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ON THE COVER
Michael Gaffney ’71 captured Muhammad Ali’s unprecedented third heavyweight title victory as the boxer’s personal photographer. Read more on Page 28.

May 6 was momentous — for the 1,442 undergraduates who received their degrees, and for the University, which celebrated its largest commencement weekend ever. Find out how many Milano’s turkey sub grad’s and their guests devoured the day before, plus more numbers from the celebration, on Page 19. Photo by David Lesko.
PRESIDENT’S PAGE

COMMENTARY BY DANIEL J. CURRAN
PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

‘Dr. Dan’

As I walk across campus, I’m often greeted by a friendly student voice, “Hey, Dr. Dan. What’s up?” I appreciate that students casually seek me out for a chat between classes. That kind of comfortable rapport keeps the lines of communication open and helps us learn from one another. During a recent “Dialogue with the President” town hall meeting in Sears Recital Hall, I chatted with students for more than two hours on issues as wide ranging as housing and curriculum to academic repetition and the faith life of campus.

How will change in the next five years? Are you going to tear down our houses? What are the plans for Brown Street? These were just a few of the questions they peppered over a lively and candid exchange. Students promoted the informal gathering in a way that made me laugh. It’s certainly an odd feeling walking outside a Biloxi, Miss., church held together by wooden beams, its walls blown out by a hurricane. They had traveled Ky., a campus ministry service project now extending into its 49th year. Another time, I found our students camped and creativity.

Students share their research projects at the annual Stander Symposium on campus that celebrates undergraduate research and candid exchange.

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This ongoing conversation is helping shape our campus. I am pleased to announce to you that we have continued with bike lanes connecting the campus to downtown.

The renaissance of Brown Street will continue with bike lanes connecting the campus to downtown.

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interest the reflection of many regarding your outlook on life and of your efforts and devo- tion to the causes of many. It made me reflect back to a long time ago. I fondly recall Jesse Philips and his work with you and the Uni- versity and your work in helping get Sinclair under way. I am now going on 52 and most of those I read along with have departed. ... I don’t get to Dayton very often anymore, but the next time I will try and see if you might be open for a bite to eat. It would be a treasure.

— W. McFARLAND '81
SEA ISLAND, GA

Great issue — really enjoyed reading the article on Brother Ray Fitz. 

— BEN CARO ARCANA, OH

Brother Ray played a key role in taking the University of Dayton President Barack Obama becomes the “first sitting president to visit the University of Dayton,” on the front cov- er and/or the coverage within should reflect such a historical event accordingly.

— CYNTHIA DAUGHERTY '70 CINCINNATI

I often say that my faith survived my grit in the world. I am an atheist. I have not been in a church for several years. I am now working in the oil patch. Chuck was a big part of that, along with George Springer, Kay Gray, et al. I received a master’s degree from TU on a West Texas, and was moved I was way ahead of my fellow graduate students. Howdy to Chuck for me.

— ED MEIER '70 HOUSTON

I enjoyed the picture on page 58 “[No Time For Tears]” Spring 2012. Having lived in Denver for an extended period of time, my friend who witnessed extraordinary gener- osity and self-sacrifice; experiences of forgiveness; goals reached and differences made: work- ing with some incredibly good people; walking with Brothers during their final journey to God. Much better, to my mind, than a Jaguar or super-waves wine! Reinhold Niebuhr said “Right, try a Ford Taurus and Crane of being provincial? And I don’t mean the gratification, and to even see results must require in an email, but all brought back by the picture.

— RAY LEEMING '75 WICHITA, KAN.

As a member of the UD graduating class of 1966 and one has been in it all. I am working with Laibm- ba’s work in the Catholic Church for many years, I’m proud and grateful for the involvement that my "scholarships" are making to help the people of Africa. [On the Shores of Lake Victoria] Spring 2012. God bless you, and see you when you get back.

— BILL LEE '66 TUCSON, ARIZ.

I enjoyed the Chuck Kitter story. I graduated in 1975 with a bachelor’s in geology and had many of Chuck’s classes — mineralogy, geochemistry, economic geology. My geology education I received at UD was second to none; I have realized that over the years that I have been working in the oil patch. Chuck was a big part of that, along with George Springer, Kay Gray, et al. I received a master’s degree from TU on a West Texas, and was moved I was way ahead of my fellow graduate students. Howdy to Chuck for me.

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I enjoyed your article about your experience with the geology of the Rocky Mountains (“The Long View” Spring 2012). Having lived in Denver for most of the past 40-plus years, your article resonated with me. Both you [Michelle Tedford] and Matt [Dewald] bring out the emotions of the UD story (Michelle Tedford) and Matt [Dewald] article resonated with me. Both you.

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**CATHOLICS AND RACE**

American Catholic Diner, with its 10,000 subscribers, was one of the most successful African-American newspapers in the country in the years after the Civil War. "Daniel Rudd, host of the nation’s best-known black Catholic’s argued that equality before the altar should extend to everyday life—and urged Catholic citizens to vote. "

**Biography of Rudd.**

By writing to American religious history by making an important contribution of equality. Gary Agee ’08 has life—and urged Catholic citizens to vote. "

**Rudd, then the country’s most successful African-American.**

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**CATHOLICS AND RACE**

Merit' learned by students who serve in UD’s FITZ CENTER, CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF SERVICE.

**LEARNED BY STUDENTS WHO SERVE IN UD’S FITZ CENTER, CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF SERVICE.**

"When I talk to students ... I always have a slide in there about the cherry trees."

**THE ORIGINAL CHERRY TREES AS A SYMBOL OF FRIENDSHIP FROM JAPAN.**

"I love when writers get together — it’s like a celebration of words. And words are what we do."

**I love when writers get together — it’s like a celebration of words. And words are what we do.**

"I believe I am well prepared to begin the next chapter in my life."

**CHRISTINE FARMER ’12, STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT, AT MAY COMMENCEMENT.**

"You’re a Flyer, but you’re also a citizen of Dayton."

**“You’re a Flyer, but you’re also a citizen of Dayton.”**

"Right now, we are leaving our world radically diminished in the name of economic growth. We have the power to change the human-created things such as the economy and place value on the things that are really important to us."

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"Pick it up ALUMNI EUCHARIS LEAGUE"

"The card game that helped students procrastinate in college brought Chicago alumni to Finley Dunne’s this spring to relax during the week. The alumni chapter’s euchre league drew players of all skill levels and class years. Between picking up tricks and calling trump, they quizzed one another about their time on campus, reminisced about learning the game in the dorms and went home with some great prizes. The league will be back from summer vacation in September; to join, email UDeuchre@gmail.com."

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**He'll have mustard with that**

$32.50 worth of hot dogs and a splash of mustard net hundreds of dollars of free publicity and millions seeing the name “University of Dayton.”

An Associated Press story about University of Dayton students eating dinner with the leader of the free world hit The New York Times, the Anchorage Daily News, all four of the major TV networks and scores of smaller publications. About 30 students received invites from the NCAA to sit near PresidentBruce Obama and British Prime Minister David Cameron when they took in the first game of the men’s Division I basketball tournament Final Four March 31 at UD Arena. Not only did the president want to share a great American treat — the hot dog — with Cameron, he asked some students if they wanted one, too. According to the Associated Press article, “All at least tried to eat other side, too. ‘Are we allowed to eat you?’” senior Rachel Krabacher said. “He was like, ‘You’re college students. Who turns down free food?’” Joked Kelley, “In Humanities Plaza, I put extra on.”

