

## Faculty Recognized at Appreciation Dinner

On Feb. 25, more than 100 faculty members joined DeBow Freed, Ph.D., president of the University, in the Alumni Memorial Union for a Faculty Recognition and Appreciation Dinner.

A number of faculty members were recognized. David Foster, associate professor of communication, and Robin Koehler, assistant professor of equine studies, were both honored for 20 years of service at the University.

“I feel so blessed to have these faculty colleagues and to be part of this campus community,” said Foster, who was described as “dedicated and dynamic” by attestor Gary Johnson, Ph.D., dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

Christine Denecker, Ph.D., associate professor of English, received

the Founders’ Academic Excellence Award, while Rick States, director of the Nuclear Medicine Institute, received the Harriette Smith Ritz Service Award.

“There are so many wonderful people I teach and work with every day that inspire me,” said Denecker.

The Elizabeth S. Gupta Award for Excellence in Teaching Fine Arts was awarded to Diane Kontar, Ph.D., assistant professor of art history and the Shiv Kumar Gupta



*Faculty honorees: John Malacos, Sharon Milligan, David Foster, Michael Edelbrock, Kim Forget and Christine Denecker*

A. Rissler Lee

Award for Excellence in Teaching Business was given to Dan Yates, Ph.D., assistant professor of business.

Kim Forget, Ph.D., assistant professor in the College of Education

*See FACULTY, page 2*

## Students Rebuild Homes in Mississippi

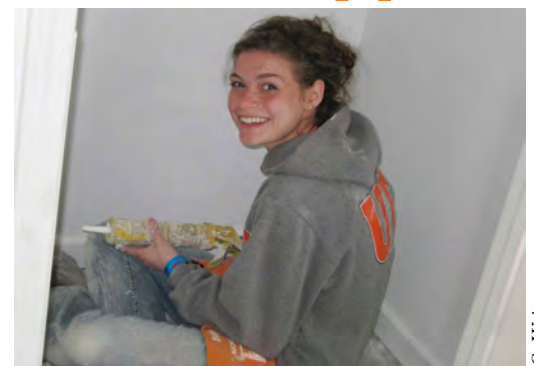
During spring break, Feb. 27-March 7, 31 UF representatives traveled to Bay St. Louis, Miss., to help the local Habitat for Humanity affiliate there build three new homes.

The group included 27 students, several faculty and staff chaperones and the construction manager for the Findlay-Hancock County Habitat affiliate, Bryan Courtney.

Monday through Friday, the group helped with framing, priming, painting and installing trim – among other projects – at three new homes, all of which were at different phases of completion.

“The Habitat for Humanity Alternative Spring Break trip is one of the most amazing experiences of my life,” said Mike Pesato, UF Habitat for Humanity campus chapter public relations chair. “You leave the trip feeling like you had a huge impact on another life, and that you bonded so closely with a group of people that you could call them family!”

Each evening, students participated in student-led reflection. Officers from the campus Habitat for Humanity chapter developed



*Jessica Burkett uses a caulk gun while working on a new house in Bay St. Louis, Miss.*

C. Weitz

the evening activities. One evening, students were asked to answer the

*See STUDENTS, page 2*

# Former Professional Athlete Rob Dixon Will Be Guest Speaker March 16

Youth advocate and former professional athlete Rob Dixon will speak about “Closing the Academic Achievement Gap: Youth Empowerment and Self-Esteem” at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 16, in Winebrenner Theological Seminary. Dixon’s visit is sponsored by the College of Education.

Dixon became an educator and community activist more than 25 years ago. In 1993, he founded the educational nonprofit organization

Project RISE (Respect, Integrity and Success through Education).

The experimental pilot program focused on providing academic remediation in mathematics, language arts, multicultural history and science to sixth and eighth grade academically at-risk African American males in Boston public schools. Project RISE has achieved impressive results, which include a 96-percent high school graduation rate and students attending colleges.

Dixon recently was named an All-Star Among Us by People magazine and Major League Baseball (MLB) for his commitment to educating America’s at-risk youth.

President Obama, as well as Presidents George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George Bush and Jimmy Carter recognized Dixon at the 2009 MLB All-Star Game before an international television audience.

# Essinger Featured in UF Writers Series

Cathryn Essinger will read from her recently published book, “What I Know About Innocence,” published by Main Street Rag Press (2009), at 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 24, in Winebrenner Theological Seminary, Room 254.

Essinger’s reading is part of the University’s Spring Writers Series.

She and David Essinger, assistant professor of English, also will discuss the creation of the DVD that accompanies her book. A reception and book signing will follow.

The reading and reception are free and open to students, faculty, staff and community members and sponsored by the English depart-

ment, Convocations and the College of Liberal Arts.

Cathryn Essinger is the author of three books of poetry and has received several awards.

Essinger is a professor of English at Edison Community College in Piqua, Ohio.

# Faculty Recognized at Appreciation Dinner

*Continued from page 1*

was the recipient of the James D. and Judith L. Phillip Award of Excellence in the College of Education.

The College of Health Professions Faculty Excellence Award was given to Sharon Milligan, associate professor of physical education.

Michael Edelbrock, Ph.D., associate professor of biology and envi-

ronmental, safety and health management was honored as Faculty Chair in the College of Sciences.

John Malacos, Ph.D., chair of the department of psychology, received both the David L. Allen Award for Teaching and the Richard E. Wilkin Chair in College of Liberal Arts. Malacos credited his colleagues for his success and growth.

