

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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

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ONE UF GRADUATE LEARNS ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

Years ago, John Gears wouldn't even have considered going to school to earn a college degree and improve his situation. Today, Gears is one of higher education's biggest fans, and on Saturday, Dec. 8, he walked across the stage during commencement ceremonies to receive a congratulatory handshake from Dr. DeBow Freed for earning a master of business administration degree. "I never thought it was possible for me to get my master's. I've learned that you can't put limitations on people," said Gears.

Gears, 51, was primarily raised at St. Anthony's Villa, a Catholic orphanage in Toledo, Ohio, where Sister Bea Herman was a house mother who would serve as a source of encouragement to him many years later.

Because college was not a realistic option at the time, Gears graduated from high school and started work in a factory where he remained for 25 years until a work-related accident ended his employment there. Gears lost 80 percent use of his right hand and 20 percent use of his left hand, and he was told he would never work again.

Gears, however, wasn't willing to settle for that. Following his accident, Gears attended occupational therapy sessions and was impressed by the therapists' work. After some research, Gears learned that because he was a resident of St. Anthony's during the 1960s, he was eligible for a scholarship that had been established by donors who had no children but wanted to provide others

the opportunity to improve their lives. He submitted an application, and was awarded the scholarship, which benefits only three students at any given time.

He was accepted to Lourdes College, graduated in 1996 and began working as an occupational therapy assistant at the Blanchard Valley Hospital in Findlay. Gears quickly discovered the value of education and applied for a second scholarship from the Catholic Diocese to attend Bluffton University; he graduated from there in 2002 with a bachelor's degree in business management.

On Saturday, Gears reached another goal with the completion of his master's degree, with a little more help from a third scholarship and continued support from Gears' fiancée. And sitting in the audience at graduation on Saturday was the woman who raised him, 84-year-old Sister Bea Herman, still encouraging Gears in his educational goals.

Gears plans to remain in the Findlay area and utilize his experience and his new knowledge.

More than 400 students graduated from The University of Findlay during fall commencement ceremonies Saturday in the Koehler Complex on campus.

Former U.S. senator Michael



John Gears receives a congratulatory handshake from Dr. Freed during commencement ceremonies.



Dr. Freed congratulates a group of students. Among the UF graduates were 133 international students.

DeWine gave the commencement address, encouraging graduates to take chances and "follow your gut." DeWine served as an Ohio senator from 1994 through 2006.

A total of 228 graduate degrees and 162 undergraduate degrees were awarded. A total of 20 associate of arts degrees were conferred.

The University's traditional Arch Ceremony immediately followed commencement at the Griffith Memorial Arch.

MORE THAN 400 RECEIVE DEGREES, CELEBRATE



Graduates Pamela Bullock, education major, Kimberly Harris, the only master of athletic training degree recipient, and Dion Harvey, psychology major, visit prior to the ceremony.



Religious studies major and Christian rock band member Mark Wise smiles as he gets ready to walk through the Griffith Memorial Arch.



Deans Tom Dillon, Ed.D., Alice Anderson, Ed.D., and Lisa Dutton, Ph.D., stand in line waiting for the procession to begin. Dutton participated in the ceremony for the last time as a UF faculty member. At the end of the year, she is moving to Minnesota and will pursue other opportunities.



Angela Zeglen, who received her master of business administration degree, presents her stole of gratitude to Robert Rustic, assistant professor of business. "He was my professor, adviser and my boss for all the time I was a student. He was a great mentor to me, so I wanted to say thanks." The stole is part of the new commencement apparel. December grads were the first to sport the new look.



Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity brothers congratulate their graduating members, business major Lucas Kunk and equestrian studies/equine business management major Ted Staudt, after the Arch Ceremony.

MAY '07 GRAD IS YOUNGEST MAYOR OF BELLEFONTAINE

Adam Brannon, a May 2007 graduate, didn't do the usual job search with résumés and applications. He picked the job he wanted, and then he campaigned for it – literally. The political science major set his sights on becoming the next mayor of Bellefontaine, Ohio. As the Democratic candidate, Brannon beat an independent and the incumbent Republican mayor in November's election. At age 22, he will assume office Jan. 1, 2008, becoming the youngest mayor of Bellefontaine and one of a handful of mayors in the United States under the age of 25.