—Maggie Malach ’11

**Foursquare royalty**

Tim Kelley ’12 and Hugh Quill ’12 are Foursquare mayors of nine campus locations, including RecPlex, Humanities Plaza, Kettering Lake and Miami’s. Before graduation, Quill even presided over their Foursquare House, nicknamed “The Graduates Hotel.”

To become a mayor, the students “check in” to a location on the Foursquare mobile app. The more check-ins, the greater your status. If it’s easy if you have a class in a building, Kelley said, but they realize that by earning their diplomas they may be losing these chances to the next crop of Foursquare kings.

Some businesses offer special discounts or other perks to their mayors, but not on campus.

“Are we allowed to say yes?” senior Rachel Krabacher said.

—Owen Robinson

**Good news for English majors**

It wasn’t a red out or a white-out, but there was plenty of green and even a bit of gold at the UD Arena March 31 for the first day of the 12th annual R.I.S.E. investment forum.

Awards in black-suited finance students, professionals and faculty from around the country, the annual forum focused on green — as in cash, morals, Benjamins, dough — how to invest it, where to invest it and what economic trends are doing to it.

About 1,600 participants heard spirited exchanges from Wall Street bulls and bears, networked with financial industry reps and sat rapt for a rousing, revival-like talk that nearly brought down the house from Morgan Stanley Smith Barney managing director David Darsey.

President Daniel J. Curran and Greg Castell ’12, student manager of UD’s Davis Center for Portfolio Management, reached a worldwide audience in a live interview with Bloomberg Radio’s Kathleen Hays about the University’s increasing global reach and research prowess and the Davis Center’s investment success.

Throughout the forum, advice was plentiful:

- China: “Own what they buy, not what they sell”
- The housing market: “Bottoming does not mean up, just not down.”
- Economic outlook: “Recent upticks in the stock market do not constitute a bull market.”
- Most surprising: “A degree in English, history or philosophy would also be good. "The most valuable thing I have ever studied in my life was my degree in philosophy," said Hugh Johnson, who manages nearly $6 billion dollars for investors as chairman of Hugh Johnson Advisors LLC. "I think it was more valuable than an MBA."”

—Cilla Shindell
**More success for DECA**

On the University of Dayton campus sits one of America’s most innovative high schools. The Dayton Early College Academy received a Bronze Medal from U.S. News & World Report in its annual ranking of America’s Best High Schools, released May 1. The report analyzed academic and enrollment data from nearly 20,000 public high schools to find the best in the nation. DECA is one of four early college high schools in Ohio to receive recognition.

Our Olympian

Terry Miller ’77 is keeping an eye on the vine, Cygnus-oided Olympic mascot Mandeville (left) and Wenlock. As general counsel of the London Olympic organizing committee, he’s protecting them—and the intellectual property of the entire 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games. From security agreements to ticketing contracts, his team ensures the games run smoothly, even if the wind refuses to blow on sailing race day.

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**More Student faithful**

More students than ever want to be Flyers, which is good news for the University. For the incoming class UD’s selectivity rate improved from 76 percent to about 55 percent. Selectivity is an indicator of academic excellence and a key measure in how universities are nationally ranked. According to Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System data, only two top-100 national universities in the past seven years posted selectivity gains of more than an percentage points without compromising academic quality.

To improve selectivity, you attract more applicants and admit fewer students. About 14,000 applications were submitted for fall 2010. By June 1, the University had received approximately 9,000 more enrollment confirmations than its goal. All this puts next fall’s incoming class on track to be the largest in University history, a list that includes incoming classes in 1967, 2001, 1975, 1985 and 1995.

“In a tough and competitive environment, this increased demand is recognition of the University’s value and academic excellence,” said Sundar Kuma rasanay, vice president for enrollment management and marketing.

Other measurements are up—average test scores, high school GPA and students from outside Ohio, which is on track to be 55 percent with the greatest growth coming from Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky and New York. Confirmations are rolling in from abroad and international enrollment is expected to be the highest in University history.

**New rates, more aid**

The total cost to attend UD will rise 5.2 percent, with annual undergraduate tuition and fees equaling $33,400 starting in August. But few students will pay the full fee; most of the increase—$10 million—will be dedicated to financial aid for returning students. UD now offers $92 million annually in endowed and institutionally funded scholarships; more than 90 percent of undergraduates receive financial assistance.

**Showing service**

Danielle Patton, an incoming first-year student, believes when you take something, you should give something back to balance the equation. Call it the math version of the Bible’s lesson that to whom much is given, much is required.

Serving others is a driving force in Patton’s life and she has netted her a $40,000 scholarship, awarded as $10,000 over four years, as the winner of a UD contest that invited prospective students to create a video describing what servant-leadership means to them.

In her video, Patton interviewed several members of her community in Avon Lake, Ohio, on the west side of Cleveland. She concluded that “It’s not important how you choose to serve, but it’s imperative that you do choose to serve.”

**Ride on, Flyers**

In another indication that Dayton is bike-friendly, UD Flyers participated in the region’s Bike to Work Day May 18. Lingguang Wang, a graduate student in electronic engineering, checked out a bike from NextBus so he could join the group of UD cyclists from a single business. Dayton is a beautiful spring, and I get to exercise my body,” he said, “It’s fun, because the trip is along the river. It’s fast. “It’s fun, because the trip is along the river. It’s

**Selling the Amish**

Our fascination with the Amish goes beyond buggies and bonnets.

“Amish communities tell stories about the past that encourage tourists to imagine how they might change their lives and alter their future,” said Susan Trottlinger, associate English professor. “This nostalgia for the future is a nostalgia of hope.”

In her new book, Selling the Amish: The Tourism of Nostalgia (Johns Hopkins University Press), she describes the relationships involved in the $2 billion Amish tourism industry in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Indiana. Tourists purchase pieces of their society while the Amish wonder at the difficulties of living in a consumeristic world.

While we may yearn for a slower, less-complicated life, [the Amish] ask whether we have the courage, the creativity, the vision or the faith to embrace a radically different future,” she said.

**Technology found a way to give something the bird’s-eye view at his flight technology.**

Larrell Walters has a hand-eye view of the technology driving unmanned aerial vehicles by simply pointing and dragging a finger across a computer screen. The technology could help direct UAVs and their operators have made DECA successful in our singular mission: get students to college,” said DECA superintendents and CEO Judy Harmonsey ’96.

UD founded DECA in 2003 in partnership with Dayton Public Schools. DECA reorganized in 2007 as a charter school operated by UD and enrolls seventh-graders for the first time in 2008.

But the best measure of DECA’s success is its graduates. All of DECA’s graduates have attended college, with more than 95 percent graduated or still enrolled. The school expects to graduate classes of up to 200 students by 2013, and it plans to expand to include an elementary school.

**In a tough and competitive environment, this increased demand is recognition of the University’s value and academic excellence.”**
“Life is improv,” says Paul Azzi ’12. “I have no idea what is going to come. … I just roll with the punches.” Adds Michael Winn ’12, “Wait for something to happen. Just react.”

