BLUE SKY DREAMS & VISIONS

RETURN OF THE MARYCREST MAVENS

GLAUCOMA’S NANO-SIZED NEMESIS

UD ‘RUNS LIKE BUTTER’ • HAPPY YANKEES FANS
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Cover: Building a cocoon and an arts community with Blue Sky Project. Photo by Andy Snow. See story Page 28.
Change

Wanted to go to new student convocation in RecPlex. Honest. But there was another new student, just down the hill from the chapel, who needed me more.

As President Daniel J. Curran welcomed first-year students and SGA President Jim Saywell told them they’d know they’re Flyers when they spontaneously yell, “Go DU,” to tour groups of prospective students, I sat on a tiny chair in a classroom at Holy Angels School, kindergarten orientation for my 5-year-old, Gus.

He spent it on the playground outside while we adults talked very seriously of matters like curriculum and shoe-tying, bathroom breaks and bad-riding protocols. Behind the parents’ questions was a mixture of anticipation and anxiety. We each balanced them on the scales of our hearts at this moment of letting go.

Our Marianist principles commit us to education for adaptation and change. Change can prompt reflection, as it did for Janet Filips, who came to campus this summer to visit with housemates from College Park and hallmates from Marycrest, some of whom she hadn’t seen since she walked the line at graduation.

Change can also prompt discovery. To keep his Big Sky Project growing, Peter Benkendorf opted to uproot himself, his family and his arts program from Sherman Hall to see what she would feel.

From the move is growing a mutual revelation: what visiting contemporary artists can offer UD and the city of Dayton, and what our insistence on community can offer to usually solitary artists. Both sides have much to gain.

...and our world. Over the last month my wife and I are doing the same, uncovering the hallways of Sherman Hall to see what she would feel.

From this, what can be commended for your solid Catholic and Marianist approach in this and all previous issues of our alumni periodical. My hat’s off to [Tom Columbus]. May your spirit remain with your successor and his staff.

Marianist people and places.

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CONVERSATION PIECES

Rudy’s Roast
FLYER ENTERPRISES

Need a morning jolt as the weather cools? This fall, The Blend coffee shop in bowl. The Blend coffee shop in Dayton University of Dayton established its own menu items: the soy seabird coffee, which extends up and out to protect seated passengers who might otherwise crash face-first into glass walls. Since 2005, Amahl has installed 45,000 units in aircraft worldwide. They are standard equipment on more than 80 percent of new general aviation aircraft, where they have so far saved lives.

Airplane airbags
WWW.ANSAFE.COM

Last fall, the FAA required airlines to protect passengers from crash impacts of up to 5Gs. Bill Hagan ’88, president of Amahl Aviation, developed one solution: the ikey seabird coffee, which extends up and out to protect seated passengers who might otherwise crash face-first into glass walls. Since 2005, Amahl has installed 45,000 units in aircraft worldwide. They are standard equipment on more than 80 percent of new general aviation aircraft, where they have so far saved lives.

Sign of the times
CAMPUS

When the Emperor Wu Di of China visited his cousin the Emperor of Rome in about 69 BC, he brought with him a gift of a ship named “The Emperor’s Tugboat.” It is said that when the Emperor Wu Di of China visited his cousin the Emperor of Rome in about 69 BC, he brought with him a gift of a ship named “The Emperor’s Tugboat.” It is said that

Other lives
STUDENT BOOKSHELVES

UD erected its familiar brown metal “University of Dayton, Established 1850” sign in July at the roadway entrance of the University’s newest campus building, 1700 South Patterson Building, the site of the former world headquarters of NCR. “We plan to move in a careful, thoughtful, yet bold way to convert the property into a landmark for the University of Dayton and the region,” said President Daniel J. Curran.

Kentucky byways
CHARLES LEE MEYERS HIGHWAY

If you find yourself in northern Kentucky exiting I-71 south onto Kentucky Route 17, take a moment to thank Charlie Meyers ’92, a civil engineering graduate. This Commonwealth honored Meyers with the highway naming in July for his 30 years of service in transportation and as a founder of The Point, an agency “committed to securing for all people with mental retardation/developmental disabilities the opportunity to reach their highest potential educationally, vocationally, residentially and socially.”

Mach 1 speeds
U.S. NAVY BLUE ANGLES

Navy pilot Lt. Christian “C.J.” Simonen took high school science teacher Chantal Eileen ‘03 and UD President Daniel J. Curran (above, seated left) on a once-in-a-lifetime ride aboard Blue Angel No. 7, an EA-6B Prowler, during a demonstration flight July 14. The acclaimed flight demonstration squad, in town for Dayton’s annual air show, chose Rose and Curran because of their status as “key influencers” in the community. “You’ve given new meaning to ‘Dayton Flyer,’” a reporter joked with Curran after the flight.

Artistic vitality
DAYTON CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY

This year’s community artist in residence is a whole company of artists: Dayton Contemporary Dance Company. The company will work with students across divisions and at all levels of dance experience to introduce them to the art form and provide mentorship and technical assistance to Flyers who want to glide, bend and otherwise put their bodies in motion as art. Its DCDC company will host an open rehearsal in Bell Theatre Nov. 30, and the company will offer residency activities across campus throughout the academic year.

Peacemaker
KENTUCKY ROUTE 17

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As part of weekend celebrations of the 15th anniversary of the Dayton Peace Accords, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Geraldine Brooks will accept the Dayton Literary Peace Prize Lifetime Achievement Award, which celebrates the power of literature to promote peace, social justice and global understanding. Brooks, who covered the war from Sarajevo, will accept the award Nov. 7. On Nov. 6, diplomats and policy analysts from around the world will convene in Kennedy Union ballroom to discuss Bosnia 15 years after the Dayton Peace Accords formally ended the war there.

CONVERSATION PIECES

Rudy’s Roast, Blue Angels and other signs of the times

“Diving in beach volleyball is mandatory.”
—COBY GANN, SWEN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING MAJOR AND UD CAPTAIN OF SWEN BASKETBALL, WHO PLAYED VOLLEYBALL AT HARRISON UNIVERSE IST YEAR

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“Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 1456.”
—U.S. REP. JERRY WINKER IV ON THE FLOOR OF CONGRESS, AS HE COMMENDED THE UD MEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM ON ITS BIG CHAMPIONSHIP

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How to make 50,000 Yankees fans happy

Mark Pulsfort ’74 overcame the three-year planning and construction of the new Yankee Stadium, now entertaining its second season, with a special interest in keeping the Bronx Bombers fans happy, he’s one of them.

1. Take charge Pulsfort, a lifelong Yankees fan, routinely oversees skyscraper construction. But when Turner’s business unit received the bid proposal for the new Yankee Stadium, Pulsfort advocated for the job, knowing his company could handle the schedule and budget constraints of a project that was still being designed.

2. Coordinate Pulsfort used 3D building information modeling to handle the complexity of the project. After trade subcontractors inputted their work into the model, he developed clash reports — such as identifying where a structural beam intersected a water pipe — and resolved thousands of them to reduce risk in the field.

3. Keep an eye on history Pulsfort needed to remind fans of the ball team’s history, including the arch facade hanging from the interior roofline and Gate 4 main entrance facade of precious timbers and granite. “Knowing the history of the old stadium, what the Yankee represent, the records — now there will be new players and history going literally from the ground up. It was his favorite moment of the project: “Opening day, to be in the stadium and have 50,000 fans sitting around you and to know you were part of making this happen, particularly when it was on time and on budget.” —Michelle Thibodeau

How to make a Telefund student’s day

Seniors Erica Ventura (left) and Carolyn Teter (right) have talked with literally thousands of alumni since their freshman year. They’re two of approximately 60 students in UD’s Telefund program, calling alumni to ask them to make a gift to UD. Their advice for making their day:

1. Be shocked by your reunion year Ventura, “I’ve called Eric [Ventura] left and right,” Teter said. “The guys get on the phone and have a field day with it.”

2. Tell them you loved beating X They did too. After a win.

3. Be a Golden Flyer “Their stories crack I love telling people what I’ve seen — football was huge. The women head of campus.” And Golden Flyers are the only ones with stories about meeting their true loves on campus 50+ years ago.

4. Give advice “Alumni know what professors and classes to take,” Teter said. “They know it like the back of their hand.”

5. Give a gift Something you might not know. The rulers often play games in the calling room, and each gift earns them extra turns and such. It might even help your particular caller score a gift certificate for pizza on Brown Street with a Tricia victory. Even more importantly, your love and support of UD’s community can have them see which of the new translations seems to capture what was in that original text.

6. Enjoy the call “We love to just talk,” Ventura said. “It’s a great job to have. I feel I know so much more about the University, I’m going to be sad to leave.”

APOCRYPHAL, CHINESE CATHOLICISM AND RUNNING SHOES … ASK A MARIANIST

Father Bert Buby, S.M., a professor emeritus of religious studies, is recording a CD series on apocryphal Gospels this fall. It will be released by New You Know Media in time for Christmas.

