

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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

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DES BUFORD STUDY ABROAD FUND RECIPIENTS SELECTED

The University of Findlay recently selected the first recipients of the Des Buford Study Abroad Fund. Four students will receive funds to help pay for a portion of their trips to study abroad.

The College of Business, in collaboration with the Office of Intercultural Student Services, selected the following recipients:

- Elizabeth Blosser of North Olmsted, Ohio, who will travel to

India

- Devin Games of Hillsdale, Mich., who will travel to India
- Carla Groves of Willard, Ohio, who will travel to Japan
- Kristen Johnson of Alto, Mich., who will travel to Mexico

Prior to departure, each student will be given half of the total monetary award. Upon return, each student is required to give at least two presentations with the goal of educating others on what they learned. The remaining half of the award

See STUDY ABROAD, page 4



Elizabeth Blosser

Devin Games

Carla Groves

Kristen Johnson

DONOR GAVE UF FACULTY, STAFF UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

A young Japanese maple tree, identified on a plaque as The Giving Tree, was planted May 14 between the Alumni Memorial Union and Old Main in honor of Kohei Suzuki, chairman of the Japanese-based company G.S. Eleteck Inc., the parent corporation of G.S.W. Manufacturing Inc. in Findlay.

Since 1993, Fumiko Harada, Ph.D., professor of Japanese and special assistant to the president, has arranged learning visits to Japan for UF personnel, other local educators and community leaders. Her goal was to develop ties with and understanding of the Japanese culture as more Japanese companies opened plants in Findlay, bringing non-English speaking employees and their families into the community.

When Harada proposed her idea to

local companies in the early '90s and asked for financial support, Chairman Suzuki offered to personally fund the trips.

Suzuki continued to be the primary supporter for the project for 11 years. As other companies became financially stable, they also contributed funds.

As a special adviser to 12 Japanese companies in Findlay, Harada has helped many families adapt to life in Findlay, and has helped many educators and other community members welcome non-English-speaking community members.

Harada, who will retire this year, organized the tree planting ceremony because she and those who have benefited from Suzuki's generosity wanted to express their gratitude to him for making their experiences to Japan possible.

Harada named The Giving Tree



Harada explains the significance of The Giving Tree.

after a book by the same name, written by Shel Silverstein.

SEEM TRAINS THOUSANDS TO RESPOND TO EMERGENCIES

For more than 10 years, the School of Environmental and Emergency Management (SEEM) has applied for and received numerous hazardous materials (hazmat) training grants from the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO). In 2008, SEEM received another award for \$195,720, designated to train volunteer firefighters.

Jeff McGuire, director of operations, and Kevin Smith, environmental, safety and health training program manager, collaborate to submit at least one grant application each year. Money for these grants comes from fines paid by hazmat carriers and shippers.

The primary purpose of the grants is to conduct Emergency Response, Rail Response and more recently approved courses such as National Incident Management System, Intermediate Incident Command System and Advanced Incident Command System training for volunteer firefighters across Ohio.

Because first responders, such as volunteer firefighters, hold full-time jobs in addition to their volunteer duties, SEEM offers training that is structured to meet the varied schedules of these volunteers by offering courses at their home firehouses during convenient times for them, including evenings and weekends. Trainers with vast industry experience teach these volunteers and other public

safety and emergency services personnel the proper techniques for the management of hazmat spills and releases that occur during transportation.

“Volunteer firefighters and other first responders not only save lives during hazardous materials incidents, but they also help protect the environment and keep workers and other individuals safe, as well,” explained Smith.

Under previous PUCO grants administered by SEEM, approximately 5,835 volunteer firefighters have been trained through approximately 372 different classes, during an estimated 530 training days, at 177 different locations across the state of Ohio.

And although SEEM trains many first responders in Ohio, approximately 80 percent of SEEM’s overall training is conducted outside of Findlay at client locations across the country. Trainers have worked with private sector groups in the U.S. and in Canada, Mexico and Puerto Rico. The private sector is a major source of funding for SEEM.

“We’re providing a needed service for the public good, and we strive to offer something a little different than what others can provide,” said McGuire. “Some companies offer canned training programs. We customize our programs and really focus on the hands-on stuff.”

On campus, SEEM was involved with developing UF’s crisis response plan and manages the campus safety and security training.

There are other benefits to having SEEM as part of the University. The school works in cooperation with academics, allowing students who are enrolled in the environmental, safety and occupational health management bachelor’s and environmental management master’s degree programs, along with other interested UF students, to take training certificate courses, making them more marketable when they graduate.

According to McGuire, many of the students who complete a certificate course are able to gain valuable real-world experience during the summer.