“Make music.” Even in improv, a little forethought is necessary. “When you rhyme a word, you have to think ahead to the next couplet,” Wil Morris ’13 says. But it doesn’t have to be perfect. “Just put a word out there and bubble until you rhyme it,” Paul Azzi says.

“Have backup.” On the Fly is all about team cohesion. Foremost, they like to make one another laugh. And occasionally, they share their comedy with an audience. “We’re people before we’re performers,” Winn says. If someone flops on stage, another member comes to the rescue. “Everyone exerts their own expertise because no one is an expert.”

“Figure out what you want.” “We’re all on stage, open mic style,” Morris says. “The main thing is to get attention from the audience and we love getting it.”

“Be yourself.” “Everyone thinks I’m a dweeb,” Paul Azzi admits. The team members consider themselves more playful and weird than funny, but Winn says, “The more comfortable you are with yourself, the more free you are.”

“If laughter is the best medicine, the members of the University’s improv team On The Fly are the best doctors around. Founded in 2006, this student-run comedy troupe performs improvisational theater based on audience suggestions and sketch comedy written by the cast. As any member will tell you, there’s a lot of truth in comedy. Here are some tips on living life on the lighter side.

How to make it up as you go along


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“Hers” is Mary, Mother of Jesus, to whom Vinslau made a mindful commitment when he became a lay Marianist in 2008. On April 30, 2012 — Lela’s birthday and the date of his vow renewal — the senior burned his letter. I have communicated with more than 350 people outside my community, he said of his daily letter writing, I will take the next year to reflect and focus in on my community. I will pray daily, as Lela did, he said, “And keep writing.”

No. 367

The letter caught fire slowly, turning words in blue ink on white paper to char and ash, smoke and hope.

That was how Jeremy Garcia Vinslau ’12 delivered his last letter to Lela, his grandmother in heaven.

“I want to spend the days of my life just like you spent all the days of your life,” he wrote to Lela. “I want to find love.”

Brandon Johnson will be among the fewest than 2 percent of teachers who are African-American men.

Among the few

As a receiver on the UD football team, Brandon Johnson is skilled at opening his arms to gather up something dear. The lanky sophomore from Lexington, Ky., does that at the Bombeck Family Learning Center, stretching his arms wide open to gather in a 5-year-old heading home early.

“Hi, buddy,” Johnson says to Nathan Jeami son, lifting him high, wrapping him in a bear hug. “So you’re feeling so good?” Nathan wraps his arms around Johnson’s neck, burrowing his face closer and breaks out into a big grin, murmuring “uh huh.”

As an African-American man, Johnson is a rare sight in an elementary school classroom. Even rarer, he’s an early childhood educator.

Commitment to an inclusive community

On Facebook, not all content is appropriate. But when select racial and ethnic references on a student-created page引起ing complaints about the UD experiences, it becomes an appropriate time to address race issues on campus.

“As sociologists, we’re always looking at issues of sexual and racial inequalities,” said Sister Laura Lemm, F.M.I., department chair of sociology, anthropology and social work. “The [Facebook] page made it urgent for us to step up. We wanted to help shape the conversation, and a teach-in seemed like a good start.”

On March 14, department members organized a teach-in, Arts & Actions. About 80 students and 20 faculty and staff attended to discuss race relations at the University. Later that month, students sponsored two forums on racism, sexism, prejudice and discrimination on campus.

“What we would really like to see is more conversation, not just as a reaction, but as a way to be proactive,” said associate professor Leslie Petro. “It’s not just something that impacts students of color, but everyone.”

During all sessions, students of color were most likely to share personal experiences, frequently negative, about the racial climate on campus. Petro hoped that more white students would participate in ongoing forums and classroom discussions — not from feelings of guilt or frustration, but through recognition that improving race relations is also in their best interest.

As students love and work in increasingly diverse settings, the conversations benefit everyone.

“As a summer reading group and a fall faculty exchange se ries program redoubles support systems for faculty and staff of color, and a Universitywide conference on race relations is tentatively scheduled for next March,” Lemm said. “We talk about community here and we do value it, but we need to acknowledge that some heavy lifting needs to be done.”

“Let’s talk about community here and we do value it, but we need to acknowledge that some heavy lifting needs to be done,” Lemm said. “We have to do the work to make sure our community is truly inclusive.”

—Shannon Shelton Miller

SUMMER 2012 UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON MAGAZINE

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Religious imagination

Sister Angela Ann Zukowski, M.H.S.H., a religious studies professor and director of the University’s Institute for Pastoral Initiatives, received the 2012 Catechetical Award May 9 from the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership for her innovative, Internet-based learning initiatives in the areas of adult faith formation and catechesis.

“The new era of communications is exploding around us in nanosecond speed, and we cannot ignore it,” she said. “Our children, the future of the church, are grounded in the reality and impact of easy, fast and immediate access to information and experiences that tweak their imagination — even their religious imagination.”

The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation is among Zukowski’s most significant contributions to the church in the digital age. Alumni can participate through vlc.udayton.edu.

Wave from the pope

They had perfect seats to see the Holy Father, who sat just five rows in front of the seven Chaminade Scholars on a spiritual retreat to Italy and the Vatican.

“When the master of ceremonies announced the various groups present at the audience (with the pope) and ‘Chaminade Scholars from the University of Dayton’ was announced, we stood up and shouted and the Holy Father leaned over, smiled and waved,” said Sister Angela Ann Zukowski, M.H.S.H., who led the art, culture and spirituality immersion in May. “I had the students wear their red UD hats to ensure they would stand out in the crowd. It was an amazing experience.”

The 12-day journey included the churches and basilicas of Assisi, a guided tour through the Vatican Museum with art historian Liz Lev, and a tour of the Necropolis under St. Peter’s Basilica — an excursion planned a year in advance. Students also participated in a Vatican Radio interview with Sean Patrick Lovett, the director of the network’s English division.

Those red hats garnered attention after the Mass as well. People in other sections of the audience later found the students and told them proudly, “Hey, I’m a UD alum!”

Out with the old and in with the new lobby at Campus South.

No sleepy campus

If summer is a time to relax, someone forgot to tell us. Existing construction projects are making progress while nearly $30 million in new summer projects are in full swing, with some racing to beat the students back to campus.

More than one lucky student will have new abodes come August. Four houses are nearing completion on the 400 block of Louise Street, as is a pre-fab house at 19 Rogge St. Along Brown Street, the Caldwell Street Apartments — started last spring — will house 400 students on six acres. Plus, Campus South residents will come back to new bathrooms, a spacious lobby and other upgrades.

The Science Center continues its renovation with new windows, air conditioning, ceilings, lighting and a roof screen. Future improvements will include classroom and laboratory upgrades and a lab wing addition.

Roesch Library makes a makeover inside and out. The pearly facade will be covered by brickwork that will tie it to the rest of campus, and an arched row of columns at the west entrance will pick up the motif from the front of Frericks. Inside, workers will address infrastructure needs then transform it into a modern learning center with more spaces for students to study and greater electronic learning tools.

The seventh floor (“throne with a view”) will get a new window.

Private donations have funded the renovation of Cronin Athletics Center, formerly the PAC. This summer will see completion of the final phase, including an air-conditioned basketball practice facility and new training and locker rooms.

Outside, yellow bricks of College Park Center are being stained red, pavers are being replaced along campus walkways, and the roofs of the Arena, Albert Emmanuel Hall and Alumni Hall are being replaced.

