

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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

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KOEPKE NAMED DEAN OF COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Dr. Andrea Wilke Koepke is the new dean of the College of Health Professions at The University of Findlay, effective July 1.

Since 2000, Koepke was the dean of the School of Nursing at Anderson University in Indiana, where she also was a tenured professor. Koepke began her academic career as a faculty member at Anderson in 1976.



Dr. Andrea Wilke Koepke

Koepke is an experienced health professions administrator and has initiated B.S.N., M.S.N. and related degree completion programs in a number of delivery formats. She is dedicated to community health care and has fostered several international exchange and service learning activities.

At Anderson, she oversaw all academic assessment activities and was coordinat-

ing their institutional self-study for continuing accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). She has served as an accreditation evaluator for the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education since 1998, as well as a consultant evaluator for institutional reviews with HLC since 2004.

Koepke has a D.N.S. from Indiana University, and both an M.A. and B.S.N. from Ball State University.

She resides with her husband, Ron. They have two grown children.

SPEAK! EXHIBIT HIGHLIGHTS CANINE COMPANIONS

SPEAK!, a collection of 33 works of art from the children's book by the same name, edited by Michael J. Rosen, will be on display in the Dudley and Mary Marks Lea Gallery at The University of Findlay through Aug. 8.

The Lea Gallery, located in the Virginia B. Gardner Fine Arts Pavilion on the UF campus, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. Additional times are available by contacting Jeff Salisbury, gallery director, at jsalisbury@findlay.edu.

The book version of SPEAK! was created to benefit the Mazza Museum of International Art from Picture Books at the University. Contemporary chil-

dren's book illustrators worked together to create "SPEAK! Children's Book Illustrators Brag About Their Dogs." Each illustrator created a one-page image of his or her favorite canine, accompanied by a short story or poem. There are more than 30,000 copies of the book in print. The SPEAK! exhibit contains 22 of the original works of art that appear in the book.

An exhibition that lends itself to family fun, SPEAK! includes whimsical dog portraits, lovingly depicted by an impressive list of artists. The result is a serendipitous mélange of poignant, funny and sometimes emotion-provoking images of the relationship between human and canine.



Artwork by Tim Bowers

BUSINESS RESEARCH CLASS A MODEL FOR OTHER INSTITUTIONS

In 2007, three UF students in a business research class taught by S. Chris Ward, Ed.D., assistant professor of business, were invited to be the only student presenters at Biz Day at the Capitol (www.ohiobizday.org) small business expo in Columbus, Ohio, hosted by the Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) of Ohio.

The business research class is taught by both Ward and Dan Yates, Ph.D., associate professor of business, in alternating semesters since fall 2006.

At the expo, the business majors talked about their real-world experience working with a local small business as part of the course. They helped the business owners develop ideas to improve and grow the business. Other teams in the same research class did the same with different local small business owners. Many of the business owners implemented the recommendations and suggestions of the students.

Members of the Ohio SBDC at the Toledo Regional Chamber of

Commerce heard the presentation and were so impressed with the partnership between UF and the SBDC that the group wants to duplicate the program. In late June, Ward, Yates and SBDC adviser Craig Brown shared best practices of the program at a presentation in Toledo.

This fall, Ward and Yates anticipate working with faculty and students at the University of Toledo to implement a similar program into UT's business curriculum.

UF'S READING AND LITERACY CENTER USED FOR TRAINING

The University's Reading and Literacy Center, located in the Davis Street building, will soon be seen in 200 Ohio schools, via a training video produced by WBGU, a public television station based in Bowling Green, Ohio.

The training video will help teachers, parents and volunteers learn to tutor struggling readers. Funding for the project, which has a working title of "Literacy: A Program for Reading Tutors," is from a grant awarded to WBGU.

On July 7, a film crew set up cameras, lights and equipment and filmed Penny Soboleski, assistant professor of education, tutoring students. Soboleski worked with both a kindergartener and a second grader, using different intervention strategies with each.

Soboleski became involved with the project through her collaboration with

Dr. Cynthia Bertelsen at Bowling Green State University, who oversees the Martha Gesling Weber Reading Center. Soboleski was contacted by Bertelsen because UF offers reading clinics during the summer, making Findlay's campus an obvious choice for filming since students were already available.

UF's Reading and Literacy Center is used as a teaching tool in conjunction with an Assessment and Diagnosis of Reading Difficulties course for both undergraduate and graduate students. Students in the classes assess



A film crew from WBGU films Penny Soboleski working on reading skills with a young student. The segment will be included in a training video for reading tutors. Photo credit: Kevin Collert

reading levels and identify an area for each reader to receive intervention and improve his or her reading skills.

MAZZA STUDY TOUR TAKES BOOK ENTHUSIASTS TO ARIZONA

This summer's Mazza Museum Study Tour took 35 people, including museum docents, librarians, teachers and Mazza Enthusiasts, to Arizona. The group visited 15 artists and authors in their homes and studios in the cities of Phoenix, Tucson and Flagstaff.

