

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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

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UF SCHOOL OF PHARMACY INVOLVED IN PATIENT SAFETY STUDY

Medication errors are surprisingly common and costly, which makes patient safety a growing area of concern for the healthcare industry. The topic has been under the microscope at the federal level due to the continually rising cost of healthcare.

UF's School of Pharmacy recently became involved in a project that involves research into how physicians and pharmacists can work together to reduce medication errors. Marc Sweeney, R.Ph., M.Div., Pharm.D., UF's chair and associate professor of

pharmacy practice, is part of a team that was awarded a \$133,619 grant to research the topic.

The Ohio Medical Quality Foundation approved the grant for a project titled "Partners in Technology to Improve Patient Safety – Phase III" to Ohio University, The University of Findlay's School of Pharmacy, the Ohio Pharmacists Association and the Ohio Osteopathic Association. The grant money primarily will be used to purchase and install electronic prescribing (e-script) software at study sites, pay

travel expenses for team members, and pay stipends for data analysis and collection by faculty and student assistants.

As co-principal investigator, Sweeney will work with other experts in the area to evaluate the role of technology as it relates to patient safety and look at the effectiveness of electronically prescribing medications. Other UF faculty and students also will participate in the project by helping with data collection and analysis. According to Sweeney, students *See Pharmacy, Page 2*

LOCAL CHILDREN EXPERIENCE JAPANESE CULTURE WITH UF STUDENTS



Graduate student Kanako Aya, TESOL major, Mihoko Tamesada, IELP, and graduate student Aya Watanabe, TESOL major, taught elementary students some words from the Japanese language.

Second, third and fourth graders from Van Buren and McComb elementary schools had the opportunity to learn about the Japanese culture from UF students on Nov. 17 and 20. Funded by a grant from the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership, the students' visits were part of a project titled "Connecting Japan with Hancock County, Ohio."

Earlier this year, The University of Findlay's Japanese program was awarded the \$5,000 grant to launch the new outreach project. The program aims to integrate Japanese cul-

ture into the elementary school curriculum of rural northwest Ohio.

Of the 17 students who traveled to Van Buren Elementary School, five are currently studying Japanese at UF. The other 12 students are Japanese students enrolled at the University. In addition to the college students, eight Japanese community members assisted with the activities.

"The visit was a wonderful experience," said sophomore Laura Maurer, who is majoring in Japanese and TESOL. "The children that we talked to were so excited to learn about Japan. What I enjoyed most about the experi-

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SCHOOL OF PHARMACY, CONT.

will be chosen to help with the project based on the extent of pharmacy practice and interest in patient safety.

Beginning in January, physicians' offices and pharmacies in Athens, Ohio, will voluntarily participate in the study. The research team hopes that electronic prescribing will eliminate common problems with handwritten prescriptions, such as legibility issues with bad handwriting and unclear faxes and decreased productivity from phone calls to and from pharmacies receiving the prescriptions.

Another benefit of electronic prescribing is that the software used for the program screens a patient's drug history before the patient, and the pre-

scription, even leave the physician's office. The software checks the patient's medical record to make sure that the new prescription will not interfere with other medications taken by the patient. Once the prescription has been reviewed and no problems are found, the prescription is electronically sent to the pharmacy chosen by the patient where the medication should be ready when the patient arrives.

Phase I of the program began in 2002. Team members spent one 12-month period gathering information to find out what elements of an e-script software package are most important to physicians and pharmacists. During Phase II, the team members studied the

way electronic prescribing impacted the physicians who volunteered to participate in the study.

At the conclusion of Phase III, the study team has hypothesized that, among other positive outcomes, electronic prescribing will improve patient satisfaction and increase patient confidence.



Marc Sweeney, R.Ph., Pharm.D., is co-principal investigator for a team studying patient safety.

CHILDREN EXPERIENCE JAPANESE CULTURE, CONT.



ence was eating lunch with the children. We got to sit down at the small tables and eat the same school lunch while being bombarded with questions and curious stares. It was inspiring to see just how curious they were about the

Japanese language and culture. It really made me want to tell them more."

A scrapbook exchange with schools in Japan and Japanese home visits by McComb and Van Buren teachers also were part of the project. In addition, some instructional materials will be purchased with a portion of the grant money.

A group of elementary school students at Van Buren Elementary School listened intently as graduate student Aya Watanabe, TESOL major, shared information about the Japanese culture.

CAMPUS BUSTLES WITH HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

The Christmas spirit is everywhere you look on the UF campus. Several groups and organizations have hosted Christmas parties, held spirited contests and helped others to make sure everyone has a merry Christmas.

As a host site for the second year in a row, UF hosted a **Toys for Tots** Christmas party in the Alumni Memorial Union (AMU) Dec. 7. Partygoers dropped off new, unwrapped toys to help UF reach its goal of 300 toys. Radio station 107.7 FM, The Fox,

conducted a live remote amidst other activities such as raffle drawings and photos with Santa's helper dog, Asha. Toys will continue to be collected through Dec. 15 for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve's annual Christmas project.

Sponsored by the Hospitality Management Club, **Christmas on Campus** was held Dec. 3. UF students assisted 62 elementary school students from Jacobs, Washington and Lincoln elementary schools to decorate cookies and make three reindeer-inspired crafts.

All children received a gift from Santa and participated in a story reading and theatre performance.