How did the four Gospels come to be considered canonical and the others lacking in orthodoxy or authority (apocryphal)?

—ED SMITH

Precedent leadership in early Christianity really separated itself from anything that seemed to be a threat to what they received from the apostles. Canonical Gospels, in general, are founded on earlier traditions. The apocryphal Gospels — literature ranging from 90 A.D. to 700 A.D. — show us the diversity in some of the underlying communities and how they looked at leadership from a different perspective. Soon I will be working on the Gospels of Judas and Mary Magdalene, which are very interesting.

What is the difference between a blasphemer and a heretic?

—Evan Ruggiero ’13

The main difference is the Marianists emphasize a strong discipleship based on the mother of Jesus. They differ in that brothers and priests are on an equal level of respect, with the priests tending to the sacramental life and the brothers tending, especially to the education part of our mission, with both working together for the good of the church and on social justice issues. Jesuits focus on obedience to the pope and are more individual in their expression of community life.

Why did God require himself (Christ) to die for our sins?

—Josep Borrono ’12

The fact that Jesus became human through his mother, Mary, shows us that someone who was human had to be part of the reconciliation necessary to unite the human and the divine, and Jesus was the one to show us the way. What has not been assured — our human nature — cannot be redeemed.

What do you think in the future of Catholism in China and South (even North) Korea?

—Robin Smith

From listening to the Chinese Catholics here in the United States, it will be a difficult and long journey before Catholics will be able to have the same freedom of expression that they have in Taiwan or southern Korea. Communist authorities control the Catholic expression of faith in public.

When there are significant differences between various English translations of Scripture, do you encourage students and alumni to select the wording that they prefer?

—Don Wigan ’15

As a teacher, I show them what it says from the original language — the Greek, Hebrew — and then have them see which of the new translations seems to capture what was in that original text. There’s a commentary given in four English versions that’s very helpful for people — the Complete Jewish Bible. What they like would be the personal applications — Scripture is supposed to have an effect on you.

In a contemporary setting, especially in a place where religions are facing into the background, what role does the church and church to play in society?

—William E. Anderson

Dignity of human work, dignity of owning property, dignity of the individual — that is really an area in need because of globalization. The church could really help the whole of society by promoting the comprehension on social justice in a simpler and cleaner format, maybe by making them available at a lower price so more people would read them. And how does Mary fit in? I have a graduate student, Laura Morrison, working on that. She’s looking at Mary as a model of the Catholic social mission through the documents and scriptural passages and applying Catholic social teachings to the life and work of Mary.

My senior year at UD, I had the best possible job — student counselor at Alumni Hall. One of the sweetest memories I have is when you brought a new pair of running shoes and were so excited that you showed them to me. Father Buby, are you still running?

—Anne Ruth Orlando ’83

I started running in 1970 and was still running at a slow jog until a few years ago. I no longer running because of a hip replacement; however, I do try to run in from my.
"Runs like butter"

We know this is a great institution. It’s nice to hear so many others agree.

In August, the University of Dayton moved into the top 100 in U.S. News & World Report’s latest ranking of national universities. We tied for 99th and remain one of the top 10 national Catholic universities.

A week later, we learned we jumped up 37 spots to No. 77 on Washington Monthly magazine’s annual ranking of 298 national universities. We tied 9th in the nation for the number of graduates who serve in the Peace Corps, and 47th for the number of students who participate in service activities. We came in 16th for happiest students, 18th for most fun, 21st for best faculty, 53rd for best campus, 76th for best value, and 137th for best return on investment.

The Princeton Review report. Both academics and service "are taken very seriously" at UD.

"Runs like butter"
Keeping our nation’s customs officers busy

This summer, 46 UD students studied abroad, including a group of 11 geology students who hiked up an active volcano and inside an active volcano crater as part of summer field camp in New Zealand.

“Volcanism, earthquakes, strike-slip faults, glaciation, active landslides — in New Zealand you can see almost every active geologic process,” said geology department chair Alan McMullin, who led the trip with associate professor Daniel Goldstein and visiting assistant professor Frank Rabideau. “It really did meet our wildest expectations.”

Fifteen students in the doctor of physical therapy program traveled to China as part of an exchange, and three others traveled to Greece to help provide basic health care services. More than 30 engineering and business students in the Engineering in Technical Humanitarian Opportunities (ETHOS) program traveled to 10 developing countries — India, Bangladesh, Tope, Cameroun, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Malawi, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Bolivia.

We also hosted visitors from around the world on campus, including a group of higher education officials from the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training college in Kuwait exploring partnership possibilities.

This summer a dozen international high school students, primarily from Singapore and China, learned about life at a top-tier Catholic university during a two-week campus visit as part of UD’s BEST (Business, Engineering, Science and Technology) program.

This year’s incoming class boasts a 27 percent increase in international students and includes students from 12 countries, with a majority from China.

From a business for buses, a token of gratitude

When Russell Gottesman and Katie Hill, founders of Commuter Advertising, won the 2009 University of Dayton Business Plan Competition, they got with it a $10,000 prize to support their continued work.

They turned right around and gave it all back to UD’s entrepreneurship program.

“Anytime an institution like the University of Dayton gives so much support for a start-up business, we really want to take the opportunity to support their program,” Hill said.

Commuter Advertising creates audio advertising for public transit vehicles keyed to specific locations through GPS technology and shares ad revenue with transit systems. The company launched the concept with the Greater Dayton RTA and is expanding to additional cities, including a New York City suburb.

UD’s Business Plan Competition continues to raise its profile. The latest competition attracted 86 entries and more than 370 participants. In 2010, The Princeton Review and Entrepreneur magazine ranked UD’s entrepren

Hats trick x 3

UD’s first-year class includes three sets of triplets, a circumstance that drew coverage from Twitter to a section front page in the Chronicle of Higher Education. The three sets are all fraternal and all have strong ties to the University. Both Dvorsky parents and many extended family members are among the Flyer Faithful. The mother of the Pontarellis is a graduate. And the mother of the Avila-Johns teaches at the University.

But how many of the former womb mates are college roommates? Zero. Some are even in different residence halls. Most say they’re looking forward to an environment where they are not known first and foremost as “one of the triplets.”

What if the tree falls in a forest that’s not empty? And there’s also really a good press release about it?


That breadth of coverage earned UD’s media relations staff a gold award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education in its 2010 Circle of Excellence Awards.

CASE also recognized the University with a bronze award in the “best articles of the year” category for “A Commitment of Moral Obligation,” an article by freelance writer Andrea Appleton about Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Gordon Roberts ’74 in the Autumn 2009 issue of University of Dayton Magazine.

Name that license plate

The year’s historic incoming class includes students from more than 40 states. Both the raw number of each state’s students and the percentage of the class made up of out-of-state students are records in UD’s 160-year history. With 2,901 students, the incoming Class of 2014 is also UD’s largest since the Vietnam War era. Not just geographically diverse, the class is also ethnically diverse, with more than 200 incoming African-American students as last year’s class.

Top-10 states not named Ohio in this year’s incoming class:

- Texas
- Indiana
- Pennsylvania
- Florida
- New York
- California
- Illinois
- Georgia
- Ohio
Good-looking? Smart? Friendly? You just might be a civil servant, says Hollywood actor. A government worker is in demand among Elite People who don’t know what they want. "I wish I’d never have to work again," he declares. Poof! He’s back in his government office.

Some will disagree that on this point—think IBS and even the negativistic view that civil servants are more commonly encountered in life leave positive impressions, such as teachers, police officers and librarians. Researchers found that in Hollywood, civil servants are also more likely to be male (84 percent vs. 65 percent) and white (80 percent vs. 69 percent) than in real life.

The research — "Are they ready for their close-up? Civil servants in the movies" — was published in July, replacing Bob Smith, who retired from the University.

For information about upcoming programs, visit leadership.udayton.edu.

Richard P. Davis '72

Genius isn’t what brought about this year’s class of alumni — Richard P. Davis. It was lots of hard work.

“I determined early on that I wasn’t going to be the smartest person in town, but I could always outwork you,” said Davis, recalling his early days at UD, where he earned a doctorate in chemical engineering. “What every person has and possesses is ten per cent talent and ninety per cent hard work.”

Davis was proud in what students have at the center have accomplished: They’ve gone from $25,000 10 years ago to more than $11 million in management in 2008. Davis and his wife helped establish the Davis Center for Portfolio Management at UD.

“Taxes take pride in what students at the center have accomplished. They’ve gone from $25,000 10 years ago to more than $11 million in managed assets today. When potential students ask Davis why the students do so well, he answers with a familiar story. “They work very, very hard,” he said. “They have some very, very smart and adaptable people. No. 3, they have the same investment systems that other money managers do. Put that together and you have the recipe for success.”