Inside, Boll Theatre will get 390 new seats, and nonstructural materials labs will be built on the fifth floor of the 1950 South Patterson Building.

Near the river, workers continue to assemble the steel and concrete bones of the GE Aviation EPICENTER on UD land. By the end of 2013, the research facility will employ 90 people, with a projected workforce of between 150 and 200 researchers within five years.

The latest renovations are part of a six-year capital improvement plan that ties to UD’s strategic plan. The University is using a combination of operating funds, bonds and private support to fund the projects. Typically, UD invests an average of $170 million to $150 million annually in capital improvements.

And more changes are on the way. Founders Hall, built in 1954, will get a $4 million renovation beginning in May 2013. The beloved schoolhouse domes will be重新configured, and the common spaces that make it one of the most sociable dorms will only get better.

Home sweet home

If you could piece together your perfect house, this may be it. The juniors moving into 19 Rogge St. this fall think so.

It has five bedrooms (for five men), three bathrooms, plenty of insulation and windows that don’t let in the winter wind. In fact, everything about the house is energy efficient — from the way it was built to how it will function.

It arrived in April on four flatbed trucks, having been fabricated in Versailles, Ohio. Ganes lifted it into place like pieces of a giant Erector set.

The original housemates, who have all lived together at one time or another, turned down older houses on Woodland in favor of the yet-to-be-constructed property on Rogge, two blocks farther from classes.

“We chose quality over location,” said Ibrahim Abdul-Karim, who can’t wait to have a kitchen complete with an Energy Star dishwasher.

The last piece was lifted into place April 21.
Full circle

Natalie Holmes Hudson ’06, one of the first graduates of the University’s human rights studies program, has been named director of the program. Hudson has been a professor at UD since 2007 teaching global politics; the politics of human rights, gender and international relations; international security studies and more. She succeeds program founder and former director Mark Ensalaco, who becomes the program’s director of human rights research. He will direct the Peter McGraith Human Rights Fellows program started this year with a $100,000 gift from alumnus Michael McGraith. McGraith fellows receive $40,000 stipends to conduct and publish research in human rights and social justice that promotes human dignity and alleviates suffering. The first fellows are Hudson’s collaborator Alexandra Budabin, assistant political science professor; Samantha Desgroot, assistant sociology professor; Glennia Jenness, a visual arts lecturer; Thea Majka, sociology professor; and Teresa Stieglitz, assistant English professor.

Media Hits

The Wall Street Journal turned to associate law professor Thaddeus Hoffmeister about a North Carolina ruling that overturned an inmate’s death sentence, finding that race played a key role in the jury-selection process. “That isn’t premeditated or conscious, but if it’s a juror who has been formed that way, you’re going to be killing someone,” he said.

Aviation expert and history professor Janet Bednarek commented on the golden age of air travel — anything less than credible, so we stopped for a break.

Even with classes, summer on campus still leaves time for fun and games. David Shephard blocks a shot on goal as he and others practice their soccer skills at Stuart Field.

Digital age

One year — that’s how long we’ve been publishing the digital edition of the UD Magazine. By downloading the app for free from Android and Apple stores, you get extras such as videos, photos and links, conveniently located on your mobile or tablet device. A happy birthday for us is a great news for you.

1 Mary Kaufman ’71 writes, “Enjoyed reading the latest edition of UD Magazine while on the Côte d’Azur for spring break.”

2 Tom Endres ’66 retired from UD after teaching mechanical engineering for 43 years. He writes, “My wife, Robyn, and I went on ‘holiday’ for the month of February to New Zealand and Australia. Ayers Rock is in the background. It was 108 degrees that day. Cheers!”

3 Kellie Kruswycz ’07 poses with her UD Magazine in front of the Bird’s Nest in Beijing, China. “I went there on a trip with the Xavier University MBA program. It goes to show once a Flyer always a Flyer right?”

4 David Phillips ’81 sent a photo of three UD grads atop Montana’s Mount Glacier National Park. “The view was incredible, so we stopped for a break to catch up on a little reading.” From left are Charles “Chip” Case ’86, Phipps and Dan Landis ’86.

5 Jennifer Keim Kensing and Katie Smith spent spring break on a study abroad program. They write, “How we see outside the Côte d’Azur of San Callisto in Rome.”

6 George Allen ’65 writes, “While traveling the Caribbean with my wife, Barbara, we paused to share the University of Dayton Magazine with a private at the lighthouse on Grand Turk Island.”

7 Lynn Polzin ’59 writes, “The UD Magazine was a great way of keeping up with events during the flight to the Manual Antonio region of Costa Rica in February.”

8 Mike Ford ’75 writes, “Janet Tully ’75 and her husband, Lou, invited us to spend a long weekend with them in Merritt Island, Fla. We celebrated in UD tradition. Looking forward to another get-together in 2013.” Pictured (back) are Tuffy, Linda Hughes ’75, Betty Grunder Becker ’75, Betty Carroll Cissie ’75 and Ford (front) Joanette Fleming Lawton ’75, Justine Breone Hager ’78 and Billie Shaye Lenter ’78.

9 Michelle Shumaker-Wright ’89 writes, “While in town to celebrate Lisa Payne Wente’s 50th birthday, I utilized with Crystal Amos Boykin ’84, Lisa ’84, Marcellina Garley-Thomas ’94 and Avony Tawo ’95. We took a minute from the hustle and bustle of Times Square in New York City to check out our UD Magazine.”

10 Melanie Woods ’07 took the magazine on her trip to the Andes Mountains outside Mendoza, Argentina. “Cerro Aconcagua, the highest peak outside of the Himalayas, is in the background.”

View more photos at facebook.com/udmagazine.

Where are you reading University of Dayton Magazine?

1 Father Thomas Scherer, S.M. ’55, ’63, “I am presently on sabbatical in the Holy Land and took these pictures outside one of the entrances to the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth. I thought it was particularly appropriate because the words to the Shaukis Rema are etched into the wall of that entrance. It seemed appropriate for reading the issue featuring Maristur artists. I hope to return to the University in the fall.”

2 Carolyn Susan Wittmann ’60 writes, “Hello from the Great White North! We stand on the frozen north shore of Lake Huron, a short snowmobile ride from our La Cloche Lake Camp, near Massacy, Ontario.” Pictured, from left, are Martha Wittmann Kramer ’88, Paul Wittmann, Tom Wittmann ’79, Steve Kramer, Sam Wittmann (holding magazine), Carolyn, Joe Wittmann ’95 and Joe Wittmann. 

WHERE ARE YOU READING UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON MAGAZINE?