Brannon campaigned door-to-door, introducing himself to the community, a cost-effective strategy since he had far less money for advertising than his Republican opponent. He admitted that he will have much to learn at first, but he said he has faith in himself and

that his ideas are right for the community.

Brannon said he first became attracted to politics when he was in seventh grade after job-shadowing the then-mayor of Bellefontaine, but he lost interest by the time he was in high school. He came to The University of Findlay in 2003 intending to become a history teacher and football coach, but a class in "American Politics," taught by Associate Professor Paul Chwialkowski, Ph.D., reignited his interest.

He noted that he received one-on-one attention from the professors in the political science program, and also from an unexpected source, UF president DeBow Freed, Ph.D., who taught a political science course in 2006. "Dr.



Adam Brannon '07, the newly elected mayor of Bellefontaine, talks with Dr. Freed and former U.S. senator Michael DeWine after commencement Dec. 8.

Freed encouraged me (to run for mayor) and that was appreciated," Brannon said. "If it hadn't been for my education at Findlay, I wouldn't be where I'm at now, I know that for certain."

STUDY ABROAD FUND ESTABLISHED IN HONOR OF BUFORD

On April 5, 2007, The University of Findlay lost a member of its family.

Now, approximately eight months later, the College of Business is remembering Desmond (Des) Buford through the establishment of a new study abroad fund.

Because of both Buford's commitment to exposing students to new cultures as the director of intercultural studies and adviser to the Black Student Union (BSU) and an apparent lack of this exposure at The University of Findlay, the College of Business decided a study abroad fund would be the best way to honor Buford.

"Des Buford's mission was an appreciation of other cultures," said Chris Ward, assistant professor in the College of Business. "Our students did not have those experiences compared to other universities of similar size."

Students who are interested in studying abroad may apply for funding if they meet the following criteria:

- Have at least one major in the business area;
- Are a full-time undergraduate student

- Are a United States citizen;
- Have a minimum grade point average of 2.75; and

- Apply for the funds at least two months prior to departure on the trip.

Upon return from his or her study abroad, the student who received the funds must also give at least two presentations. These presentations can either be given on The University of Findlay campus or in the community.

The students who receive the funds are selected by a panel of five people. A combination of three members of the College of Business faculty or administration, the current director of intercultural studies, and one faculty member outside of the College of Business review applications and select recipients.

"We could have made the necessary grade point average higher or made it more difficult to get the money, but we're looking more for an expressed interest than anything else," said Almar Walter, who has taken over for Buford as both the director of intercultural studies and the adviser of the BSU.

Walter is excited about the prospect

of remembering Buford in this way and often reflects on his positive attitude.

"I worked very closely with him for two years, and I don't remember him saying anything negative," said Walter. "How many people do you meet like that? Almost none."

Several on-campus organizations have already begun contributing to the Des Buford Study Abroad Fund, including the Rotaract Club and the BSU. The Rotaract Club held an event called Pennies for Pins, which raised between \$3,000 and \$3,500 through a bowling contest.

The BSU has been very active in raising money for this cause, with a series of fundraisers in the planning stages. Current plans include monthly bake sales and car washes with all proceeds going directly into the fund.

Students who are interested in applying or anyone who wants to contribute to the fund should contact Chris Ward at cward@findlay.edu.

By Paige Aten '08, communication major, Napoleon, Ohio

MANY ACTIVITIES WRAP UP FALL SEMESTER



Two students and Ed Corle, associate professor of art help a shopper choose the perfect piece of pottery at the annual student and faculty ceramic sale Friday, Dec. 7.



Musicians Kim Funk, Amanda Meyers, Sara Yabl and Emily Brungard perform in the band's annual Christmas concert, titled "A New Twist on Some Old Holiday Favorites," Sunday, Dec. 2, in Winebrenner Theological Seminary.



Actor René Auberjonois was on campus Dec. 7 and gave pointers to UF theater students during two class periods. Auberjonois was selected as the fall 2007 recipient of the Don and Barb Hennings Chair for Theatre Guest Artists.



