

Committee Asks Campus, Community to Define a UF Graduate Through Survey

“What’s in a UF grad?” is the question that a general education committee at the University will soon be asking students, staff, faculty, alumni and community members in a survey distributed through email.

Developed by committee members, the survey is part of UF’s campaign to re-envision its general education (GE) program. The purpose of the survey is to gather information, opinions and ideas regarding the unique set of knowledge, skills and dispositions that will set apart UF students from other 21st-century learners. In addition to the survey, committee members also will conduct group

discussions, in the form of town hall-style meetings.

The University hopes to achieve a GE program that will meet the needs of external and internal mandates while building a learning climate that best prepares UF’s 21st-century learners to positively impact the professional and personal communities in which they live and serve.

The over-arching question the committee hopes to answer is



Students, staff, faculty, alumni and community members will be asked, “What’s in a UF grad?” in a survey. These students were on campus for the start of the fall semester Aug. 22.

A. Risser Lee

“What should all UF undergraduate students – irrespective of

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New Campaign Launched to Raise Funds

On Aug. 16, as a part of fall 2011 opening sessions, Katherine Fell, Ph.D., UF president, formally launched 3010 – A Gift Supporting Every Student, the annual giving initiative for the 2011-2012 academic year.

3010 represents the number of undergraduate students expected to attend UF this fall, and the goal of the initiative is to inspire 3,010 alumni, parents and friends of the University to make a financial gift to the UF Annual Fund during this academic year.

The program links donors to the impact that their gifts have on

each student’s experiences — small classes with personal attention from faculty, technology-enhanced classrooms, sophisticated laboratory and research equipment, updated residence housing, clubs and service organizations that develop leadership skills and athletic opportunities, whether intramural or intercollegiate.

To help achieve this goal, members of the Board of Trustees have created a matching gift challenge. Through their generosity, new and increased gifts will be matched, doubling the impact of those gifts. 3010 will be the cornerstone of the



University’s annual fund program and will be the focus of UF’s direct mail, phonathon and donor outreach activities. If you are interested in more information about the 3010 initiative, visit www.findlay.edu, KEYWORD: 3010.

Houdeshell Begins 57th Year at Findlay

This academic year, Jim Houdeshell, P.E.D., special assistant to the president and development officer, begins his 57th year as a member of the University's faculty and staff, which ties him with Myrtle Deming for service longevity at Findlay.

Deming, a 1919 graduate, worked at Findlay between 1917-1974, and she "was a wonderful person," said Houdeshell, who gives Deming credit for helping keep the University operating during World War II in the 1940s, which caused hardships across the country.

Houdeshell graduated from Findlay College in 1953 and returned as athletic director in 1955. He also was the head coach of men's basketball, football and baseball, and later coached other teams, as well. Houdeshell took his basketball teams to three national championship tournaments, and he won conference championships in baseball, cross country, track and field and men's basketball.

Houdeshell says he has enjoyed working with so many different people – both faculty and staff members and students – and has enjoyed the "privilege of watching Findlay develop into the University it is today."

"Nearly every program the University has attempted to develop and expand has been successful, begin-

ning with the equestrian program," he said. "That says a lot for the faculty and administration here."

Houdeshell played an active role in the University's expansion of programs and facilities. He was the prime mover in development of a major in health and physical education, and in 1968, he chaired the planning committee for construction of Croy Physical Education Center, which houses the Jim and Mira Houdeshell Court, named for the couple in 2002.

Another major accomplishment was directing the teacher education program in gaining simultaneous accreditation from both the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and maintaining accreditation in Ohio.

Later, he chaired the committee to develop graduate studies in education in 1990, and led the committee that saw the Master of Arts in Education approved by the Ohio Board of Regents and North Central Association, with the first classes offered in 1992.

While working at Findlay, Houdeshell earned both a master of education degree (Bowling Green State University, 1958) and a



A. Rissler Lee

Coach Jim Houdeshell is beginning his 57th year as a faculty or staff member at the University

doctor of physical education degree (Indiana University, 1968).

Houdeshell readily credits his supportive wife, Mira, for helping him achieve his career milestones. Mira, who earned a degree from Findlay in 1978, was understanding about the demands of his coaching job and continuing education, and she was a primary influence in encouraging him to return to his alma mater.

When asked what advice he would give to students and colleagues, Houdeshell said "the key is that you grow. During one's professional life, grow within an organization or move up the ladder in different organizations."

Houdeshell looks forward to seeing additional programs developed at the University, and he hopes to continue working to help the University grow and change.

GE Committee Defines Initiative Goals

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their majors and career aspirations – know or be able to do upon graduation?"

After reviewing feedback from surveys and discussions, an external facilitator or facilitation group will be invited to campus to provide perspective, suggestions and insight.

Goals for the re-envisioning initiative include:

- Making the GE program simpler and more flexible;
- Shifting to an outcomes-driven model; establishing outcomes that link to undergraduate learning goals and are assessable;
- Creating coherence and intentionality in the program;

- Creating pathways through all four years and engaging with majors;
- Considering the needs of transfer students; and
- Considering crediting co-curricular, prior learning, etc.