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17 UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON MAGAZINE SUMMER 2012

16 UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON MAGAZINE SUMMER 2012
It takes years to make it here, but it would take eons to forget all we learned in the time it took us to earn our diplomas. About 2,000 UD students — the most ever in any one semester — received degrees when they crossed in front of the stage in three separate ceremonies at UD Arena May 5 and 6. They are now forever Flyers. Hats off to them all. WHAT'S NEXT? ▶▶

“T’ll go overseas to play basketball.” — Patrice Lalor, electrical engineering

“I have a job with Gannett. They haven’t placed me yet, so I could be going anywhere in the U.S.” — Sara Dorn, journalism

“I'll be in Cincinnati. I really wanted to be close to UD and close to a lot of friends, so it's a good next step.” — Alex Rigos, finance

“I’m moving to Chicago. I have a full-time job at Infinite Marketing. I plan on moving to the big city and making money.” — Bobby Trick, general studies

“Going home … not working. Living life for a little bit.” — Anne Gerker, photography

“I'm going to coach two little kids' teams in the fall up to Christmas. I'm really excited … it's been a great four years at UD.” — Jack Pearson, sports management

“I’m going out to California for AmeriCorps.” — Joe Ulrich, history

“I have an internship with the San Francisco 49ers.” — Kelsey Owen, sports management

“Next I’ll be in Cincinnati. I really wanted to be close to UD and close to a lot of friends, so it’s a good next step.” — Ellen Davis, music

“Going home … not working. Living life for a little bit.” — Jack Pearson, sports management

“I’m starting my own business out of my parents’ basement this summer running audio for bands, recording bands and all that kind of stuff.” — Kelsey Owen, public relations

“I'm applying for a year of service to do some sort of counseling, and then I want to go to grad school for community counseling.” — Jack Pearson, sports management

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Anthony Sadler’s father was murdered, but loss can’t hold him back

By Tom Archdeacon ’72

Sadler said, “Man, that’s something I will hold dear.”

That photo symbolizes something Sadler has always held onto: Life is about rising above your circumstances. Sometimes that means just being lifted out of a constraining way I looked at it, every experience — positive or negative — is a life lesson the coaches had with them and, when I came here, I liked the players caring about each other and on and off the field, the connection the coaches had with them, and, of course, the engineering school. I loved it there.”

“He had a great smile — that sort of thing — he’s got the compass,” said Sadler. “He’s just an awesome young man and that smile definitely lights up a room.”

As a youngster, he didn’t know the lessons his mother had drawn on that lesson from the old coach. “I didn’t get that upset that he was gone,” Sadler said. “He wasn’t good, he was just happening with a strong man. He’s got all the attributes that a guy his size should have.”

“Man, that’s something I will hold dear.” At Carman-Ainsworth he was the Gatorade player of the year; in high school Sanford was selected first-team all-conference honors and would become “the legend” (and radio analyst) Bucky Bockhorn ’58.

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The witness

When Mary Lauterbach ’94 steps in front of a microphone or a number of Congress — as she has done many times, in many places, since January 2008 when a detective uncovered her daughter’s murdered body in a shallow backyard grave — she senses a hand on her shoulder. “I feel that it is the Holy Spirit speaking through me,” says Mary. “It is not me.”

However, the words come, she speaks about the life and death of her daughter, Lance Cpl. Maria Lauterbach. Here in May 2007, Mary had urged Maria to report that she had been raped by a Marine superior, Cpl. Cesar Laurean, at Camp Lejeune. And how Maria was belittled, minimized and further traumatized after she came forward with that allegation.

Bringing attention to sexual violence was not part of the Marine culture.

Twenty-year-old Maria was slain Dec. 14, 2007. In August 2010, Laurean, her accused rapist, was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison. The basics of the case may sound familiar; the media heavily followed the gruesome murder and trial, with varied and sometimes contradictory facts.

And as the tragic story became public, back in Van dallia, Ohio, Mary’s phone started ringing. She took more than 100 phone calls, from military women and a few men in different branches of service across the country who wanted to tell her what had happened when they had reported sexual assault. The common threads: They had no credibility with their superiors. Their truthfulness was questioned; their careers were derailed.

“It was like a broken record,” says Mary. Mary was reeling from shock, grief and rage. Regret, because a month after the rape, an emotionally traumatized Maria had confessed to her mother about what had happened. Mary had encouraged her daughter to report it, though belatedly, to her superiors.

“A month after the fact, Maria, no way you will get a conviction,” Mary remembers telling her daughter, “but get this guy a record.”

“It’s the worst advice I’ve ever given in my life.” Mary says. “I didn’t realize that I was handed that mission. And it won’t stop, because I am being called to do that,” says Mary, an assistant director in donor relations at UD.

Hers and other voices are being heard in Congress and the Pentagon. A report issued Oct. 2011 by the Department of Defense’s inspector general took a hard, critical look at Camp Lejeune’s response to Maria’s rape allegation.

In December, Congress’ defense budget included measures for improved sexual assault prevention and response. And on April 6, Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta announced strong new measures to combat sexual assault in the ranks.

Officials, Mary says, have acknowledged that several of the changes are a direct response to Maria’s situation.

“The always been a person of great faith,” says Mary, her voice in a near-whisper, “and I really believe Maria is in a better place. This brings meaning to Maria’s short life, and I am trying to extend that because her life has had an impact on more people and institutions than any of ours will, put together. Because of her, lives could be saved.”

The fundraisers

The pediatrician kept her office open after hours so Shaun Westfall ’94 and Ali son Kelly Westfall could bring in 11-day-old Carson for yet another weigh-in. Baby Carson was not gaining weight the way a healthy newborn should. And now the doctor had received abnormal results from one of the newborn screening tests.

In March 2009 in the quiet of the deserted office, the pediatrician broke the news: “Carson is testing positive for cystic fibrosis.”

“But we were, ‘OK, what’s cystic fibrosis?’ We had no idea what it was,” says Alison. “And she said, ‘The worst thing you can do is go home

In the face of grave struggles, it is a miracle when human nature does not crumble but instead rises, compelled to make a difference. Here are stories of alumni who turned sorrow into service. — By Janet Filips ’77 — Illustrations by MB Hopkins
and look on the Internet about this.”

“So we went home and looked at the Internet,” Alison says, laughing, “and read all the different terms and about the short lifespan, and just started to freak out.”

But freaking out is not a way of life for Shaun and Alison. Their son, Carson, was born on July 10, 2000, in Coral Springs, Fla. After two weeks in neonatal intensive care, baby Brandon was fine; today he is a soccer-playing 12-year-old in Coral Springs. His twin, Adam, however, was seconated in the same hospital because of complications at birth left him with quadriplegic cerebral palsy. He cannot speak, walk or breathe on his own. Whenever oxygen deprivation is severe enough, he needs a breathing tube and will forever require vigilance and help with basic daily activities. He can speak but a handful of words.

A trust established by the court provides an annuity that helps support him but also ensures that the reality remains for Adam that he is critically blind; that means brain damage caused his vision loss. And the prolonged lack of oxygen during birth left him with quadriplegic cerebral

With his death, Gail found a new cause: raising money to support research funded by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. She started the Gail Callaway Fund with the Wish MS, and then in 2009, the Adam MS — a two-day, 150-mile ride that takes place on different routes throughout the U.S. Taking to the bike was fitting because, each summer day during her bike rides, she read aloud to her brother, “even though he’s not here anymore.”

As a lasting gift from her brother, says the engineer-turned-healer, “I have more compassion.”

The advocate

The expert

1:30 a.m. one summer night in Coral Springs, Fla., Gail Brown Callaway was running laps in San Jose, Calif., along with 30 other volunteers. As she rhythmically circled the track — her leg of the American Cancer Society’s fundraising 24-Hour Run, as the Relay for Life is called back then — a realization struck her. “Something,” she thought, “isn’t right in my life.”