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Tonny J. Brunswick '97

For his outstanding leadership, Tony J. Brunswick '97 was named University of Dayton's 2010 Alumnus of the Year. Brunswick is the chief executive officer of CityWide Development Corp., Dayton Development Coalition and Montana State Arson Laboratory. Tony is also a staple at the University of Dayton where he serves as a part of the University of Dayton's Board of Trustees. Tony J. Brunswick '97

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Sharon Davis Howard '78

Sharon Davis Howard has a cache of awards honoring her service, excellence and distinction: Dayton Daily News Top Ten Women, Top Ten African-American Women, Southern Christian Leadership Conference Coretta Scott King Award, Congressional Gold Medal. For McKevitt Howard’s Hall of Fame. But to Howard, director of marketing and communications for Dayton Development Coalition, the greatest recognition is the Christian Service Award. The achievement is the Crown Sexual Abuse Victims Services, which started in 2001 as a local faith-based support group for people of all ages.

The calendar has raised almost $100,000 for the Kettering Medical Center Foundation’s Women’s Wellness Fund. At 383 three-hour roundtrips in winter.

Ronald Thaman ’71

How much does Ron Thaman ’71 love Dayton? He’s been a basketball season ticket holder since 1991 — and he lives in Western Ohio. That’s 383 three-hour roundtrips in winter.

He also has season football tickets, too. And he owns the entire Flyer football program, from his days as a student working at the UD Research Institute to today, as a University of Dayton Alumni association director for Dayton."
SPORTS

14

University of Dayton volleyball games often are attended by top school officials who sit among spirited fans cheering their support. Other coaches at UD are some of the program’s biggest backers, too.

Volleyball coach Kelly Sheffield said he can count on hearing from his colleagues whenever his team does anything noteworthy.

“I’ll get text messages from just about all of them,” he said. “They’ll say, ‘Great job.’ Or, ‘Just think what you could do if you had better coaching.’”

Sheffield reciprocates when other flyer squads do well, and those encouraging remarks — and good-natured digs — are being exchanged on a regular basis these days.

The Flyers easily had their best department-wide performance last school year. Five teams — men’s and women’s soccer, volleyball, and men’s and women’s basketball — made national top-25 polls during their seasons. This fall, the volleyball team reached a milestone by being ranked in the preseason coaches’ top-25 for the first time.

The days when the Flyers were bullied by opponents in two previous leagues seem like ages ago. They’ve made 17 NCAA tournament trips in five sports since 2000. Before that, they produced two NCAA berths.

“Things have changed”

Ted Kissell, the former UD athletic director, was faced with a challenging realization while leading a search for a conference in 1995. UD didn’t have much to offer that, they produced two NCAA berths.

“Clearly, we were the worst program in both conferences,” Kissell said. “We were not a program anybody wanted to be associated with the school.”

Pleas on an invitation to join the Atlantic 10 in 1995, UD has evolved into one of the league’s premier programs, winning more titles last season than any other school. The Flyers grabbed a No. 25 ranking in men’s and women’s soccer, women’s cross country, volleyball, and men’s indoor track. They also were co-champions in the Pioneer Football League.

The men’s basketball team captured the NIT championship, while the Flyer women reached the second round of the NCAA tournament. The baseball team is just two wins removed from its first A-10 championship.

Going into this fall, volleyball, women’s soccer, women’s cross country and football were named preseason league favorites. “I think in my mind, there was a tipping point, and that was being the one school left out of Conference USA,” Kissell said. “There’s a saying about change, that you need a burning platform to get people’s attention. ... We got left out — we were the only program that did — and that was our burning platform.

Hoop profits rise

Before being accepted as a member of the A-10, the UD agreed to make more of a financial commitment to its nonrevenue sports. While the University would fine top up additional funds for athletics, Kissell figured the only way to make the Flyers competitive in more sports was for men’s basketball to carry an even bigger share of the load.

When UD Arena opened in 1969, fans in prime seats had to make donations in addition to buying season tickets, with the promise of no additional fees for the next 28 years, while the building was being paid off.

At the end of that period, in 1995, Kissell implemented the Arena Seating Plan, requiring annual donations for virtually every lower arena seat. That increased revenue has bolstered the entire athletic department. In come from men’s basketball in the 2001-02 season — was roughly $14 million. By 2008-09, that figure had more than quadrupled to $59.3 million.

UD basketball ranked just nationally in revenue in 2008-09. Only one other team from a non-Bowl Championship Series con ference, Nevada-Las Vegas, generated more.

Money reappraised

UD’s early Arena Seating Plan prof ited toward scholarships. Volleyball and women’s basketball had a burning platform — made national top-25 polls during their seasons. This fall, the volleyball team reached a milestone by being ranked in the preseason coaches’ top-25 for the first time.

The upgrades have come in response to a Kissell initiative to build after each season with his coaches and ask what they need to push their programs forward. Current athletic director Tim Wabler has adopted that practice, too.

That’s something I hadn’t seen before in my coaching career,” sixth-year men’s soccer coach Dennis Currier said. “Right af ter the season, it’s, ‘Hey, what can we do to elevate ourselves and get better?’”

Perception changed

Third-year volleyball coach Kelly Sheffield has been surprised over how multiple sports have been embraced by top administrators.

“You go to volleyball matches and see the AD at most of them. You’re seeing the president behind you during timeouts. You had coaches coming in and asking, ‘How can we help?’” Sheffield said.

The first-rate treatment given to women’s soccer — and their team’s success — certainly had an impact on goalkeeper Katherine Boone, the A-10 preseason defensive player of the year.

The sophomore from Kirkland, Wash., had followed log-time programs such as North Carolina but realized she had under-estimated UD.

“One started looking at their record, I was like, ‘Wow, they’re a really good squad. Haven’t I been keeping track of them a little more?’” she said. “The facilities are great. The staff is perfect. They’re attentive to the players’ needs. I was really surprised.”

Success by a few teams has had a ripple effect throughout the department, creating some healthy competitiveness.

“We’re next to the volleyball office, and they come in and have all these trophies everywhere, and you think, ‘I’ve got to make a difference here,’” said Cur rier, who led the men’s soccer team to its first NCAA tournament appearance two years ago.

Room to improve

Athletic director Wabler is gratified by the progress made since the transition to the A-10, but he still sees too many sports at UD falling far below the maximum amount of scholarships allowed by the NCAA.

Baseball, for instance, has the equiva lent of seven full rides, 4.7 short of the limit. Individual sports generally make do better, but still have plenty of scholarship room. “We’re not where we think we can be,” Wabler said. “Now it’s, ‘What’s the real potential of the Dayton Flyers?’ That’s where we’re at. … I don’t know what the top is for any of them, but we’ve certainly not oper ating as if there’s a ceiling.”

This article is an edited version of two articles by Doug Harris that ran in the Dayton Daily News last fall and spring. Edited with permission.

NCAA tournament will open at UD Arena

The road to the Final Four again starts at the University of Dayton. The NCAA announced in September that UD Arena will host the first-round games of two eight nights in the NCAA’s new 64-team format for the 2012 NCAA Division I Men’s Basketball Championship. The games will make UD Arena, which has hosted 89 tournament games to date, the most-used tournament venue in NCAA history.

SPORTS

UD sports programs rising to top of Atlantic 10 NCAA

By Doug Harris

Dayton Daily News

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ERICK SCHERLEIN/FLASHFIRE IMAGES

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GLAUCOMA

The eyes have it.
Fuzzy fibers can help fix it.
Ed Timm ’82 almost missed the fine print — a subtle footnote that floated into his peripheral vision as he turned the page of a medical journal. When the words registered, he felt chills. Without knowing how it would all play out, Timm knew he was experiencing his “eureka moment” — solving a problem he hadn’t planned to solve until the answer presented itself.

For four years, Timm has been on a mission to improve the lives of people suffering with glaucoma. The second leading cause of blindness in the general population and the leading cause of blindness among African-Americans, glaucoma affects more than a million Americans — only half of whom know they have it, according to the Glaucoma Research Foundation. It occurs when the eye stops naturally draining fluid, and the resulting increased intracranial pressure, or IOP, damages the optic nerves in the eye.

“Glaucoma is frequently called the ‘snack thief of sight’ because damage occurs slowly, and there are no symptoms until vision starts to become lost,” Timm said. “Once damage is done, that vision loss cannot be reversed.”

A 25-year veteran of medical sales and marketing, Timm spent more than half his career developing expertise in ophthalmic surgical devices and procedures. While working closely with physicians to understand their needs in the operating room, he also developed an interest in research and development. Over time, Timm developed a passion specifically for issues related to glaucoma because the disease is particularly nefarious, he said — targeting those who have the fewest options for treatment.

“Glaucoma is one of those ‘perfect storms’ in health care. It not only affects most prevalently those who are the most susceptible, but those who are most susceptible are also those who have the least access to quality health care — the elderly and minorities. Eight percent of people over the age of 70 will develop glaucoma. And if you’re African-American, you’re six-to-eight times more likely to have it than if you’re Caucasian.”

