

Findlay is 'Best in the Midwest' for 2012

The University of Findlay is one of the best colleges in the Midwest according to the nationally known education services company, The Princeton Review. It is one of 153 institutions The Princeton Review recommends in its "Best in the Midwest" section of its website feature, "2012 Best Colleges: Region by Region," on PrincetonReview.com.

The 153 colleges that The Princeton Review chose for its "Best in the Midwest" list are located in 12 states: Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin. Collectively, the 629 colleges named "regional best(s)" constitute about 25 percent of the nation's 2,500 four-year colleges.

For this project, The Princeton Review asks students attending the schools to rate their own schools on several issues — from the accessibility of their professors to quality of the campus food — and answer questions about themselves, their fellow students and their campus life. Comments from surveyed students are quoted in the school profiles on The Princeton Review site.

The Princeton Review does not rank the 629 colleges in its "2012 Best Colleges: Region by Region" list hierarchically or by region or in various categories.

The Princeton Review, headquartered in Framingham, Mass., with editorial offices in New York

City and test preparation locations across the country and abroad, is not affiliated with Princeton University and it is not a magazine.



Former School Critic to Speak Nov. 10

Jamie Vollmer, an award-winning champion of public education and author of "Schools Cannot Do It Alone," will give a public presentation at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 10, in the Alumni Memorial Union Multipurpose Room. A book signing will follow.

Vollmer may be best known for "The Blueberry Story," which first appeared in Education Week in March of 2002 and has appeared hundreds of times in newspapers and periodicals across North America. The story may be viewed at www.jamievollmer.com/blueberries.html.

Vollmer's presentation will combine statistics, logic and humor to

energize and encourage educators, business leaders and community groups to work together to build successful schools.

A former critic of the public school system, Vollmer became involved with school reform after careers in both law and manufacturing.

Vollmer has spent the last 20 years working with school districts, education associations, foundations and chambers of commerce across the nation to halt the erosion of public trust and build support for America's public schools. His primary goal is to help educators and their allies remove the obstacles to progress and create schools that unfold the

full potential of every child. He is the recipient of the 2010 Learning and Liberty award, presented by the National School Public Relations Association in recognition of his "outstanding efforts to strengthen school/community partnerships."

Vollmer holds a juris doctor degree from The Catholic University in Washington, D.C., and he received a bachelor's degree in political science from Penn State University.

Vollmer, a native of Philadelphia, is married to Jeanne Hecker, and they have three grown children.

Questions about the program may be directed to the College of Education at 419-434-4862.

SAP Training is Value Added for COB

This semester, College of Business faculty members are incorporating SAP (Systems, Applications and Products in Data Processing) training into their undergraduate courses – and increasing graduates' marketability at the same time.

The University was accepted into the SAP University Alliance (UA) Program in April 2011.

According to Maria Gamba, associate professor of business, SAP offers modules applicable to accounting, finance, operations management, supply chain, economics through business intelligence, information systems, customer relations management and human resource management.

SAP is used in more than 50 countries worldwide by a majority of Fortune 500 companies.

Training employees in the enterprise resource planning software

can cost thousands of dollars, but hiring an employee who already knows the basics of SAP can cut down training time dramatically.

Recent graduate Hali Kosanka uses SAP in her job as a financial analyst at Owens Corning, where she also completed an internship. "I rely heavily on many SAP programs to complete my work," she said. "SAP is such a global system that most business students will use it at some point in their careers ..."

In March, the University will host the Ohio chapter of SAP Users Group for an annual conference, and faculty members are actively pursuing working relationships with companies who use SAP.

These mutually beneficial relationships make sure that faculty members know what employers are looking for in UF students, and em-



ployers become aware of what UF students can offer their companies.

Gamba, with help from corporations, other College of Business faculty members and especially Shiv Gupta, D.B.A., professor of marketing and economics, and Lewis Chasalow, Ph.D., assistant professor of business, pursued this initiative "after months of careful planning and deliberation," said Gamba.

College of Business faculty members hope eventually to incorporate SAP into graduate courses, as well.

1 Matters Project Makes a Difference

On Oct. 22, volunteers from the University partnered with the Hancock County Housing Consortium partners and other organizations for an event called 1 Matters, Project Connect at St. Mark's United Methodist Church as part of Make a Difference Day activities.

Though the project began in Toledo, this is Findlay's second year for the event, which is a resource fair for the homeless and underhoused, including those with inadequate housing.

Julie Yingling, director of health services at the Cosiano Health Center, Bethany Mulhern, AmeriCorps Vista volunteer, and Crystal Weitz, Campus Compact coordinator, served on the 1 Matters, Project Connect organizing committee. In addition, the Cosiano Health Center and physician assistant students provided blood pressure screenings, College of Pharmacy students assisted with flu shots, and

UF Habitat for Humanity members and other student volunteers acted as guides to escort guests through the event.

Guests were given free hot lunches and the option of child care during the event. Area non-profits, agencies and businesses provided services such as haircuts, vision screenings and vehicle inspections and acted as free resources for the guests.