But what? An electrical engineer, Gail had a reputation as a primary care physician who is a trouble shooter by nature, she puzzled through that thought as the summer wore on. “I’m not happy,” she thought. “Something’s missing. When Gail and her husband, Lee Callaway, travel for Bike MS, “it helps me remember my brother,” she says. “Even though he’s not here anymore, it’s great motivation to help people after him — and hopefully find a cure so people don’t have to endure what he did.”

In her seven Bike MS rides — with 2012’s to raise $276,561, mainly from modest donations. Local companies provide items for a raffle, and for three months her medical office sells tickets for the drawing at $1 each. She asks friends via email or postcards to support her.

And she organizes an annual Girls Night Out with an admission fee and activities such as manicures, massages and make-up. The professionals donate their services, Gail pays for the food and drink, and the gate all goes to the MS Society.

Back in her office, Gail is mindful of her sister’s death and the 24-year-old son she lost in 1994, her 14 years as the sister of an MS patient. She wanted things explained clearly to her. She wanted to know about resources such as information, equipment and family support. She knows too well when tough a serious disease is on loved ones.

But freaking out is not a way of life for Shaun and Alison. Their son, Carson, was born on July 10, 2000, in Coral Springs, Fla. After two weeks in neonatal intensive care, baby Brandon was fine; today he is a soccer-playing 12-year-old in Coral Springs. His twin, Adam, however, was seconated in the same hospital because of complications at birth left him with quadriplegic cerebral palsy. He cannot speak, walk or breathe on his own. Whenever oxygen deprivation is severe enough, he needs a breathing tube and will forever require vigilance and help with basic daily activities. He can speak but a handful of words.

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"My wife is very involved and speaks out, as do I," says Gary. "But I attend more of the political events because I am not afraid to speak up, and I don’t give a rat’s patootie about crossing property. By the time Vince and Marylouise returned from that Vail trip: First, it is very complicated to plan a medical event because I am not afraid to speak up, and I don’t give a rat’s patootie about crossing my opinion. Because they don’t have enough of these kids, in our opinion. Because they are all innocents." The comforts of the ADAM SUSSER FOUNDATION is to sup- port students who choose careers devoted to the assisting the developmentally disabled. The foundation funds scholarships for recipients selected by Florida Atlantic and Flor- ida International universities who are studying occupational and physical therapy, speech ther- apy and special education.

Over the years, the foundation’s mission has evolved into raising public awareness and public involvement for special needs children, advocating for funding for no snow. So instead, they looked at the majestic mountains of Colo- rado, had many beginnings before it actually began.

In a way, the seed for Domino Pacis—Latin for "House of Peace"—was planted in 1990, during the year that Vince White Petterit, a 71-year-old woman from Chicago and Cleveland nearly every weekend it was the inscription: "Thank you for doing the best you can for anyone from the IRS to donors. Their resulting nonprofit, Domino Pacis Family Respite (DO mus PHIL-chic), extends a few weeks in Colorado High Country for family mem- bers in the throes of cancer, celebrating the end of treatment or in hospice care. Duck, a former en- vironment for someone seriously ill — yet it is critical that the honoree be someone of that effort. And second, that the joy from a relaxing week with family was long lived. Duck was heartbroken by the post-trip grief that her mother carried through her final days.

All those experiences melded together one sunny Colorado day in 2002. Duck and Vince, now retired, had just cleared the footprint for their mountain cabin. Vince left with their son Nic and daughter Sarah ‘on a week hike in the scenic forest trails. Along, Duck turned to the sky and asked him the least they had been able to move here as planned, why their children were doing well, why she and Vince felt secure enough financially and emotionally to leave corporate America. "And as soon as I let go of what I thought," Duck says, "it came back to me: ‘Do it for other families as you did for yours.’ And I knew without shadow of a doubt that I was on the right path." That meant devoting their blessings to pro- vide other families the happy memories of a week together, cradled by nature and caring friends. Duck spent the rest of the day formu- lating the strategic plan.

When Vince emerged from the backcountry, she informed him of this revelation. They im- mediately called the architect, who redesigned their home to easily host visiting families and denier activities. Their resulting nonprofit, Domino Pacis Family Respite (DO mus PHIL-chic), extends a short break to the IRS to donors. Their resulting nonprofit, Domino Pacis Family Respite (DO mus PHIL-chic), extends a few weeks in Colorado High Country for family mem- bers in the throes of cancer, celebrating the end of treatment or in hospice care. Duck, a former executive vice president in global advertising, is ex- ecutive director; Vince, a former steel industry
Muhammad and me
by Michael Gaffney ’71

With only a camera lens between himself and the heavyweight champion of the world, UD graduate Michael Gaffney uncovered the intimate moments of Muhammad Ali’s life.

Elvis Presley was dead. I had always wanted to photograph The King, and I had missed my chance.

There was no way I was going to miss photographing The Champ.

Elvis died Aug. 16, 1977. Later that month, I leafed through the newspaper and stopped on a story of three Ohio guys who had jumped in a car and driven to Muhammad Ali’s mountain-top training camp near Deer Lake, Pa. If they could do it, I could, too.

Muhammad — The Champ — had already established himself as one of the greatest heavyweight fighters of all time; he had captured worldwide attention; and, at 35, he was an aging boxer in a young man’s game. I was chief photographer at New Jersey’s The Daily Record on a two-week vacation. I threw my Nikons into the back of our royal blue Volkswagen — my wife named it “Herbie” — and drove the two-and-a-half hours west into the mountains.

The camp was completely open to visitors. I pulled up and met Gene Kilroy, Muhammad’s manager, who led me into a room. There, Muhammad lounged on a couch, robed and with bare feet, waiting to start his day’s training. I explained I was on...
assignment for Gamma-Liaison, an international photo agency. Muhammad welcomed me with a wave: "Shoot whatever you want." I quickly understood why he was the world’s most photographed person. There was something rare about his openness, accessibility and honesty that I knew would make for great pictures.

Three days into the assignment, in the dark of morning, we drove down the mountain to the flats of Deer Lake. Muhammad and I ran two miles, him training, me photographing with flash blazing. Back in the Oldsmobile, I cozied in the backseat with Muhammad’s brother and his trainer when Muhammad made a dramatic pronouncement: “No man alive has run up my mountain.” We drove on, and he said it again. I realized I was the only one in the car with running shoes on. He must be talking to me.

“Stop the car,” I said. It was still dark as I ran with Muhammad’s cornerman, Bundini Brown, driving behind and lighting my way. I was in great shape, I was a runner, I got half way up, and I was sucking eggs. I thought, “This is ridiculous, I have to keep going, I have to keep going, I can’t let him down.” Fifteen minutes was an eternity. As we approached the top, Muhammad was first out of the car, yelling, “You’re the only man alive to run up my mountain.” It wasn’t until after I finished that I realized he had pulled this on many people; I was the only one to succeed. In me, he saw something that he liked — a drive and ability to push and get what I wanted.

I wanted photos of Muhammad and, in those two weeks, I got them. When I told Muhammad I was leaving, he asked me to be his personal photographer for a year. In his best Marlon Brando Godfather voice, he said, “I’ll make you an offer you can’t refuse.” I laughed and said I needed to talk to my wife. Halfway home, I pulled up to a pay phone in front of a motel in Easton, Pa., dropped in my coins and dialed Debby. “What does this mean?” she asked. I told her it meant a lot of traveling all over the world covering his fights.