Because prevention is the “absolute best treatment,” annual eye exams that include a simple test for glaucoma are critical to helping prevent blindness, Timm said. “If glaucoma is detected, the first line of therapy is usually in the form of pharmaceuticals — drugs that help maintain proper IOP by decreasing the amount of fluid in the eye, if drugs are not appropriate or are no longer effective, the next line of treatment involves using a laser to create a hole in the eye for fluid drainage. But the body responds by producing fibroblasts, a kind of scar tissue that can close up the hole and cause additional problems.”

Ophthalmic implants, typically the last line of defense against glaucoma, are subject to the same scar tissue build-up, Timm said. “Any time you incise the eye, the body will produce FGFs — a naturally occurring growth hormone responsible for the formation of fibroblasts.” When a silicone shunt is implanted in the eye to facilitate drainage, fibroblast cells immediately begin to form around the device. Over time, the shunt will become completely encapsulated with scar tissue, causing it to fail.

Timm learned that mitomycin C, one of the tools used in the treatment of glaucoma, was effective — but also dangerous and used inconsistently. Still, the chemotherapy drug has become standard protocol in ophthalmic surgery because it inhibits the formation of scar tissue, he said. In 2006, Timm left his overseas job as marketing director for a medical device company to create Mobius Therapeutics, a manufacturer that’s focused on improving tools for the surgical glaucoma market — starting with mitomycin C.

THE EPIPHANY

Timm’s war against glaucoma. It was Aug. 22, 2007. Timm says he will never forget the date because it was exactly three days after sitting with his daughter Emily in University of Dayton Arena listening to President Daniel J. Curran talk about the University’s research. He lives with his wife, Carla Whitaker Timm ’83, and younger daughter, Olivia, in St. Louis.

“I was dropping Emily off for her freshman year,” he said. “During the welcome Mass for new students, Dr. Curran talked about UD’s Research Institute and all the good things happening there. One of the research areas he talked about was nanotechnology, and I was really intrigued. Three days later, I was reading a journal article about an experimental device designed to continually monitor intraocular pressure on a long-term basis. I was about to turn the page when I noticed a tiny footnote, so small I almost didn’t see it.”

Timm’s voice grows with excitement when he recounts the story, conveying
The carbon material shown here will be used to create biocompatible, non-clogging drainage tube relieves excess fluid and pressure in the eyes of glaucoma patients. The material is poured into a specially designed nanotubes that have been chemically tailored by UDRI researchers to give the new technology a superior performance.

"In truth, I discovered philosophy by way of glaucoma," says Timm, whose daughter Emily is one of the first in new-generation aircraft components. "This is going to improve the lives of glaucoma patients by reducing the number of medications needed to treat the disease," he says. "Second to water, the human body is its life-giving solvent. It is the single most important reason why I have remained in this industry. It is a genuine privilege to be in this business.

Timm says successful animal testing will pave the way for FDA approval for clinical trials in humans. He expects the implants to be on the market within three years. "This is going to improve the lives of glaucoma patients by reducing the number of medications needed to treat the disease," he says. "Second to water, the human body is its life-giving solvent. It is the single most important reason why I have remained in this industry. It is a genuine privilege to be in this business.

'Carbons' for a future with nanotechnology

Khalid Lafdi. He shakes his head, eyes wide, as if hearing this for the first time himself. "It will be absolutely amazing." Lafdi, group leader for carbon materials at UDRI and professor of mechanical engineering, developed NAHF-X at UDRI under funding from the Air Force, Army, Ohio and the aerospace industry. The material is game-changing, he says, because it is the first tailor-made nanomaterial capable of being produced in sizes and quantities large enough to make it affordable and viable for large-scale commercial use. Lafdi and his team have been producing 300 feet of 1-inch-wide fabric per day at a pilot plant in UDRI's Shrevy Park Center. With support from this collaborators – Goodrich, Owens Corning and Renegade Materials – UDRI will build a full-scale production facility for the hybrid material. The new facility, to be located within Dayton's Aerospace Research Center, will be equipped to produce 60-inch-wide fabric.

"This is what industry has been waiting for," he says. "We're talking about a revolutionary material."

Lafdi sheepishly admits that he never fully understood the severity of glaucoma when he and Timm visited his office in 2007. "But as he listened to the UD alum's story unfold, Lafdi knew instinctively he could help.

"It was puzzling at first, and then intriguing," he says. "I'm the one people who can make you stop and think. On one hand, he's a visionary who can look at the big picture; on the other, he is grounded with his experience in bioengineering. Within an hour of talking with him, the problem – and the solutions – became clear." The solution, Lafdi says, is the same "fuzzy fiber" that provides functionality to the hybrid fabric. Lafdi and Timm designed a glaucoma drainage tube using a scaffold of carbon – also highly biocompatible – combined with chemically modified carbon nanotubes (CNTs) grown in a highly controlled and controlled manner, which gives the material its unique appearance. "By treating CNTs with different chemical groups, we can tune their surface energy for specific functions," Lafdi says. When incorporated into the tubes, chemically modified nanotubes enable compositions to be tailored for electrical and thermal conductivity, chemical and biological sensing, energy storage and conversion, thermal management and other properties – all of which NAHF-X is functional properties. When used in the drainage tube, those same treated CNTs prevent the formation and build-up of eye blinding fluid.

Lafdi says. "Multiple tests have demonstrated that, in the presence of tailered carbon nanotubes, there was zero cell growth on the material. But when I coated the same composite, structurally sound, and as we learn to tailor it, we’ll be able to make significant advances in glaucoma treatment.

Solving problems related to energy and electronics is important, Lafdi adds, but he admits to feeling an added sense of excitement while working on the glaucoma tubes. "God has made you lie. I am not a bad thought to consider as your head hits the pillow at night. It is the single most important reason why I have remained in this industry. It is a genuine privilege to be in this business."

"This is going to improve the lives of glaucoma patients by reducing the number of medications needed to treat the disease," he says. "Second to water, the human body is its life-giving solvent. It is the single most important reason why I have remained in this industry. It is a genuine privilege to be in this business.

Perum Greg is a communications administrator at the University of Dayton Research Institute.

<CONTINUED CONVERSATIONS>

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON RESEARCH INSTITUTE
www.udri.udayton.edu

MOBIX THERAPEUTICS
www.mobixtherapeutics.com

GLAUCOMA INFORMATION FROM THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
www.niai.nih.gov/health/glaucoma

UD research at a glance

UD was awarded $95.3 million in research sponsorship for fiscal year 2010.

UD ranks second in materials research and 22nd among all colleges and universities nationally for sponsored engineering research and development.

Among Catholic universities, UD ranks first in the nation for sponsored engineering research and development and fluid in sponsored research and development in all categories.

More than 175 undergraduates and more than 100 graduate students are engaged in sponsored research.

Eleven students work with Khalid Lafdi, who this fall is teaching a graduate course in nanotechnology and nanomaterials.

Lafdi is currently involved in developing nanotechnology and energy management, structural health monitoring, supercapacitors, lithium batteries, aircraft braking systems, phase-change and more.

The carbon material shown here will be used to create biocompatible, non-clogging drainage tube relieves excess fluid and pressure in the eyes of glaucoma patients. The material is poured into a specially designed nanotubes that have been chemically tailored by UDRI researchers to give the new technology a superior performance.
Thirty-seven years later, roommates reconnect

BY JANET FILIPS ’77 (FOURTH ROW, SECOND FROM LEFT)
Marycrest Mavens

We had been Marycrest roommates and classmates and off-campus housemates. For whatever reasons, half of us had stayed in touch after graduation, and half had not. There are no more former roommates who left their husbands and children to come back together during UD’s 100th Reunion Weekend.

The fleet of golf carts was lined up outside Kennedy Union, the University’s version of limos for alumni. It was a surprising sight, as the main drive was a construction zone or two, we tried to get our bearings. Hey, isn’t that where the tennis courts used to be? Is that the ROTC building or photo labs? Is that freshmen dorm? — all of us graduated 1977 or 78. Doreen Dougerty, Anne Marchetta, Anne Rejent and Kathleen McCarthy. (Some of our children are college-aged or older themselves, but we were girls for the reunion.)

Jonelle Bindl, Regina McFadden, Lynne Bailie, Linda Lee and I had stayed in touch after graduating, and half had not. Everything is different now? Is that the ROTC building or photo labs? Is that freshmen dorm? — all of us graduated 1977 or 78. Doreen Dougerty, Anne Marchetta, Anne Rejent and Kathleen McCarthy. (Some of our children are college-aged or older themselves, but we were girls for the reunion.)