The newly elected mayor of the city of Findlay, Pete Sehnert, center, poses for a photo at a Black Student Union meeting. Sehnert requested a meeting with the group to get the students' feedback regarding a variety of topics relating to the city.



An adorable young visitor to the Mazza Museum's Funday Sunday Dec. 2 shows off her art project. The theme for the day was trains, and families experienced a winter wonderland of stories, children's art and other activities.

Travis Fulton, a member of Students in Free Enterprise, helps a local child with an art project. The Hospitality Management Club and several other student organizations organized Christmas on Campus for approximately 50 local kids and their families Dec. 2 in the AMU. Guests received presents, visited with Santa, decorated cookies and more with help from more than 50 student volunteers.



SEVEN FACULTY COMPLETE DOCTORAL WORK

Congratulations to the following faculty members:

Mark Carroll, Ed. D., Leadership Studies, Bowling Green State University. Dissertation: "Physical Therapists' Perception of Risk of Violating Laws and Rules Governing the Practice of Physical Therapy and/or Their Personal Moral and Ethical Values When Failing to Provide Treatment for an Uninsured or Underinsured Patient."

Christine Denecker, Ph.D., Philosophy with emphasis in Rhetoric and Composition, Bowling Green State University. Dissertation: "Toward Seamless Transition? Dual Enrollment

and the Composition Classroom."

Michael Edelbrock, Ph.D., Biomedical Sciences, The University of Toledo (formerly Medical College of Ohio), June 2007. Dissertation: "Cell Cycle Regulation of DNA Mismatch Repair Protein Expression and Activity at the H-ras Oncogenic Hotspot."

Debra George, Ph.D., Bowling Green State University, Higher Education and Administration. Dissertation: "The Relationship of Work Experience to Clinical Performance in a Master of Physical Therapy Program."

Cynthia Goodwin, OTD (clinical doctorate), Chatham University,

Dec. 14, 2007. Dissertation: "Online Learning Guide for a Weekend Entry Level MOT Program."

Cheri Hampton-Farmer, Ph.D., Communication Studies, Bowling Green State University. Dissertation: "Creation and Adaptation of Norms in a Tire-Mold Manufacturing Organization."

Sharon Walsh, DSc, Neurology, Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions. Dissertation: "The Effect of Ice Skating Versus Overground Walking on the Lower Extremity SEMG Activation and Energy Expenditure Index of Children with Cerebral Palsy."

UF CONTRIBUTES TO COATS FOR CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

The University of Findlay Coats for Christmas collection drive was co-sponsored by Alpha Sigma Phi, Physical Therapy Organization and Campus Compact. A total of 93 coats, 25 hats and 52 pairs of gloves were donated by the UF campus community. A total of \$202 also was donated by the UF campus community. The monetary dona-

tion was used to buy 54 hats and 100 pairs of gloves.

Students from Alpha Sigma Phi, cheerleading, Physical Therapy Organization and Student Occupational Therapy Association volunteered throughout the event to distribute more than 1,900 coats, hats and gloves to people in our community.

FYI is published by the Office of Public Information.

Send story ideas to Brianna Patterson, public relations officer, at pattersonb@findlay.edu or call 419-434-4345.

All ideas are welcome. Advance notices of good photo opportunities also are welcome.

Read FYI online at www.findlay.edu using KEYWORD: FYI.

300 TOYS COLLECTED FOR LOCAL CHILDREN

On Thursday, Dec. 6, The University of Findlay hosted a Toys for Tots Christmas party in the Alumni Memorial Union (AMU) on the UF campus.

As a host site for the sixth year in a row, UF collected 300 toys and \$121.33 for children in Hancock County. Toy collection began Nov. 26.

Christmas party guests enjoyed cookies and hot chocolate as donations were dropped off. The event also included a display of nearly 30

Christmas trees decorated by UF student organizations and the opportunity to have a photo taken with Santa's helper dog, Asha.

The University of Findlay's Toys for Tots program is co-sponsored by The University of Findlay offices of Student Activities, Commuter Student Services, Safety and Security, as well as the UF chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America and the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.