She said, “If you don’t do this, you’ll regret it for the rest of your life. It is the opportunity of a lifetime.” I gave my two weeks at the paper.

In 1968, I was a sophomore at UD from a family of five kids just trying to make my way. I was slopping trays in the Marycrest cafeteria for a meal ticket, and me and Johnny Kennelly were unloading trucks during the holiday season for extra cash. Then I got a present. My brother, on R&R from the Vietnam War, bought me a Yashica 125 twin lens reflex camera. I had never owned a camera before. The closest I had ever got was running home from school on Fridays to be the first in our family to pull Life magazine from the mailbox and page through photos from all over the world while lying on my belly on the living room floor. I bought a roll of 120 film and started shooting. In an alley in Dayton, there was a young Spanish girl, maybe 12 years old. She stood in front of a garage door with peeling paint and looked right into the camera. I took that paper and put it in the

RIGHT, ALI VS. SHAVERS FIGHT, SEPTEMBER 1977

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developer, and the image of this little girl came out. Even with just the black light of the darkroom, in that image I saw that this was what I wanted to do.

I took all the fine arts courses I could find, and I graduated with a degree in marketing and a minor in fine art, which no one I knew had ever heard of before. I went on to learn how to tell stories from Newsweek’s Thomas Orr and then into newspapers, where I always had three cameras hanging around my neck and got to shoot my favorite Yankee, Willie Randolph, and fall in love with Joe Namath and the Jets, all before I met Muhammad.

My year with him became defined by a fight trilogy — Muhammad winning by decision after 15 brutal rounds with Earnie Shavers in September 1977, losing his championship belt to Leon Spinks in February 1978, and besting Spinks in a rematch September 1978, winning the heavyweight title for a record third time, a feat never accomplished before or since. He was “The Greatest,” “The Champ,” champion of the world.

The mastery of Muhammad Ali can be summed in a single hit he took in the second round of the Shavers fight, my first heavyweight match. Shavers came in low and landed a right on Muhammad’s chin. In the photos, you can see the sweat knocking off Muhammad and the compression in his back from the force of the blow. Muhammad was essentially knocked out; I saw his knees buckle, and anyone who has fought knows that when the legs go, you’re down. But Ali bounced off the ropes. He started feigning wild bolo punches, yelling at Shavers, “You didn’t get me!” Muhammad was near unconsciousness, but he convinced Shavers, the judges and me that the punch didn’t count. And it bought him time to recover. Later, after 15 rounds and a decision in Muhammad’s favor, Shavers admitted his mistake. Shavers should have knocked him out then, but instead he believed Muhammad’s ruse and conserved his energy for the rounds to come.

From the beginning, I saw my work as a documentary. In that year, I captured more than 8,000 photographs and tape-recorded his voice. I even channeled George Plimpton and danced around the ring to prove that The Champ and I had both made the right career choices.

When Muhammad sparred, he would take a beating, going three rounds without throwing a punch until the last 30 seconds. He trained to function in an unconscious state. He theorized that he could make himself immune to the punishment by toughening up. He had great skin — he didn’t cut like most boxers — and his recuperative powers were amazing; it was his strength. Did it contribute to his Parkinson’s? I don’t know. But the fights were damaging his liver, and Dr. Ferdie Pacheco, his personal physician, quit because he felt Muhammad was destroying himself.

But the documentary was about more than the boxing. I took the responsibility to show what most people couldn’t see. My goal was to pull him away from the crowd, which was hard, because he was the most popular person in the world. In Miami Beach, Fla., I asked him to go running. “I don’t run on sand,” he said. I told him it would strengthen his legs, and he played along. He pulled on combat boots, and I took pictures of him running, alone, on the beach.

On that trip, I also took photos of Muhammad with his newborn daughter, Laila. Recently, in People magazine, I saw a story about...
how Laila hung that photo above the crib of her new baby girl. She told the magazine, “It’s like a light shining down on her from my dad.”

People love a story of redemption. That is the story of Muhammad Ali. I first told that story four years ago in an exhibition to raise money for the Morristown Neighborhood House in New Jersey, where generations of boys like me learned as kids to box. Bert Randolph Sugar, the foremost authority on boxing, sent an ESPN crew to cover it. Then the exhibit traveled to London. The response and the reaction showed me people were still interested in Muhammad, and I decided to write a book. His image and his words put him in the context of history. He once told me that, after he took conscientious objector status for Vietnam, most people came to his fights to see him lose: “They came and they booed.” When the war finally ended and the country realized what a mistake the war was, they came back to his side. You couldn’t help but be around someone so powerful and so courageous. I’m not glorifying him; he had his flaws. But he lived a principled life founded on religious beliefs of peace, tolerance and understanding. There was a contrast between the violent world in which he earned a living and how respected he was for his acts of humanitarianism. He looked at his position of fame as a means to give a voice to the people who needed to be heard.

There were many special moments during my year with The Champ, which began with my run up the mountain and Muhammad lighting the way. What I learned was that Muhammad’s message, the light that he shared with the world, was a message of hope. I photographed it in the tears of a proud man who with thousands welcomed Muhammad to Detroit. I saw it in the beggars to whom he handed $100 bills outside his hotel room in Bogotá, Colombia. Everywhere we went, it was always the same, always found in their eyes. Muhammad made them proud of who they were and dared them to dream and hope.

When Muhammad fought Sonny Liston in 1964 for Muhammad’s first heavyweight title, my brother and I listened to the fight out of Miami Beach on a transistor radio. I was 14 years old and made a $5 bet that that big, bad Sonny Liston would win. It was the first and last time I would bet against The Champ.

Gaffney, right, now specializes in corporate photography out of his office in Morristown, N.J. His exhibition has been released as a book, The Champ: My Year With Muhammad Ali, which is available in print and ebook through Diversion Books at online retailers. Gaffney gave an advance copy to Ali’s wife, Lonnie, who presented it to The Champ on his 70th birthday, Jan. 17, 2012. Gaffney’s photos will be part of an Ali exhibit at Foreman’s in London during the 2012 Summer Olympics.
Follow Eric Benbow ‘94 into the woods, where he’s challenging students to move beyond the suspect world of TV forensic science and answer questions that could give new life to the study of death.

THE CURIOUS CASE OF FORENSICS

By Cameron Fullam
The questions came two decades ago from the back of the room — a senior, tall with black hair and glasses. Two dozen bend faces that only minutes ago had been watching the blackboard were now fixed on Eric Benbow, a junior transfer student completing his first year as a biology major at UD. He stood alone at the front of the classroom.

Twenty minutes earlier, he had dimmed the lights and flipped on the overhead projector. The illuminated screen showed an aquatic insect that filters water through fans on its body that languages slapped their wet faces. Two-inch thorns on honey locust trees poked and the sky had been dumping rain all night. Now, time of death.

She followed up on the unusual incident with identifying in one. “Juries have an unrealistic expectation of evidence, that a scientist can simply go out to a crime scene, find all of the evidence and even imagine his work, and the data aren’t always crisp and clean.”

In a recent experiment, Benbow and graduate student Andrew Lewis ’08 — the third person with Benbow and Berg that night in the woods — found that for a person on trial, the difference between “guilty” and “not guilty” could be 85 feet.