If you all loved one another back then, why wouldn’t you love me now? — Regina McFadden, teeny, tiny blair! First of all, we had a blast being back on campus together. We’d hoped for a great time, but many years had passed, and who knew if we’d still click? We hadn’t exactly been sorority sisters after college, sending birthday cards and sharing the small and large moments of life. After graduation, we had scattered geographically, with me essentially landing the farthest out, in Portland, Ore. There was no internet, just the post-office’s forwarding address service and the Alumni Office’s alumni directory, which is only as good as the grad who update their info.

This was a reunion heightened by great mystery. Off the size of us who gathered at UD in June, I had neither seen nor talked with four of the girls since 1977 or ’78. Doreen Dougerty, Anne Marchetta, Anne Rejent and Kathleen McCarthy. (Some of our children are college-aged or older themselves, but we were girls for the reunion.)

A couple months and many e-mails later, the magic and mystery melted away. If 1975 or ’76, inspired by The Big Chill, we’d spent a weekend in Cincinnati, where Jonelle lived at the time. And in 1994, Jonelle and Regina pulled together an autumn reunion weekend in Santa Fe, N.M. — attractive simply because none of us had been there before.

Jonelle and Regina — ex-roommates and former and future roommates — convened to talk about the possible reunion. Jonelle had taken my kids to see it. It was a nice home kind of place. I was lost most of the way, Jane connection

Kathleen McCarthy ’78 Roomed successively with Jonelle, Anne Rejent and Doreen.

Sixteen years passed. Lynne and Regina — ex-roommates and former and future roommates — convened to talk about the possible reunion. Jonelle had taken my kids to see it. It was a nice home kind of place. I was lost most of the way.

Marycrest Mavens

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we were filled with friendly students and an inter
ner's was the first stop for the six of us who
thinks of college: Whether you go out with a group or
her birth father was a Franciscan priest who had
itary newspaper, she was able to trace her
ly's name, and the building's comforting old-
agement — and included department open houses, too.
ning freshmen class, the internal debate about
storming, and probiotics and oils. I was in awe as I unwrapped
try since the reunion, but I arrived home one
ly, had dinner with Linda in Columbus in late
were filled with friendly students and an inter-
life of hers had sure happened since the late '80s.

TOUR OF DAYTON

My oldest daughter got married just before the reunion,
and included department open houses, too.

Kennedy Union was buzzing with alumni

Our visits to Marycrest and College Park —

Linda soon reported back: June 11-13 was UD

...e was pretty amazing.

And we shared important stories: Regina's

It wasn't all "Remember when ... . " We did

The group of us approached the wide-

- and included department open houses, too.

"Shorter than you, dark hair, from Cleveland?"

...he's a football fan, but Father Burns. Norbert Burns, S.M., has

"Wow."

My oldest daughter got married just before the reunion,

- and included department open houses, too.

"Shorter than you, dark hair, from Cleveland?"

...he's a football fan, but Father Burns. Norbert Burns, S.M., has

"Wow."

For students, the university was a "homeaway-from-home.

The lobby of the Marriott, in fact, was like

Fun coincidences popped up all weekend,

As it was time to retrace my younger self's footsteps. I de-

Doreen has invited everyone to bunk at her

NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE INFORMATION

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON MAGAZINE  AUTUMN 2010

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along Dayton’s Third Street around 9 p.m. on one particularly hot July night, you might have noticed a building possessed. Projections of spectral white figures drifted in the two-story, arched windows of the Merc, an empty (but not abandoned) 100-year-old brick building near the Dayton Dragons baseball field. Competing with the ghostly figures were kinetic black silhouettes dancing, swaying and posing across the light. In a glass-littered patch of grass across the street, a crowd of 40 or so onlookers took it in, watching as passing drivers slowed their cars and craned their necks at the sight of an empty building animated in the creeping dusk. So went the Blue Sky Project.

Photograph by Lenka Novakova
Blue Sky is a model for creating a community that encourages the strongest of values — equality, honesty, self-esteem, openness and understanding. — John Peña

In college, Washington state native John Peña, now Pittsburgh-based, began working with nature in the ocean. He describes his art as an ongoing process of "trying and failing to communicate with the natural world."

The Blue Sky team, Team Nature, continued this dialogue by producing daily videos "in which we attempt to become some natural element using only our bodies."

Merc building was one of a series of Blue Sky performances and exhibitions in the city this summer at sites such as the Schuster Center, Dayton Art Institute, the Armory and spots around UD’s campus, all put on by five resident artists, five university students and 42 high school students from schools across the Dayton region.

Their goal? Produce ambitious works of contemporary art.

Or is it youth development?

Or an exercise in community building?

Or something else entirely?

"All of that," says Blue Sky co-creator and executive director Peter Benkendorf. "Blue Sky is a hard thing to explain to people who haven’t experienced it."

Rodney Veal, a Dayton-born and Dayton-based choreographer who was a Blue Sky resident artist in 2009, has his own description: "We think it’s childish to dream and think about possibilities. Blue Sky is about possibilities."

Possibilities

Artist Michael Casselli needed a thousand feet of wax paper.

Casselli, one of Blue Sky’s five resident artists for 2010, spent two decades in what he calls "the underground arts and performance scene" in New York City.

In his workshop in Rike Hall this summer, seven high school students plus one Ohio State University student were busy designing, cutting, nailing and gluing together small wood structures reminiscent of
Every day I came to our studio and saw new things. I was mesmerized by the complexity and simplicity of the minds of my youth participants.

— Ari Tabei

Tokyo native and New York City-based Ari Tabei's “performance-based work is made up of garments and bags that are like cocoons or nests, offering both home and healing in an ever-changing world.” Her unnamed Blue Sky team developed a performance-based “cocoon collage” comprised of cocoons for individuals and one large group cocoon.

His group, called Untitled Productions, planned to suspend the structures on tracks from the rafters of Dayton’s Armory building as part of Blue Sky’s final exhibition. They would slide and rotate above visitors’ heads, their interiors lit by projections of films made by the youth participants, who took cameras to their homes to explore the concept of neighborhoods.

“How do we attach meaning to our experiences?” Casselli had asked them. “Is it the thoughts we have as we move through our day, the daydreams and realizations that come upon us?”

The projections were the reason Casselli needed the wax paper, to wrap around the walls and ceilings to make screens for the projected images. He knew where he could get the wax paper — what he really needed was a credit card to pay for it.

It was the job of Shaw Pong Liu to hand it to him. Liu, a Boston-based violinist and sonic explorer who grew up in San Jose, Calif., was in Casselli’s shoes two years ago as a 2008 Blue Sky resident artist. This year she left Boston for the summer to serve as Blue Sky’s program director, overseeing the artists and youth participants to coordinate their efforts and steer them toward resources.

Blue Sky brought her back to Dayton because of its difference from other residencies, she said. “My artist friends will ask, ‘How’s art camp going?’ I explain to them, ‘This isn’t art camp. ’ Coming to Blue Sky was the first time I interacted with an organizational structure that understood what I needed as an artist. It gave me the support to create what I want to create. I wish there was a Peter Benkendorf in Boston. I call him ‘The Great Connector.’”

Connections

When Benkendorf began developing Blue Sky, he had in mind a fairly typical community arts program for youth. Art wasn’t necessarily the point; he is a community builder, and art was a tool for building.

His co-creator, painter Mequitta Ahuja, helped him see the possibility for something much more ambitious, an arts residency that offered artists as much as the community, and, therefore, offered the community so much more.

By helping set up Blue Sky, “I was trying to answer frustrations I had,” Ahuja said. Her experience with youth arts programs in the past had been unsatisfying. “They weren’t being set up for professional artists. We were hired because we were artists, but our work was to teach. I wanted to design a program to hire artists to create art.”

From that insight, Blue Sky took shape as an artist residency and youth collaborative. Each summer it gathers five professional artists, five university arts majors and approximately 40 area high school
Dayton, seemingly a sleeping giant at first, proved to be an ocean of possibilities and a treasure chest of hidden architectural secrets. — Lenka Novakova

The work of Czech Republic-born and now Montreal-based Lenka Novakova “explores qualities of space, architectural environments and installation by means of moving light.” As part of Blue Sky, her team, Phasmid Lab, projected images on the ceiling of the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, recalling frescoes, and illuminated the Merc on Dayton’s Third Street. The group explored concepts of space, presence and transformation.

“We dream of transformations and work on converting the dream into an illusion,” she wrote on her group’s project blog.

Blue sky is not a residency for the faint of heart. It is a residency well-suited for artists seeking to try new ways of working closely with others. — Joyce Lee

Baltimore-based Joyce Lee creates what she calls “projection paintings that refract the depictions of painterly and cinematic light through a synthesis of drawing, performance and architecture video installation.” Her Blue Sky team, Team EVOL, explored themes of control and governance through a transformation of the 1814 painting “The Shootings of May 3rd in Madrid” by Francisco de Goya using video and installation.

Communities

When Benchendorf and Ahuja launched Blue Sky in 2005, they were housed at a community college outside Chicago near Benchendorf’s home, but he did not stay there long. The enrollment of his daughter, Maggie Schnering '10, at UD introduced him to the Marianist charism with its focus on collaborative processes, community connections and commitment to excellence.