Ben Sapp, museum director, Jerry Mallett, Ed.D., museum curator, and Terry Olthouse, museum education coordinator, traveled with the study tour.

For Sapp, the trip provided the opportunity to meet many of the artists for the first time. "Getting to know

them and see how they got started in the children's book world is always memorable," he said. "The learning and fun time together with the participants also makes these trips so very special."

Olthouse mentioned learning about the Native American culture as one of the highlights of the trip. They met four Native American artists, and even tasted fry bread, a traditional food developed by the Navajo, while enjoying a view of horses and mountains. But, she said, "The most memorable part was learning about the forced

boarding schools that the Native Americans attended. We saw exhibits and heard stories, but two of the artists – Shonto Begay and Irving Toddy – gave us first-hand accounts about their difficult experiences in a boarding school and talked about how it shaped their lives."

To prepare for the study tour and learn about the artists they would be visiting, participants attended several class sessions at the Mazza Museum.

SUMMER CAMPS BRING SMILES TO CAMPUS



Photo credit: Mike Blinn



Photo credit: Mike Blinn



Photo credit: Anne Risser Lee



Photo credit: Anne Risser Lee

Clockwise from upper left: A camper grooms her horse and several young equestrians get their horses ready to ride during English equestrian camp. Girls' soccer players take a break from their game for some fun on the ice. Boys' basketball players get in shape with sprints in the gymnasium.

SUMMER MOVIES

The Office of Student Activities and Commuter Student Services invites faculty, staff and students to enjoy a movie night on campus this summer. All movies begin at 8 p.m.

Monday, July 14, "U.S. Marshals," Old Main, Ritz Auditorium

Tuesday, Aug. 12, "French Kiss," AMU, Endly Room



Steven Rackley, athletic director, DeBow Freed, Ph.D., president of UF, and Micheal Anders, Ph.D., director of the music program, accept a check for \$47,665 to fund scholarships for students in athletics and music. The funds were raised at the annual Oiler Golf Outing. Photo credit: Anne Risser Lee

PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS STUDY HUMAN INTUITION

Can you trust your gut feelings? Are snap judgments reliable? John Leach, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology, and several students are investigating the function of human intuition. "Everybody knows what it is, but they don't know how it works," he commented.

One school of thought postulates that people can use very small bits of information, termed "thin slices," to make accurate decisions. In an experiment done at Harvard, students were shown 30-second videos of professors teaching and were asked to make judgments as to how effective the professors were. Their assessments were compared with the course evaluations by actual students of the professors. Surprisingly, there was a very high correlation between the two.

A new psychology lab in Myers Hall, equipped with technology and an observation room with one-way mirror, is providing a setting for faculty and student research. For example, Leach, four undergraduate students and one graduate student are pursuing a study inspired by the Harvard research. They decided to turn the study around to see if people can judge how well a student performs academically based on a 30-second snippet of silent video.

In a pilot test conducted during spring semester, nine students were videotaped through the one-way mirror while they watched a taped lecture and took notes. Then, a class of 24 students was asked to rate the students on various aspects, such as how dedicated they were, would they work well in a group project setting and last, to guess each student's GPA. Comparing the students' actual GPAs with the predicted

results from the people watching the videos nearly matched the correlation found in the Harvard research.

Leach has plans to expand the experiment during fall semester with 45 new video clips of students taking notes shown to a greater number of people to evaluate. If the pilot test is a good predictor, the larger study should produce roughly the same correlation of accuracy. Furthermore, he wants to have professors view the 30-second video clips and make their own assessments as to each student's GPA. "My gut feeling right now, and it's all about intuition and gut feelings, is that the professors probably won't do as well as the students," he laughed.

Leach said that intuition is likely the result of a person subconsciously attending to multiple cues of information, which are simultaneously processed in the brain. "While that is going on, you're not consciously aware of it, you just get the end result feeling," he explained.

The mechanism of intuition is still being debated by the academic community. The standard social sciences model, called a "behavioral perspective," purports that "we learn to respond to situations, and we learn through our exposure to the environment," Leach stated. A new, biological, evolutionary-based way of looking at human behavior theorizes that people have an inherited, instinctual survival mechanism that allows them to make very rapid decisions based on very little information.

Leach, who for his doctoral dissertation compared analytical versus intuitive judgments, is looking forward to seeing the results of the study. If the



John Leach, Ph.D., is leading a study of human intuition on campus. Photo credit: Anne Risser Lee

students do well in the experiment and the professors don't, then it would indicate intuition is most likely a biologically based mechanism, he said. If the professors do better than the students, then experience is predominantly influencing decision-making. "How intuition seems to work, is the more information that you have, the less you rely on your intuitive systems of judgment. You become more analytical," he noted.

The availability of the psychology research lab is providing an invaluable experience for the students involved in conducting this study. "Learning how to conduct research is a highly analytical endeavor. I really believe that to understand research, you have to do it," Leach asserted. "You learn by doing a lot better than just reading what somebody else did."

By Charlene Hankinson

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