who have not lived in Japan for more than six months and do not come from homes where Japanese is spoken, were eligible for the competition.

According to Hiroaki “Hiro” Kawamura, Ph.D., chair of the language and culture area and associate professor of Japanese, “Everyone has to

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WHALE RESEARCH IN SEA OF CORTEZ, CONT.

During the first part of the trip, UF students joined two EPI representatives, Urban, three members of Urban's research team and three crew members to conduct a whale observation study. From the boat *Pez Sapo*, translated as "Toad Fish," teams of four rotated through one-hour guardias, or watches, to look for whale blows. Three team members stood watch for 15 minutes each at rotating posts while a fourth team member recorded data.

When a whale blow was spotted, Urban and other team members boarded small boats called pangas and headed out to the whale. Once the researchers were close enough, they shot the whale with a hollow-ended arrow, capturing a piece of the skin and blubber from which to draw data such as DNA, levels of contaminants and reproduction information. From a small piece of the epidermis, researchers are also able to identify what the whale ate within the last 60 days.

In addition to 16 blue whales, the group saw Bryde's whales, a rare sighting, bottlenose dolphins, long-beaked dolphins, flying sharks and sea lions.

After each day at sea, students set up camp on the beach, complete with

tents and sleeping bags among the scorpions and rattlesnakes. The group ate supper together, a delicious meal prepared by the boat's captain, and spent the evenings reviewing their data and discussing a variety of related topics with the other researchers.

After four days of whale watching, the group spent some time immersed in Mexico's culture. Part of that included preparing presentations about their research for students at Loreta University. UF students prepared posters and presented in Spanish, which proved to be challenging because none of the students had background in the Spanish language until arriving in Mexico just days before.

The last two nights of the trip were spent in *El Santuario*, an eco-retreat on the edge of the bay of Ensenada Blanca, where students explored the outdoors and sang traditional Mexican songs by the campfire.

Students will share their cultural and academic experiences at the University's Symposium for Scholarship and Creativity April 17. In the fall, Rife will give a presentation on the experience, which will be open to the public.

JAPANESE LANGUAGE, CONT.

participate in the speech contest in the second and third year of the Japanese language program. The process is far more important than the result. The experience of writing the speech, then writing it in Japanese, and then practicing reading it aloud in Japanese is very beneficial in the learning process."

During the March 3 competition, finalists were required to deliver their memorized speeches in Japanese on a stage in front of an audience. That was followed by a question-and-answer session with the judges.

By Brooke Jacobs, Senior, Pre-Medicine Major, Bucyrus, Ohio



From left to right: Fumiko Harada, Ph.D., professor of Japanese; Kanako Yao, graduate teaching assistant; contestants Chung-Yang Cheng, Kenneth Skapik and Erin Taylor; and Hiroaki Kawamura, Ph.D.

WORTH NOTING

Sharon Hammer Baker, adjunct faculty of English as an international language, has work on display at Owens Community College – Findlay campus in the Library Gallery. Her exhibit of hand-woven tapestries and Haiku poetry, titled "Meandering Threads," will be on display through April 4.

Patti Berton, adjunct sociology instructor, and **Don Collins**, assistant professor of psychology, served as reviewers for "Person to Person," fifth edition, published by Pearson/Prentice Hall. The text is used in Psychology of Becoming courses.

Tim Murphy, Ph.D., associate professor of environmental safety and health management, has been selected by the United States Public Health Service and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to be a mentor and instructor in the Environmental Public Health Leadership Institute (EPHLI). Murphy recently completed a fellowship with the EPHLI.

"Michael Owens and the Glass Industry," written by **Quentin Skrabec**, Ph.D., associate professor of business, has been accepted by the Toledo Museum of Art as part of its Art Reference Library. The book details Owens' contributions to the glass industry and to Libbey Glass in Toledo.

Skrabec also has compiled a pictorial history of the glass industry titled "Glass in Northwest Ohio." It was released this month.

Richard Smith, Ph.D., professor of philosophy and director of the philosophy program, participated in the annual conference of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics Feb. 22-24 in Cincinnati. He chaired an afternoon symposium on ethics pedagogy and served as one of the judges for the annual Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl.

If you know someone who has done something "worth noting," send the information to Brianna Patterson at pattersonb@findlay.edu.

NEW SNACK BAR IN DAVIS STREET BUILDING



There is a new snack bar located in the Davis Street building for on-the-go students, faculty and staff. Café a la Cart is located in the common area between the College of Education and the School of Pharmacy. The first day of

operation was Feb. 21 and a grand opening will take place the week of March 19. Currently, hours of service are Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Café a la Cart offers a grab-and-go cooler with a collection of salads, sandwiches and wraps, as well as snacks such as cheese cubes, fresh fruit cups and veggies and dip. Bakery items include fresh-baked cookies, brownies and other sweet treats. An assortment of beverages also will be available, including gourmet hot beverages featuring Seattle's Best Coffee and Tazo Tea. Cold

beverages feature Coca-Cola bottled products and milk.

Café a la Cart will accept Visa, Mastercard and Discover as well as Findlay Munch Money, Bonus Dollars and cash.