SEEM will continue to train individuals around the world, and with some additional funding from federal agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Center for Disease Control, is continuously working to develop new courses and to train the next generation of first responders.

SEEM is a leading consortium partner in the Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium (RDPC). The RDPC, made up of six colleges and universities across the country, is funded by DHS to develop and deliver training to rural first responders across the U.S.

SUMMER CLASSES IN SESSION, NEW STUDENTS ARRIVE

The Summer Pre-Session began May 5 with many students taking a variety of classes through May 30.

International student orientation began May 28. Students from many countries were introduced to campus and faculty members within their areas of study. Some students began studies in the IELP (Intensive English Language Program) to prepare for classes this fall.

The Summer Session will begin June 2 and will end July 25. Summer Weekend College will begin June 13 and will end July 27.

Erin Laverick, right, assistant director of IELP, talks to computer science major Abhinav Sharma about his classes. He traveled from Jalandhar, Punjab, India, to take classes at UF.



MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVED AT UF



Memorial Day was observed a little early at the University. Flags lined campus and Main Street for several blocks through May 23. Sharinda Welton-Peeler, director of student activities and commuter student services, installed the flags, with help from students, to recognize the men and women who serve our country each day.



Dr. DeBow Freed accepts a handshake and a cowboy hat from Stephen Brown, director of the western program. The western equestrian team presented Freed with the gift in thanks for his support during their season.



Lori Colbagoff, director of disability services, talks to two new students during freshman registration May 22. Remaining registration days are June 11 and 20 and Aug. 21.



The landscaping at the occupational therapy house on College Street looks beautiful as student Kevin Cox exits.



M.B.A. student Chris Harben of Tiffin, Ohio, sings the national anthem at the Cincinnati Reds vs. Cleveland Indians game in Cincinnati on May 16. Harben also sang at a UF men's basketball game. Photo credit: Cindy Herman



Kirby Blackley stands at the top of the awards podium at the NCAA Track & Field nationals. Blackley, after being named the NCAA Division II Women's Track Athlete of the Year, took home top honors for both the long jump and the 100-meter hurdles. Photo courtesy of Stephanie Charnigo

UF WELCOMES SUMMER CAMPERS IN JUNE

The Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Conference (HOBY), which is celebrating its 50th year, began the summer camp season on campus May 15. The group aims to provide lifelong leadership development opportunities that empower individuals to achieve their highest potential.

The following groups will be on campus in June:

June 9-12, Women's Basketball Day Camp

June 12-13, Baseball Hitting Camp

June 13-14, Men's Basketball Team Camp Session I

June 14-15, Women's Basketball Team Camp Session I

June 15-20, English Equestrian I

June 15-20, Western Equestrian I

June 16-17, Baseball Pitching & Skills Camp

June 16-17, Men's Basketball Team Camp Session II

June 18-19, Women's Basketball Team Camp Session II

June 18-20, Oiler Football Youth Camp

June 20-22, Hockey Team Ohio

June 20-22, Men's Basketball Team Camp Session III

June 22-27, English Equestrian II

June 22-27, Western Equestrian II

June 24-25, Men's Basketball Team Camp Session IV



A group of high school students works together during the HOBY Leadership Conference.

EQUESTRIAN TEAMS PLACE SECOND AT NATIONALS

The University of Findlay's equestrian teams competed in the 2008 Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) National Competition May 8-10 in Los Angeles, Calif., each earning second place.

The western equestrian team placed second with 26 points, one short of The Ohio State University's team. The English equestrian team finished tied for second with Skidmore College with

18 points. UF's English team was runner-up to the University of Kentucky.

Katie Morehead, a member of the western equestrian team, competed in the second and final class of the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) High Point Western Reining phase and was the second highest in the Rail phase in this class. After all the rides, her score of 141.5 combined with her score in the Rail phase, earned her

National AQHA Western High Point Rider honors. This is the fourth year UF has ridden away with the honor as previous winners include: Jake Bowman (2005), Travis Womer (2006) and Trevor Dare (2007).

STUDY ABROAD FUND RECIPIENTS SELECTED, CONT.

CONTINUED from page 1

will be distributed when the presentations are completed.

To apply for funds, students must:

- Have declared at least one major in business.
- Be a full-time undergraduate student.
- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Have a minimum GPA of 2.75.
- Apply for funds at least two months prior to departure.
- Agree to give at least two presenta-

tions upon return.

According to Almar Walter, M.B.A., director of intercultural student services, the purpose of the award is to enable students to gain experience studying abroad while encouraging those students to share their insight gained with others when they return.

The fund was established in honor of the late Desmond Buford '90, former director of intercultural student services, who died in 2007.



Katie Morehead, UF's fourth consecutive High Point Rider, poses with her mother and coach, Cindy Morehead.