Nov. 27 through Dec. 1, the University participated in the community-wide **Coats for Christmas** campaign. UF students, faculty and staff donated 102 coats, 23 hats and 53 pairs of gloves to the effort. Coats were taken to City Dry Cleaning and Laundry Co. where they were cleaned at no cost. All items will be distributed to community members Dec. 9-10 *See Campus, page 3*

CAMPUS, CONT.

at Washington Intermediate School in Findlay.

The Public Relations Student Society of America held the sixth annual **Deck the Trees** event Nov. 30 in the AMU. Twenty-eight student organizations decorated Christmas trees based on the theme “Every Time a Bell Rings, an Angel Gets Its Wings.”

Cash prizes were given to the winners: Best of Show and People’s Choice, **Technology and Gaming Club**; Best Representation of Theme, **Pre-Vet Club**; Most Creative, **Horse Club**.

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Photo credit: Yekaterina Kontar, Junior

Left, Santa, sometimes known as John Wolper, listened to an area elementary student’s Christmas gift wish at Christmas on Campus. Below, members of the Marketing Club decorated their Deck the Trees entry.



Left, graduating students filled out an online survey at the Student Office of Advocacy and Retention table during Senior Salute. This was the first year that students could give their feedback electronically during Senior Salute.



Santa celebrated with the Technology and Gaming Club as they won both the Best of Show and People’s Choice awards at PRSSA’s Deck the Trees. Pictured: Scott Trimmer, club adviser, and students Craig Hermiller, Matt Tjahur, Bethany Tjolsen and Kimberly Pifher.



Above, members of the Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble performed in “Christmas in the Heartland.” The concert, performed Dec. 3, featured popular holiday songs. Senior Kristen Twedt was the featured student violin soloist. Photo credit: Yekaterina Kontar, Junior



Left, senior hospitality management major Jon Barney checked in on the kitchen staff during the Village Cafe’s final lunch of the semester Nov. 28.

FOX SOCIETY HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

The University of Findlay's Charles T. Fox Society held its annual meeting on Sunday, Dec. 3.

Ann Brossia, development officer, welcomed the group.

Remarks followed by Jack Taylor, professor of music and director of bands; Marie Loudon-Hanes, Ph.D., dean of undergraduate education; Dennis Stevens, Ph.D., dean of the College of Liberal Arts; and DeBow Freed, Ph.D., UF president.

Each year, the society plants a tree on campus to symbolize the group's role in "planting seeds" for the future of the University. This year, a tree was planted on the southeast corner of Old Main.



Edwin L. Heminger, C.T. Fox Society member, helped plant a tree to symbolize the future growth of the University with UF president Dr. DeBow Freed. Photo credit: Dave Ferguson, development.

Dr. Charles T. Fox, first dean of Findlay College and twice acting president who also served in the roles of faculty member, teacher and pastor,

touched the lives of generations of students and faculty throughout the first half century of the school's existence. The Charles T. Fox Society was established in 1982 to recognize and honor, individuals who continue Fox's tradition of service by making provisions to assist future generations of UF students and faculty through deferred gifts. Deferred gifts may be in the form of bequests, life insurance policies, trusts, annuities, life estates and retirement plans.

COMMENCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Baccalaureate Service, Saturday, Dec. 9, at 10:30 a.m., Ritz Auditorium, Old Main.

Commencement Brunch, Saturday, Dec. 9, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Alumni Memorial Union.

Commencement Ceremony, Saturday, Dec. 9, at 2 p.m., Koehler Complex.

Arch Ceremony, Saturday, Dec. 9, at approximately 3:30 p.m. immediately following commencement, Griffith Memorial Arch.

PRE-VET STUDENTS RAISE MONEY IN MEMORY OF KLEIN

Steven J. Klein, a 1995 graduate of The University of Findlay's pre-veterinary medicine and biology programs, lost his life to cancer in 2004 but continues to be remembered on campus. Students in UF's Pre-Vet Club recently raised \$1,500 to contribute to the Steven J. Klein '95 Memorial Pre-Veterinary Scholarship Endowment Fund, established in Klein's memory by the pre-veterinary medicine program, the Pre-Vet Club, alumni, family and friends.

The students' gift, raised primarily through working at Cedar Point amusement park during HalloWeekends, brought the fund total to more than \$10,000. With the addition of the club's gift, the fund is now endowed, and the first award will be made for the 2007-2008 school year. Pre-Vet Club members have raised more than \$3,000 to endow the scholarship fund.

"It was rewarding to be able to help other students and also to have done

something in Steve's memory," said senior Nicole Milligan, Pre-Vet Club president. "Our success in finishing the endowment has made Steve's family very happy, and that really means a lot to the club."

According to Linda Peck, D.V.M., Pre-Vet Club adviser and director of pre-veterinary studies, the students have worked hard to endow the fund in memory of Klein. "I'm very proud of what they have done," she said.

Klein loved animals and wanted to be a veterinarian for as long as his family can remember. At the age of 14, he developed an inoperable brain tumor, which radiation treatments appeared to successfully treat. Klein graduated from Fairmont High School in Kettering, Ohio, and completed his bachelor's degree at UF. In the fall of 1995, he began classes at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

In early 1996, his symptoms returned. The tumor eventually affected



Steven J. Klein, '95

his short-term memory, hearing and vision, forcing him to withdraw from OSU and give up his dream of becoming a veterinarian. Klein, who enjoyed restoring cars, working on Web sites and woodworking, died in 2004.

Peck was Klein's faculty adviser and remembers "Steve had that twinkle in his eye." Klein's classmates recalled that he always had a smile on his face.