Findlay Welcomes New, Returning Students



A. Risser Lee

Kay Koch, director, Oiler Success Center, passes out candy to new students during a campus scavenger hunt.



E. Shaffer

A balloon release on Friday, Aug. 19, marked the completion of the Arch Ceremony and symbolized parents "letting go" of their students as they begin college.



E. Shaffer

On Saturday, Aug. 20, students dispersed into the community to complete service projects, including cleaning the Blanchard River.



A. Risser Lee

Kevin Brewton and Elijah Farrakhan model new hats during an all-campus picnic on Sunday, Aug. 21.

Stolick Introduces Power of Play Sept. 1

As the 2011-2012 Richard E. Wilkin Chair of the College of Liberal Arts, Matthew Stolick, Ph.D., associate professor of philosophy, will devote one year of study to the interdisciplinary exploration of a single topic – The Power of Play: Essential to Human Being.

Stolick will introduce his topic during a presentation at 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 1, in the Alumni Memorial Union. He will define play, give several reasons why play is so important and present three major crises in play: the recess crisis, the passive observation crisis and the psychostimulant crisis.

He also will introduce major works in the interdisciplinary field of play studies, suggest a link between a lack of free play and violent

outbursts such as school shootings, present probing questions for audience reflection and incorporation of play and playfulness into their lives, and several final suggestions for seizing and utilizing the power of play in their lives.

Additional events are planned for the academic year, including a presentation by Dr. Jaco J. Hamman, author of "A Play-Full Life: Slowing Down & Seeking Peace" (Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2011) at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27, in Ritz Auditorium in Old Main.

Campus and community members also are welcome to participate in a bi-weekly reading group which will meet from 6-7:30 p.m. on Thursdays beginning Sept. 8 in the AMU Endly Room. The twelve

chapters of "Homo Ludens: A Study of the Play Element in Culture" by Johan Huizinga will provide the structure for this group that will every two weeks have a different UF faculty member lead discussion on play and their discipline.

Stolick believes that unstructured play is important to our quality of life but it is being eliminated from our structured lives. Some of his goals for the year-long project include increasing awareness that play is learning; encouraging unorganized play for children; inspiring a sense of playfulness in the work environment; and inspiring people to commit to living playful lives and careers.

For more information, contact Stolick at stolick@findlay.edu.

Oiler Well Encourages Good Health

With the help of Oiler Well, UF faculty and staff members are improving their health.

More than 500 employees participate in the program, which is open to any adult covered under the University's health insurance plan. As an incentive to participate, the University offers a health insurance premium discount to those who follow the Oiler Well guidelines.

According to Jan Macmann, Oiler Well coordinator, the University population's most prevalent health risks are increased body weight, high blood pressure and

lack of physical activity. All of these risks, however, are decreasing with participation in activities such as a Weight Watchers group that meets on campus, increased fitness activities, such as a walking club, and regular blood pressure monitoring.

Oiler Well screening identified many cases of unknown and untreated high blood pressure or high blood sugar, both of which can be improved with medication and lifestyle changes. Macmann cited an individual who, because of the Oiler Well screening, learned that he has diabetes, hypertension and

elevated cholesterol; he credits participation in Oiler Well with saving his life.

Oiler Well also focuses on preventive health care, says Macmann. Routine colonoscopies identified pre-cancerous polyps in four individuals; if not found, they would eventually have become malignant.

Re-enrollment for Oiler Well is scheduled for Nov. 7-11.

Contact Macmann at macmann@findlay.edu or ext. 5816 with questions.

Student Presents at National Conference

This summer, four students traveled with Sharinda Welton-Peeler, director of student activities and commuter services, to the Association for the Promotion of Campus Activities (APCA) National Student Life Advisor Institute and Student Leadership Conference in New York City.

Sophomore Lauren Brassfield earned the honor of presenting at the conference, and according to Welton-Peeler, the University is the only school to have had a student give a solo presentation. Other schools' students have given group presentations. The majority of presenters are professional motivational speakers.

Welton-Peeler requires every student who is interested in attending the conference to submit a presentation proposal, but it is each student's choice if he or she wants to submit the proposal to APCA for consideration. Three students did submit proposals; two were not accepted because professional presenters were already scheduled

to give similar presentations. Each year, the conference has a different theme and direction, which is taken into consideration by APCA when reviewing proposals for the year.

Brassfield presented "W.W.L.D.," which is an acronym for "What Will Leaders Do?" She talked about what leaders can do to recruit new members to groups, retain existing members and being comfortable as a leader – without being so comfortable that they are unwilling to see themselves objectively and make changes. Brassfield gave each session participant a flashlight, which symbolized a "leader's light," with the University's contact information on it.

While in New York, the students and Welton-Peeler also had the opportunity to spend time with



Sarah Foltz, Hannah Hartsel, Lauren Brassfield and Sara Hill represented the University at the APCA Student Leadership Conference in NYC.

S. Welton-Peeler

UF alumnus Ryan Gravett, who is involved in professional theater. Gravett graduated in 2006 with a theatre production and design major. Gravett arranged for the group to see the Broadway musical "Memphis" and go backstage after the production for autographs and to talk to the cast and crew.

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.