"It's so important for non-profits to work together to address these big issues, like homelessness, in our community ...," said Weitz. "Another factor that made this event successful was the range of services offered for our guests and the range of types of people involved. We had high school students, college students, other adults and even senior citizens. There were so many volunteers from different walks of life."

"I think 1 Matters, Project Connect, and things like this, open volunteers' eyes to the fact that the

Findlay-Hancock County area is not immune to social issues ...," said Weitz. "... Volunteers got to interact with the guests on a personal basis, as they were paired with them and got to build a connection and hear the guests' stories."

1 Matters, Project Connect was held in addition to a mobile food pantry coordinated by Mulhern and sponsored by the University for One World, Many Voices Service Day, where 35 international and domestic students worked together to serve the community.

"Events like this encourage students to get out of their comfort zones and communicate with people from different walks of life," said Weitz. "It helps you appreciate what you have and prepares you for a successful future by giving you skills to take with you wherever you go in life."

By Hannah Wurm

Students Celebrate Fall with Pumpkins



The UF Ohio Student Education Association sponsored a pumpkin painting event on Thursday, Oct. 27, in the Gardner Fine Arts Pavilion. Students got very creative with their pumpkin designs! Some of the organization's members are pictured in the photo, above right.



E. Shaffer

TAG Hosts Costume Party for Halloween



The Technology and Gaming Club hosted a Halloween costume party on Thursday, Oct. 27. Zach Heiser, far left, shows off his very creative costume. At left, Saif Khan, dressed as a werewolf, and Michael Ellerbrock, dressed as the Joker, pose for a quick picture. Below, Keaton Hughes, technical support services specialist, shows off his dance moves.



E. Shaffer

Six Sigma Certification Offered as Part of Undergraduate Business Degree

This spring, the College of Business will implement an innovative new option for students: to earn a Six Sigma Green Belt Certification as part of their coursework. This certification is available online at the graduate level and through the undergraduate course, BUAD 440, Quality Management Techniques.

The Six Sigma Green Belt Certification teaches a statistical approach to business problem solving, which can be used to solve problems like inefficiency in the manufacturing industry.

Quentin Skrabec, Ph.D., professor of business, has played a major role in the implementation of this venture. Skrabec is a Six Sigma consultant for the state of Ohio and has taught training programs for the solar industry. He recognizes the benefit of this certification.

“For a company to send an employee for training and certification would cost them about \$3,000,” says Skrabec. “Students who already have this certification are a real

plus to the company in terms of cost and to the student because it gives them an additional advantage in the job marketplace.”

The coursework and preparation for the certification will help students develop and advance their statistic skills and apply them to practical business and manufacturing settings.

“Our business students take statistics and they learn the theory, but it’s a big leap to take that theory and apply it to the process of solving business problems,” says Skrabec. “The Six Sigma Green Belt and coursework make it more practical for the students.”

Students in the undergraduate course also will gain their ISO 9000 auditor certificates, which Skrabec says would normally cost an employer up to \$5,000. Students pursuing the Six Sigma Green Belt or the ISO 9000 have no added cost outside of their regular tuition fees.

Graduate students already have the option to pursue an ISO 9000

certificate, and several students regularly choose this track. Melinda Daugherty, an MBA student with concentrations in accounting and finance, says that the standards she learns from the ISO 9000 track tie back to both her undergraduate and MBA classes.

“Without constantly improving your quality and the processes that aid in this, your customer may become unhappy and take their business to another company,” says Daugherty. “[The ISO certificate] is a great way to prepare for the quality standards you will come across in business.”

Skrabec says the University is among the first 10 percent of schools nationwide to offer these certifications as part of course work and that it is the second university ever to offer it as an online Six Sigma Green Belt option for graduate students.

By Katie Baumgart

‘The Best Christmas Pageant Ever’ at UF

The University of Findlay will present “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever” at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 9, through Friday, Nov. 11, and at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 13. There is no public performance on Saturday, Nov. 12.

Tickets for the family-friendly performance are \$5 for general admission and \$3 for seniors and students. Tickets for UF faculty, staff and students are free. Contact the Box Office at 419-434-5335.

Cast members include Cameron Lightfoot, Maranda Knepp, Aggie Sturgess, Blake Hamlin and others. The Herdman family will be portrayed by Daniel Ross, Chloe Gruber, Tim Sherman, Jeremy Gobrogge, Lily Rutledge and Kennedy Garmong. The cast includes children, ages 5-12, from the local community. Heather Williams, Ph.D., is the director.

“The Best Christmas Pageant Ever” is based on the book by Bar-

bara Robinson. It is the story of six siblings, the Herdman kids, who have a less-than-desirable reputation in their small town. After hearing that snacks are served in church, they show up and are given roles in the annual Christmas pageant.

For more information, contact Williams, assistant professor of theatre, at williamsh@findlay.edu or 419-434-4562.

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.

If you know someone who has done something “worth noting,” on campus or within the community, send the information to pattersonb@findlay.edu.