One of the goals of the Toys for Tots program, sponsored by The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, is to collect toys for children who may not otherwise have Christmas gifts. All toy and cash donations made to toy collection sites in Hancock County will stay in the county and go towards the donation or purchase of the 9,000 toys needed for the 2,400 children who have requested assistance this year.

DISTINGUISHED ASSOCIATES NAMED AT APPLAUSE!

Glenn '42 and Helen Stout and the Mazza Enthusiasts (ME) were honored Dec. 11 at the University's annual Applause! recognition reception. Eldon Beery, Mrs. Stout's brother, accepted the award for Mr. and Mrs. Stout, who were unable to attend. Beery talked about his family's long history with the University.

Student Mikaela Umbs, principal harpist for the UF Symphonic Band, provided music during the reception. Dr. Marie Louden-Hanes, dean of undergraduate education, welcomed those in attendance. An invocation was offered by Dr. C. Darrell Prichard, trustee. Dr. DeBow Freed, president of UF, ended the reception with closing remarks.

Originally from Fostoria, Ohio, Glenn Stout is a 1942 graduate of Findlay College, and in 1973, was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science degree from Findlay College. Throughout his career, Glenn was an international expert in water resource management and conservation. Glenn was also one of the two first Distinguished Alumni in 1962. Helen attended Findlay College business school for two years. She left school when Glenn moved to Chicago in the spring of 1942. She remained in Findlay to work until they married in November of 1942, at which time she also moved to Chicago.

Today, Glenn and Helen actively volunteer for many organizations in the Champaign, Ill., community. In addition to volunteer activities, Glenn and Helen enjoy traveling, having visited 55 different countries. In addition to their support of civic and religious organizations in Champaign, Glenn and Helen are active, engaged and supportive members of The University of Findlay Alumni Association. Hosting alumni gatherings at their home in Champaign, they serve the University faithfully by spreading their contagious enthusiasm to many.



Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Beery, left, accept the honor for Glenn '42 and Helen Stout who were unable to attend. Also pictured: Charlie Shepard, director of development, and Dr. DeBow Freed, president of UF.



Mrs. Barbara Meyers, a member of the Mazza Enthusiasts, accepts a token of appreciation from Dr. Freed during the reception.

They are committed to providing educational opportunities to young people and have provided scholarship assistance to 18 deserving young men and women pursuing their academic endeavors at The University of Findlay. In 1994, Glenn and Helen created an endowment fund to provide for the upkeep and maintenance of the Glenn and Helen Stout Alumni House, located on North Cory Street.

Earlier this year, Glenn and Helen celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary with a family gathering on the coast in Delaware. In addition to their children, the couple has five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. They have extended a legacy of thoughtfulness and concern for young people through their support of The University of Findlay.

The Mazza Enthusiasts, founded in 1991, is a volunteer organization for

the Mazza Museum of International Art from Picture Books, dedicated to the promotion of literacy and to support and nurture a lifelong appreciation of the arts in literature. The Mazza Enthusiasts (ME) help to advance the Museum's mission in many ways.

The ME provide a vital service to the museum by organizing and managing year-long docent training programs with the assistance of the educational coordinator. Docents pass on their knowledge to more than 5,000 children and adults each year in docent-led tours. Many dedicated hours are devoted by the Mazza Enthusiasts to running the Mazza museum Gift Shop, entailing ordering, organizing displays, sales and overall operations. The profits from the gift shop are used to help support the Museum operations and educational programs, and recently helped fund an expanded retail space in the educational addition to the museum.

The Mazza Enthusiasts hold an annual membership drive, with membership fees and contributions used to fund Museum programs. Currently, there are more than 380 ME members from across the country. An ME exhibit committee provides a traveling art exhibit, SPEAK!, for the promotion of literacy through a nationwide educational program for children and adults.

Through their generosity, volunteerism and commitment to excellence, the Mazza Enthusiasts have helped to ensure that the Mazza Museum will continue as an outstanding educational and enrichment center for untold numbers of children, teachers and visitors for years to come. Their leadership and support are contributing factors in the success Mazza has had and will further enhance the Museum's recognition in the state, the nation and indeed, the world.