That led to what he calls “an epiphany.” He remembers the exact moment, 10:30 p.m. April 21,
A community develops

The week before Blue Sky’s big final exhibition in the Armory in Dayton’s Oregon District, the top floor of the building looked like a scene out of 30 Rock, as Home Malone students from all over the Dayton region worked in the sweltering summer heat. The floor of the building looked like a scene out of Exodus. “This diverse group of teenagers is a key to Blue Sky’s commitment to support and extend the reach of Dayton’s arts community beyond the Dayton region and to make art more accessible to everyone. A community is more than the sum of its parts — it is a way of being together for the good of all,” said Benkendorf.

A recent graduate of Miami Valley Career Technology Center, Veal is headed to Sinclair Community College in Dayton on a scholarship. It’s a big step for any student but particularly this one, who has been working in the arts since he was 10 years old. “Rodney is excited to make great art in his home town.”

Blue Sky’s youth participants, as well one parent.

Blue Sky moved to UD in 2009, and since then 66 youth participants, as well one parent.
Throughout his life, Juan José Amado III has traveled many miles. And is still doing so. “All of these travels, one of his most unforgettable trips was coming to the University of Dayton from Panama City, Panama.” he said. “I had the mandate of my government to work as a student at UD,” Amado said. “I was a member of the International Club, board and president of the Latin American Club, and a member of the UD secret team.”

After graduation, Amado, a mechanical engineering major, moved back to Panama and immediately got involved in politics. He served as vice president of the city council, minister of foreign affairs and minister of commerce and industries. “As has political life, I was served as Panama’s ambassador to the United States, Korea and Japan, which allowed him to serve as president of the United States, Korea and Japan, which allowed him to

“Joan Ridley is president of Business Wealth Solutions, a Dallas-based company aimed at helping entrepreneurs grow and harvest their wealth. “You could say it takes one to know one,” says Ridley. “I have always thought there was something called an entrepreneurial gene, and I definitely inherited it,” says Ridley, who comes from “a bunch of hardheaded Baltes who had to be tough.”

In other words, she knows what she’s doing. Before beginning her current practice, she was a registered investment advisor to clients who were retired business owners, an experience that encouraged her to find a niche in estate planning.

“Their system couples the business owner with the visionary, together drafting up a two- to three-year plan for an smooth transition. “Sometimes between 50 and 70 percent of transitioning business wealth will fail,” Ridley explains. “And the number one reason is that they don’t have a good succession plan in place. You have to address issues like taxation, estate planning, any thing really that could go wrong.”

New frontiers

JOAN M. GRUBER ’84

University of Dayton magazine Autumn 2010

Across the miles

Juan José Amado III ’84

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Send in your class notes to classnotes@udayton.edu

Class Notes appear only in print editions.

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**必要性**

Rohan Wilkinson published a paper on derivatives in 2008-2009, but before they were fodder for the evening news.

To the associate professor of finance at Georgetown University, they were just one of many powerfully financial innovations, helping to manage risk inherent in an economic system full of hazards.

"Diversification, the way our economy works, are necessary," he said.

To those nom to financial discussions, he describes derivatives in farming terms: Weather variables represent greater risks to one crop versus another. Farmers protect themselves by pooling risk and distributing it to a sea of agricultural businesses.

"We want banks to take on less risk, which sounds good," he said. The difficulty is in the implementation of regulations, "given the role of financial institutions to create and take on risk.

A mechanical engineer by education, Wilkinson’s interest in finance was formed in the 1970s when he worked for companies like Lockheed and Chrysler. An MBA led to a doctorate, and his current role as Georgetown’s Stulman Research Fellow now allows him to look deeply into risk management and share findings with students and the wider economy.

His best advice: "Be open to change and be open to other points of view," he said. "The way you’re doing it may be the best way today, but there may be a better way next week or next month."
Growing up, Sister Frances Zajac never intended on living in her hometown, Cincinnati. But after services in the Peace Corps, she also pursued a science teaching position in 1994 in her alma mater, Maloney High School, a public school. She is now director of the 10 teacher science department and teaches general science, anatomy, chemistry and biology.

“The community was remarkable in that each sister was expected to have professional expertise in addition to her religious form,” she said.

After several years of volunteering, and by suggestion of one of the mentors, she became a permanent member.

“In my religious community it takes 10 years of formation,” she explained. “I entered pre-postulancy in March 1997, I received the novice name of Sister Frances as a novice in July 1998, and made my perpetual vows in April 2007.”

Sister Frances, known as Joelle Zajac at this time, discovered the local Franciscan Life Center and started volunteering there on weekends. She was drawn in by the order’s respect for the environment and its unique way of life.

“The community was remarkable in that each sister was expected to have professional expertise in addition to her religious form,” she said.

Being given the name Frances, the most significant name within the Franciscan tradition, was an honor as well as being able to become an Franciscan Sister of the Eucharist’s teaching, Sister Frances calls the Franciscan tradition, was an honor as well as being able to become the teaching, Sister Frances calls the Franciscan tradition, was an honor as well as being able to become

“The worst thing as a parent is to not be able to take a child’s pain away. I have learned this from kids over the years,” said Schnell.

“More often than not, a child’s wish does not come true. But to see their eyes light up, just to put a smile on their face, being able to make someone’s day, makes it all worthwhile,” Schnell said.

For the kids

Matt Schnell has always been what he calls “a sucker for kids’ causes.”

When the college basketball team he ran with his Sigma Nu fraternity brothers from South Bend to Dayton before the Notre Dame vs. UD basketball games. They raised money and awareness for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation by barracksing the entire way home. He has served on the Cystic Fibrosis board of directors in Chicago and worked for the American Heart Association in corporate fundraising.

For the last three years, he’s held a fundraiser in his Chicagoland backyard and raised more than $33,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, enough to grant four children’s wishes.

Schnell and his wife, Judi, began SchnellBasketBall (http://schnellbasketball专项整治.com) in 2008 with 50-gauntlets at the OhioCIts like party. Around the same time, he also added a fund-raising component for Make-A-Wish for an annual golf outing he has organized for the last 14 years.

“Having four healthy and happy kids, I can’t even imagine what the parents and kids go through,” Schnell said.

“The worst thing as a parent is to not be able to take a child’s pain away. I have learned this from kids over the years,” Schnell said.

“More often than not, a child’s wish does not come true. But to see their eyes light up, just to put a smile on their face, being able to make someone’s day, makes it all worthwhile,” Schnell said.

Schnell’s say that the year’s goal at $10,000 and about 200 people crowded has Sept. 20. There was a silent auction, the Chicago-based band of Chris Radola’s, and plenty of donated food and beer.

Schnell appreciates knowing children are smiling because of his group’s donations but is also happy knowing his charitable acts are rubbing off on his own children.

“We do a multiple sclerosis walk each year with my son, and my son held a lemonade stand and made about $13,” Schnell said. “My son said, ‘I want to give that to Mr. Joe for his walk.’ He is learning to do for others, to give to others.”

—Jennie Szink ‘09

class notes appear only in print editions. send in your class notes to classnotes@udayton.edu

Class Notes appear only in print editions.
In June, Megan O’Brien was able to connect a St. Louis chocolate to an Ontario confectioner. She passed on the name of an international economist to a related company in America, and, for herself, she discussed the possibility of illustrating a book for a British author.

Her global connections were made during two days at the CGI Young Entrepreneurs Summit, where 250 entrepreneurs, ages 18 to 40, met in Toronto to work toward global economic recovery. O’Brien was one of eight U.S. representatives from the Entrepreneurs’ Organization, with whom she also started the first annual business Academy program for two St. Louis-based businesses, Visual Ingenuity and Vail Imagery (vailimagery.com) and Christian Christmas Cards (christmascards.com).

"No matter what industry or country you are in, entrepreneurs are dealing with similar challenges," O’Brien said. "Despite the challenges, this group of entrepreneurs has a sense of optimism and a desire to help support each other."

While O’Brien knows that a down economy hasn’t just damaged American businesses, she found that hard-working and creative entrepreneurs could help save some businesses in some ways. A Canadian airline planning company is cleaning house and hiring the best employees. Visual Imagery, a visual graphics and design company, has had 20 percent growth each year for the past ten years and a half it’s been operating because it can provide quality work at a lot of cost. O’Brien said.

The summit concluded with a closed business meeting for CGI summit attendees. For her part, O’Brien commitment herself to playing global "matchmaker" for small businesses and EO Entrepreneurs. She plans to attend the 2011 CGI Young Entrepreneurs Summit in Nice, France.

"It was an investment of time and money, but it was a pay-off forward opportunity," she said. "It’s all about helping people grow their businesses and collectively face the challenges of entrepreneurs in this difficult economic climate."