“I dedicate this ... to the other faculty members whom I owe this to,” said Malacos. “Who I am today is a combination of all of you. I’ve been blessed.”

*By Hannah Wurm, communication major, Bucyrus, Ohio*

# Students Rebuild Homes in Mississippi

*Continued from page 1*

question “What does it mean to be a good volunteer?” The students worked in groups to answer the question, then gathered together for discussion and to define the ‘ultimate’ volunteer.

“Reflection is a good way to get students thinking about service and learning,” said Crystal Weitz,

chapter adviser. “It’s all student-led, so the students get involved with leading other students.”

According to Weitz, Bay St. Louis was chosen as a destination for the alternative spring break because students wanted to help with continuing Hurricane Katrina recovery. UF students traveled to Biloxi, Miss., two years ago during

spring break and knew more help still was needed; Bay St. Louis is approximately 30 miles from Biloxi.

Students interested in volunteering for Habitat for Humanity may contact Chelsey Anglin, chapter president, at [anglina@findlay.edu](mailto:anglina@findlay.edu), or Weitz at 419-434-6671.

## Phi Kappa Phi Inducts First Members



The charter class of the honor society Phi Kappa Phi Chapter 310 poses for a photo in Ritz Auditorium following an induction ceremony Feb. 25.



Mike Shaffer, Jeannine Grimm, Ron Tulley and Diane Kontar mingle in Old Main during a reception immediately following the induction ceremony.

A. Risser-Lee

## 'We Are PR' Highlights a Growing Profession



Jeanette Drake, Ph.D., PRSSA adviser, and student Bharat Mikwah listen to lively discussion at the 'We Are PR' event, celebrating the 10th year of UF's PRSSA chapter.



Heather Snyman, UF PRSSA chapter vice president, talks with Kelly Hancock, UF alumna and public relations professional.

R. Cross

## Second Life Will be Topic of Presentation

The University will host "The Second Life of a Digital Classroom" with guest speaker Anthony Fontana at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 17, in the Edward and Joyce Brewer Center for Health Sciences Brewer Lecture Hall, Room 100.

Fontana is the learning technologies consultant for the Bowling Green State University Office of the Chief Information Officer and the co-administrator of the BGSU virtual campus in Second Life.

Since 2007, Fontana has overseen the creation of numerous learning experiences in the virtual world.

In his lecture, "The Second Life of a Digital Classroom," he will discuss the ways in which emerging multi-user virtual environments such as Second Life are capable of providing engaging interactive educational experiences for students living in the information-overload age. Using specific examples, Fontana will point to the

most effective ways to introduce, develop and maintain an active community invested in the success of this future resource.

Fontana's lecture is part of the UF College of Sciences Lecture Series on technology and teaching college students at the University. The series is coordinated by the 2009-2010 COS faculty chair, Mary Jo Geise, chair and associate professor of computer science.

# Students Excel in Japanese Language

Three students from Findlay were selected as finalists for the Japan-American Society of Central Ohio's (JASCO) Japanese Language Speech Contest at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. They competed against seven other finalists from universities in Ohio on Saturday, March 6.

According to Hiroaki Kawamura, Ph.D., chair of the department of language and culture and associate professor of Japanese, all students of the Japanese program who have studied Japanese for more than one year are strongly encouraged to participate in the speech contest because the process is more important than the result. The experience of writing the speech in Japanese and practicing reading it out loud is beneficial in the learning process.

UF students have been represented in the final competition in each of the last five years.

During the March 6 competition, finalists were required to deliver their memorized speeches in Japanese on a stage in front of an audience. That was followed by a non-rehearsed question-and-answer session with the judges.

Sophomore Japanese major Kimberly Welenc earned second place; senior pre-medicine major Kyle Wright and graduate student Kaitlyn Kerzisnik, who is studying Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, also competed as finalists.

"I was also a finalist in the competition last year," said Welenc.



*Kaitlyn Kerzisnik, Kyle Wright and Kimberly Welenc competed as finalists in a Japanese language speech contest.*

H. Kawamura

"Going through that valuable learning process and gaining experience – rather than focusing on the result of the contest – was a helpful lesson I took away from the competition last year. ... Studying Japanese has been, without a doubt, one of the most thrilling, rewarding and challenging experiences of my life."

# Town and Campus Celebrates 50 Years

The women's service organization Town and Campus, which was formed to benefit students of Findlay, is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

Along with sponsoring numerous service projects, Town and Campus has provided more than \$110,000 in scholarship aid since its inception, and will award another six \$1,000 scholarships for 2010-11.

The organization also recently endowed a scholarship as part of the 125th Endowed Funds Drive and in honor of its 50th anniversary. The 50th anniversary celebration will be held during a spring brunch on April 6. The first recipient of the newly endowed scholarship will be honored, as well as the other six scholarship recipients.

To assist in raising funds for the scholarship, Town and Campus has released three Cat's Meow items. The newest is Old Main on a snowy, wintry night. Also available are replicas of the bell tower and the University mascot, Derrick the Oiler. All are available through the University Bookstore for \$20 each.

Town and Campus was founded on Dec. 12, 1960. In its second year, the group organized a sustaining membership drive, using the funds raised to provide loans and scholarships to deserving students, and took an interest in welcoming the four foreign students then enrolled at the college, a focus



*This Cat's Meow item is available at the UF Bookstore; proceeds fund student scholarships.*

that has continued.

For more information about Town and Campus, please contact president-elect Barbara Eakin Meyers at tyrdteach@aol.com or 419-423-2254.

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.