According to David Harr, director of Sodexo campus services, "Today's customers are busier than ever, and they're looking for meal solutions that cater to their on-the-go lifestyles. Café a la Cart is that solution, serving up quality grab-and-go fare in under-served, high-traffic locations. It's the ultimate in customer convenience, delivered with personable customer service."

By Brooke Jacobs, Senior, Pre-Medicine Major, Bucyrus, Ohio



Senior David Grieve, physical therapy major, and Amanda Nelson, occupational therapy major, presented "A Month in Dublin, Ireland" Feb 21 during the Brown Bag Series presented by Phi Beta Delta.



Last month following the snow storm in Hancock County, snow was piled high along sidewalks and parking lots. The University's physical plant worked tirelessly keeping things cleared so that students and faculty could get to classes.

The College of Sciences presented "How to Double the Number of Scientists, Technologists, Engineers and Mathematicians by 2015" Feb. 22 as part of its seminar and lecture series. At right, Ray McCandless, D.A., director of academic technology services and professor of political science, presented his views on the subject.



The Mazza Museum hosted 2005 Newbery winner Lynne Rae Perkins Feb. 25. Her visit was part of the Helen Reimund Author/Artist Series.

Photos by staff photographer Anne Risser Lee.

GREEKS BRING BACK SCHOOL SPIRIT WITH GREEK DAYS

The leadership of the Greek system on campus wanted a positive way to promote their organizations and to break the stereotypes of typical sorority and fraternity members. The idea for Greek Days was formed. Each Wednesday, all Greeks on campus dress up and wear their badges or pins, and each Friday, Greeks wear shirts with their Greek letters.

President of Greek Council Christine Pollock, a junior majoring in early childhood education, thinks the efforts are important. "It shows how much pride we have in what we do, what our sorority or fraternity stands for and our values," she said.

Students being "Greek" allows for many experiences. Students become part of something bigger than they could ever imagine. Most Greek organizations have a national affiliation which allows them to meet "brothers or sisters" from all over the nation.

"The Greek system here at UF is about building bonds and helping others, as well as ourselves," commented sophomore pre-veterinary major Kasandra Morelock, president of Sigma Kappa sorority. "We are constantly trying to come up with new and improved ideas to get more people not only interested in Greek life but in University events as well. Whether those we

impact decide to become Greek or not, the important thing is that we have impacted them in a positive way."

The next Greek event on campus is Greek Week, April 9-12. Throughout the week, Greeks will compete in events against each other, but all students are invited to cheer for their classmates. Each semester there are two weeks of recruitment for the sororities or fraternities, with each chapter hosting individual events as well.

By Carolyn Schaeffer, Senior Interpersonal and Public Communication Major, East Canton, Ohio

STUDENT FORUM ON DIVERSITY TO BE HELD MARCH 22

The University of Findlay will host a student forum on diversity from 3:30-5 p.m. Thursday, March 22, in the Grimm Theatre, located in the Egner Center for Performing Arts. A panel of eight students from the Colleges of

Liberal Arts, Science, Education and Business will share how diversity has affected their learning experiences at UF and how they feel it has affected society.

Students speaking will be senior Elizabeth Seward, junior Elise DeCola,

senior Michael Shaffer, sophomore Laura Maurer, sophomore Katie Kerzysnik, junior Devin Pritts, junior Bob Sturwold and senior Kim Haddix.

For more information: 419-434-4679 or reed@findlay.edu.

ALUMNUS, FRIENDS CONTRIBUTE TO SCHOLARSHIPS

Both the Environmental, Safety and Occupational Health (ESOH) program and the Hospitality Management program have received additional scholarship money.

Board members of Ohio Environmental Service Industries (OESI) have established the Ohio Environmental Service Industries Operating Scholarship at The University of Findlay. Four one-time \$1,000 scholarships will be given to four freshmen or first-year students entering the University's ESOH program.

OESI is a trade association of Ohio's commercial hazardous waste management facilities and associated businesses. The hazardous waste management companies provide chemical treatment, disposal and recycling services; the associated businesses provide services related to the industry. Steve Lonneman of Vickery Environmental Inc. serves as the organization's president.

Kenneth Brown III M '05 recently contributed to the Hospitality Management Scholarship Fund and the John and Paula Wolper Scholarship Fund. Since 2004, Brown has helped endow the two scholarship funds with gifts exceeding \$38,800.

Because of the concern and personal attention from professors John and Paula Wolper, Brown enrolled in and completed his master's of business administration degree in 2005. Now, Brown wants to give something back to John and Paula — and the entire University community — by making gifts in support of student scholarships. Both of these scholarship funds provide direct scholarship assistance to deserving students enrolled in the Hospitality



William Carter, Ph.D., professor of environmental management and director of graduate, undergraduate and degree completion in ESOH, left, accepted a check for \$4,000 from Rudy Vingris, vice president of OESI, on behalf of the ESOH program.

Management program.

For additional information on establishing or contributing to scholarship funds, please contact the Office of Development at 419-434-5334.