--Jason Zalat '09

Global acceleration
MEGAN O’BRIEN ’98

Class Notes appear only in print editions.
Send in your class notes to classnotes@udayton.edu

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON MAGAZINE AUTUMN 2010

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A Flyer is taking to the silver screen. But if you’re looking for her cameo, you better read the subtitles.

Stephanie Chaney has just returned from Morroco, where she spent the last year and a half translating a Chinese documentary and analyzing her interpretation for her master’s thesis project in Spanish language and translation at New York University. It’s a long road, living in two foreign countries and working between disparate languages to capture the nuances of the Chinese lexicon.

“The toughest part of the assignment.” Trying to figure out how to leap in touch with my family and friends with the time difference. That or not being able to find a decent baozi.”

At UD, the San Francisco native majored in communications and Spanish, with a minor in film studies.

“I’ve always had an interest in film, and especially documentaries. Chaney said. “I have an interest in a road trip through Chile in search of their roots.”

-chaney said.

“Ideally, I’d love to pursue a career in media and continue translating.”

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A recession isn’t the best time to start a business. But marketing graduate Richard Witka is selling solar power systems — and solar power may be.

That doesn’t mean selling solar power is easy. Witka’s company, Solaera Solar Inc., sells solar systems from Green Planet Inc., based in Brighton, Mich. But Witka’s sales territory is Indiana, where coal-fired electricity is still cheap and the state has no solar tax incen-
tives.

Even so, Witka is optimistic. The federal stimulus package carries hefty incentives for solar. In addition, solar costs have been falling because that turn available into power have become more efficient and manufacturing costs have dropped. “We expect the cost of coal-fired power to rise and the cost of solar to drop,” Witka said. “And at some point, Indiana will put together a renewable-energy policy. Business will take off.”

Witka was well-versed in entrepreneurship when he co-founded Solaera Solar in 2009. He learned the basics at UD through Flyer Entrepreneurs, a program of students and campus businesses. Witka was “general manager of Rudy’s Fly Buy, a campus grocery,” he said.

And in 2008, he founded Solaera Inc., a recruiting firm that supplies technical and management talent to the utility and alternative energy industries.

Witka — whose companies are named for the sestertii, a coin used in ancient Rome — is now waiting for a renewable-energy policy.

“Business will take off within 12 to 18 months,” he said. “There are more efficient and manufacturing costs have dropped. ‘We expect falling because systems that turn sunlight into power have become more affordable and our cost of production will allow us to hit the market in 2010 or 2011. So we expect a renewable-energy policy to turn the tide. The business will take off within 12 to 18 months.”

Witka believes in the future of solar. Business will take off within 12 to 18 months. But he is also cautious because of the competition.

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Year three term as chair of the executive committee of the Golden Flyers.

The Golden Flyers date to 1994 with the induction of the Class of 1949 and earlier classes. Each year at Homecoming weekend, the inductees' ranks increase by the number of 50-year graduates. “With the Class of 1940, there are now 3,000,” says Daley, noting that number is expected to double in the next 10 years as some of the largest graduating classes in UD history entered the golden anniversary world. During his term, Daley, says work will continue on the oral history project that during the last six years has interviewed about 100 alumni. Their reflections — recorded in the studies of FlyerTV — survive in both audio and video formats in the alumni archives. Some of the alumni have been interviewed individually, some in groups of four or five. Daley views the possibility that visitors to the new Alumni Center in the recently acquired 700 South Patterson Building will be able to call up interviews with alumni such as Don Donoher ’54.

The increasing number of Golden Flyers offers opportunity for increasing the engagement of the group with the National Alumni Association. One possibility is the creation of a Golden Flyer presence in the larger alumni center. To help facilitate this, Daley has suggested doubling the size of the group’s executive committee. Currently one member of each 50-year class becomes a member of the committee. If two were to become members, one could be from Dayton, one from another area.

Two other possible endeavors are a Winter College and greater engagement in the annual fund.

“The Winter College,” Daley says, “could be a long weekend in Florida or other warm, sunny place, devoted to a topic such as health or the economy.”

Although Golden Flyer participation in the annual fund is good, Daley sees an opportunity for the group to take a more active role with both annual giving and with fundraising for the new Alumni Center.

—Thomas M. Colmbrew
Manistian across the miles

Local Manistian connections help compress the distance for alumni who find themselves miles and miles from their alma mater.

In Cincinnati, as in many chapter cities, Christmas off Campus is the highlight event of the year. Tricia Winland ’05 coordinates Cincinnati’s event, which has been held for several years in the gym of a local Manistian high school: Purcell Marian. Tom Stickley ’75, the school’s athletic director, makes it possible, providing space and student volunteers to help with set-up and tear-down.

“Purcell Marian’s involvement is really important — it helps us by providing a safe location cost-free,” Winland says. “It allows the Manistian spirit to come through.”

Each year, the chapter pairs with Project Connect from Cincinnati Public Schools and provides dinner, activities and presents for 20 to 70 people. Nearly 40 volunteers help on site, with many more providing donations, all of which — thanks to Purcell Marian — go toward helping the families enjoy Christmas.

In Austin, Texas, alumni are reaching out to their Manistian roots in a couple ways, said chapter president Jeff French ’87. At the new chapter’s first family picnic in 2008, Father Eugene Contadino, S.M. ’62 traveled from Dayton to lead a prayer service. “It is a community event, bringing the community together for family fun,” French says.

The Austin chapter, with its 240 area Flyers, also is reaching out to its Manistian-educated counterparts from St. Mary’s University, who number in Austin near one thousand. Two years ago, the St. Mary’s alumni chapter leaders attended an evening highlighted by a visit from UD President Daniel J. Curran that drew Flyers from seven decades. French says the St. Mary’s chapter has invited Flyers to participate in its charity golf tournament, and he is considering expanding the prayer service to include invitations to St. Mary’s alumni. Such partnerships will help increase the number of activities available for such a small and young chapter.

“Little by little, we’re trying to build up events that people will come to,” he says.

In St. Louis, chapter members are helping build up a neighborhood through the local Manistian volunteer program and one of its volunteer partners, North Grand Neighborhood Services. Almeen Voss ’05 started the chapter’s service with projects to rehabilitate and build safe, affordable housing for the neighborhood’s low-income residents.

One of those volunteers was Jenny Voss ’05, who now coordinates the chapter’s service with North Grand. Last fall, alongside other volunteers — including boys from the neighborhood’s Manistian high school, St. Mary’s — members of UD’s St. Louis chapter heaved up wall frames for carpenters who tacked them in place. In projects spanning the last few years, volunteers have painted walls, hammered nails, assembled furniture and swept floors to prepare for refinishing.

“It’s a challenge in our lives to do service because our lives are so busy,” Voss says. “But having a Manistian component helps draw volunteers back to the principles they lived at UD. And it also helps the University.”

“Volunteering allows other people to know that Dayton just isn’t in Dayton, that we’re all over and involved in our communities,” she says. “We’re spreading who we are as a community, that we are from Dayton, and that we are making a change.”

—Michelle Trubiano

Alumni chapter president Rob Keppner ’03 said Charlotte is a city on the rise — and its UD chapter is growing with it.

“It’s a held city that no one is really from,” said Keppner, originally from Rochester, N.Y. “People move down here because they see opportunity and want to see what they can do with it. Being only eight hours from UD, our chapter is full of young, outgoing alumni.”

Their city is not only growing. It’s growing fast — a common theme for Charlotte, home of the NASCAR Hall of Fame and the Charlotte Motor Speedway. According to Keppner, who has seen his high ties go up since 2007, uptown Charlotte continues to invest in attractive venues that make their city “one of a kind.”

“Banking and NASCAR are the big things our city has to offer,” said Keppner, who moved to Charlotte because his college roommates had found jobs there. “The majority of young people come down here because of banking and the opportunity to gain some experience. They stay here because of everything else the city has to offer.”

The 650-member alumni chapter stays active by volunteering at men’s and women’s chapters and cheering on Dayton athletic teams when they visit UNC Charlotte.

“Last year we held events to let people know that the women’s soccer team and baseball team were in town,” Keppner said. “We were encouraging alumni to come out and support the teams and let them know where they could get tickets.”

Among their growing list of activities: a fall charity golf outing to support the American Brain Tumor Association, in which they invite all alumni to participate while taking in their beautiful southern city.

—Kristin Daugherty ’11

Charlotte, N.C.

FIVE CAN’T-MISS CHARLOTTE SITES

1. DISCOVERY PLACE
   —Kristin Daugherty ’11
   • For something a little different, visit the top science and technology museums in the country. It has lots of hands-on stations, don’t miss the static electricity demonstration that makes your hair stick up.

2. UPTOWN CHARLOTTE
   • Uptown has some- thing for everyone: new hotels, job shoppers, restaurants and entertainment around the Bank of America Stadium, home of the Carolina Panthers. Be sure to check out the Bank of America Corporate Center, which stands 871 feet tall.

3. NASCAR HALL OF FAME
   • Honor the greatest drivers, race cars and engines in the sport. If you visit on a race day, head over to the Charlotte Motor Speedway and join 115,000 other fans cheering on their favorite drivers.

4. PARAMOUNT CARowRINDS
   • Be one of the first to check out the new Carolina Railroad Museum. It’s a great way to spend the day out side enjoying the beautiful Charlotte weather.

5. MINT MUSEUM UPTOWN
   • For more information about your chapter, visit the chapter pages at http://alumni.udayton.edu/.
New 1850 Society honors loyalty, generosity

Leadership support in the 1850 Society starts at $1,850, with additional giving levels at $3,700, $14,000 and $91,000. Members receive invitations to special events at UD, opportunities for involvement with senior UD administrators and faculty, and can write guest columns in the forthcoming society newsletter. They also can support the University in other ways, such as coming back to campus as guest lecturers or hosting UD networking events in their home cities.

For information, contact Joan Schiml ’90 at 937-229-2896 or Joan.Schiml@notes.udayton.edu. To make a gift, see supportUDfund.udayton.edu.

On Face(book) value

It didn’t go Old-spice-viral, but Greg Hyland’s first attempt to promote a June 30 Facebook event to boost UD Fund participation could certainly be classified as infectious.

Hyland ’04, a member of the day0 council—the alumni group for grads of the past 10 years—started the “$1.4 UDZ” campaign in late spring with Matt Dunn ’91, a donor since graduation. Their UD friends on Facebook contacted their Facebook friends, and the event got the attention of hundreds of alumni.

The online event drew 921 participants and more than 100 of them contributed.

“I think people responded so well because it was a personal request,” Hyland said. “Matt and I sent invitations to our friends, and then people like Jen Stefan- son ’96 and Shary Zaido ’83 sent it to their friends, and it went from there. … A lot of people gave more than $1, but I think that by asking for $1, people realized that what was important was not their wealth, but their involvement. In the traditional Marianist sense, it’s being a part of something, being included.”

Did it make a difference with young alumni in their first year? 2010

“YES IT DID!” Dunn posted on a Facebook update. “Over 100 people PARTICIPATED, giving $1 or more to UD from this effort. PARTICIPATION matters. Annual giving to UD was up over $200,000. YOU made the difference.”

We trust the people who are leading the University, and we have faith that they know best how to spend the money in the way it’s needed the most.”

"We have a strong affection for UD because we had a wonderful time when we were there and got a great education,” Ursula said. “We don’t live in Dayton and can’t participate in person very often, so giving and encouraging others to give are ways for us to participate even though we’re not there.”

The society was dedicated over the summer and announced to alumni and friends in the President’s Club, previously the highest giving designation for the annual fund.

The Posts say they designate their annual gifts to the unrestricted University of Dayton Fund and encourage others to give in this way, too.

"From my experience serving on the board of a small nonprofit in Dallas, I know how important unrestricted giving is to an organization,” Steven said. “We trust the people who are leading the University, and we have faith that they know best how to spend the money in the way it’s needed the most. One way to help them do that is by giving to the UD Fund.”

Gifts to the UD Fund are used entirely in the year they are given and are directed to any program, scholarship, research or facility that needs assistance. Everything from books to bricks is touched by the UD Fund and its donors.

J.F. Nano ’86, a managing director with a Dayton private equity firm for emerging technologies, is a longtime donor to the annual fund and also serves as an 1850 Society co-chair.

A couple from the Class of 1974 has volunteered to serve as co-chairs of the new 1850 Society, honoring loyalty, generosity and its donors.

"Leadership support in the 1850 Society starts at $1,850, with additional giving levels at $3,700, $14,000 and $91,000. Members receive invitations to special events at UD, opportunities for involvement with senior UD administrato..."
Fertility

of those fine restaurants closed and we moved
my wife and I to a small apartment in the
city of Dayton and Cincinnati. And my fam-
ily and I traveled to his parents' Cin-
chic home, where we ate our first
meal. Then we settled in to the
college life, and I heard Suzanne say, in response to some
other students, "I love this campus."

Alfred Kleine-Kreutzmann and I both came
to the University of Dayton in 1966 to teach
English. Our first year here we shared an of-
course, but were not discouraged. We
collected materials and wrote papers,
then submitted them for publication.
Our first article was published in 1967
in an academic journal.

Alfred's research interests included
African literature, postcolonial theory,
and African American literature.
He published his first book in 1970,
entitled "The African Novel: A History of
the Genre." His second book,
"African American Literature: An
Introduction," was published in 1975.

Alfred was also active in service,
participating in community service
projects and working with local non-
profits. He was a founding member
of the Dayton Area Council for
Human Relations, and he served as
its president from 1970 to 1972.

Alfred was a dedicated teacher
and mentor, known for his patience
and support of his students. He
was respected by his colleagues
and loved by his students.

Alfred passed away on January 8,
2010, at the age of 76. He will be
missed by all who knew him.
The global stage

Ron McDaniel ‘89 has been to China many times, both for business and pleasure. But he said none of his trips was like the one he took last fall with President Daniel J. Curran. A small group of UD travelers kicked off the President’s Travel Program.

They took in expected sites like the Great Wall but also attended a private dinner with the vice governor of Jiangsu Province. The University later hosted a reception with local University of Dayton alumni and friends at the JC Mandarin Hotel in downtown Shanghai.

“Yes, we’re on a convivial travel trip with just a group of westerners,” McDaniel said. “Because of Dan Curran’s connections, we really got out and were able to visit universities and interact with local people. You’d never get that on a tour trip.”

With the success of the China program, where Curran has longstanding ties, the University’s travel programs are expanding to offer more opportunities to alumni and friends to travel in special trip groups.

Over the next year, the University of Dayton will host trips to Italy and Australia, as part of the President’s Travel Program and the Alumni College.

The global stage

Because of Dan Curran’s connections, we really got out and were able to visit universities and interact with local people.

One of the great delights in travel is the unexpected,” said art history professor Roger Crum, who will help host alumni on the Italy trip. “We will have an itinerary, but just as important will be what we experience in the way of culture and the lens of Dan Curran.”

For more information about the trips, contact Patricia Crews ‘77 at travel.program@udayton.edu.

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COMMENTARY BY DANIEL J. CURRAN  
PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

Walking in Chaminade’s footsteps

When the University of Dayton welcomed the largest, most geographically diverse first-year class since the Vietnam War era, we paused to celebrate the moment.

It is an extraordinary accomplishment, but not the one by which we measure our true success. We are continually transforming the University of Dayton to meet the needs of today’s students and shape our future.

I posed two big questions to my administrative team at a summer retreat. How do we remain a vibrant, forward-thinking learning community in the Marianist tradition? How do we ensure broader recognition of the value of the educational experience we provide?

We are viewing the challenges in higher education with an inventive spirit — and an eagerness to embrace change and take action.

While our retention, graduation and alumni giving rates rank higher than national averages, I believe we can do better. We must do better to compete.

We will improve the first-year experience for new students, offer more scholarships and do more to prepare all students to enter and thrive in a rapidly changing world. We will inspire greater numbers of alumni to invest in their alma mater because, having experienced the transformative power of a University of Dayton education, they recognize their important role in our mission. We can reach our aspirations only through greater levels of private support.

In a highly competitive marketplace, we are focused on improving our position nationally and globally. We will boldly communicate our distinctive identity and continue to establish broader domestic and global markets, ensuring that all students feel at home on our welcoming campus. We will assess our programs, abandon outdated ideas, and introduce curricular innovations and new technologies at a pace normally not seen in the world of academia.

This is not a new management philosophy. The Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, founder of the Society of Mary, advocated for ongoing, adaptive thinking that responds to world conditions. He called for a clear vision of education and continuous improvement of methods. Our history brims with examples of how we have boldly transformed this campus to meet the needs of the day.

Over the years, we have built a strong campus community that educates students to link learning and scholarship to lives of leadership and service. We have never viewed ourselves as an ivory tower isolated from the urban community that surrounds us, but as a social force that must be involved in the region to reach our full potential. We have worked to create knowledge in service to the community — and the world.

These are distinctively Catholic, Marianist values that guide our work as educators every day. Our historic mission will not change. It’s as fresh and relevant today as it was 160 years ago.

Chaminade knew how to read the signs of the times and respond boldly with faith and action. We’re walking in his footsteps.
“Student dining hall, pre-electricity days (St. Mary’s Hall),” reads the penciled note on the back of this archival photo. But University archivist Rachel DeHart has her doubts. “The windows on St. Mary Hall are rounded at the top, and the windows in the picture are rectangular,” she said. “I don’t know the date of the photograph, but there was electricity in the building by 1898.” Whatever early dining hall this photo depicts, there’s no doubt that students today have much more appealing dining options, including the new Runway (left), which opened this semester in the Kennedy Union food court. Photo courtesy of University archives.