Blow flies are often the first insects to lay eggs on decomposing remains, usually within hours or even minutes after death. The larvae burst in wet rice, arranged in a semi-clump, blow fly eggs. “Write this down,” Benbow told his students. “What you just saw isn’t supposed to happen.”

So what? Just a month before their noc- turnal discovery, a criminal case was decided based in part on evidence of blow fly larvae on a dead body. A forensic entomologist testified about time of death. What were the chances, he was asked, of flies laying eggs on a victim’s body in the middle of the night under dark, warm conditions?

“He said it was incredibly unlikely or impossible,” Benbow said. “But he hasn’t forgotten the questions. He still visits those streams with students now but with a $10,000 piece of equipment — a water sampler — has been dead. He said it was incredibly unlikely or impossible.”

In 2009, the National Research Council issued its report of sound scientific research. That same year, he received a grant from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to fund his research on the interaction between forensic entomologists and crime labs.

Benbow is among a team of researchers at the forefront of responding to this report with two articles published in 2011 on the future of forensic science research. That same year, he DNA fingerprinting was the only one that escaped strong criticism from the NRC,” Benbow said. “But for the rest of the forensic sciences, too much evidence is anecdotal, and there is virtually no data on error rates. We don’t know how often these techniques are wrong.”

Meanwhile, thanks to popular TV shows like CSI: Crime Scene Investigation, the general pub- lic is led to believe that forensic science can pick out the tiniest of threads to unravel an entire case. “It’s a glammed-up, fabricated portrayal of forensic science, and this can hurt cases,” said Benbow, who has worked on several cases and test- ified in court. In one case in which an unexpres-

Pebble in a stream

As a boy, Benbow spent summer days wading and digging in the streams of State Farm Park and its neighbors, where his mother allowed him to keep them. Years later, when he once described his fieldwork to his mother, she said, “You big- ger — about the size of a grain of rice at first instar to no times larger by third instar — feed- ing on the rapidly decomposing carcass. During the third instar, they stop feeding and crawl away in search of a dark, moist place to undergo metamorphosis to become flies. Can be comprised and erroneous,” Benbow said.

When forensic entomologists arrive at a
scene, they search for the oldest larvae, looking under leaf debris and digging up soil samples. They collect the larvae using forceps or common household implements like a metal spoon by dropping them in ethanol or boiling them in water to stop their growth. For this, some entomologists carry camping stoves into the field.

Most forensic entomologists recommend a search radius of 10 meters for the oldest larvae. Like with flies and egg laying, it’s an optimization algorithm that larvae burrow into the ground to pupate within 2 to 10 meters of the carcass if the search stays within the current time frame of larval movement. Benbow received his doctorate from UD in 1999. Soon after, his phone rang. On the other end, the voice of pattie Merritt, forensic entomology professor at UD biology, was interested in this case, “Benbow said. “I appreciated hearing from her.”

Merritt had just received a grant to study the effect of road salt on aquatic insects, and he had been talking to several colleagues about the role of bacteria. But as a microbiologist who works with aquatic insects and biofilm formation on decomposing pig carcasses, Benbow Lang is also organizing a session on aquatic entomology at the Entomological Society of America’s annual meeting in November. She enjoys dabbling in multiple disciplines, likening her work to quilting: “I’m looking at research and data from different disciplines, synthesizing that information and using it to explain new ideas.”

She has experience in forensic biology, entomology and epidemiology, and her research focuses on the role of microbes in diseases. Disease ecology is serious business. “Don’t get me wrong. I still believe in becoming highly specialized,” knowing how to do your part well, “but you need to know how to connect that with what others are doing. Not everyone can do that, but that’s what I teach my students.”

With the National Research Council re-


certification for all forensic sciences.

nroom for our hotdog or potato salad, and we casually all eat it. Most of us don’t grow it a second thought.

“The interaction between bacteria and insect is profound, with permanent disfigurement making what’s it bringing from that roadkill?”

“Benbow's barbecue is its primary victims. The social stigma can be profound, with permanent disfigurement making so difficult to find a spouse or job in developing countries. Scientiﬁc inquiry. Crime victims’ loved ones. Students asking big questions. “A lot of scientists are in it just for the data, they’re not interested in how their data can be useful. Yes, the science is interesting, but once you’ve testified in court, once you’ve won your case, you’ve seen how your data can have an impact on people’s lives, that’s what keeps pushing you forward. That’s why it matters.”

Common fever is an infectious disease that affects mammals and birds. It is caused by the arbovirus, which is transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito. Fever, rash, and joint pain are common symptoms of the disease. In severe cases, the fever can last for days and even weeks, and the joint pain can be severe. The disease is not life-threatening, but it can be debilitating and can cause long-term complications.

Great questions

In a Science Center classroom full of first-

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percent measurement of the latest forensic sciences.

In 2009, the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences released a lengthy report on the state of forensic science and how to improve it. The report recommended that forensic science system, encompassing both research and prac-

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NRC recommendations in-
clude:

· Create a National Institute of Forensic Sciences.
· Expand research on the ac-

ce, and forensic science stan-

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tories and certification for all forensic sci-
ence practitioners.
· Support higher education in the form of forensic science gradu-

testifying as an expert witness. Some authors have been known to have conflicts of interest, such as receiving payments from companies that sell forensic science services. Researchers have also been accused of publishing biased or incorrect results to support the funding of their research. This has led to concerns about the reliability and validity of the results obtained in forensic science.

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cientific literacy. Education and the University’s Catholic identity. He writes stories about science, the arts, and the environment.

For the living

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Sister Mary Lou Schmersal, C.P.P.S. ‘65

Beauty, faith abound

Sister Mary Lou Schmersal, C.P.P.S., intentionally looks for something beautiful every day.

“Photography allows me to capture, preserve and delight in beauty, and beauty is an important part of my life,” she says. She also quilts, spins, weaves and knits. She makes time for these activities around her former position as interim director of the communications office for the congregation of the Sisters of the Proctor of Mary Stein, Ohio. Schmersal oversees the launching of a new website, proctorofmarystein.org, to engage people by using social media outlets, including Facebook and a blog.

“We are hoping to connect with folks who are we, what we do and what our sisters are as Sisters of the Proctor of Mary Stein. Our Proctor of Mary Stein spirituality permeates all that we do and we suspend to do great things for our sisters and brothers throughout the world. Being women of prayer, we put that action in order to create change in the world. We are involved in services to God’s people in response to the needs of those people.”

She also uses Skype to include the skills and insights of the sisters throughout the U.S. and in Guatemala and Chile in committee meetings and community events.

A background in teaching helped Schmersal acquire the skills she used as interim communications director and in her prior marketing positions at the Home of the Holy Family in Maria Stein, Ohio. “Teaching helped me develop the communication skills necessary to be a successful voice in my audience, she said.

She states her opinion in a way that resonates with her audience.

Of course, she knew as a nun, as a nun of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Proctor of Mary Stein, that the everyday work of the religious is to engage people by using social media outlets, including Facebook and a blog.

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She also uses Skype to include the skills and insights of the sisters throughout the U.S. and in Guatemala and Chile in committee meetings and community events.
KATHY JACOBELLI ’78

When your personal trainer costs $85 an hour, it would be nice to be able to remember what he or she tells you.

Kathy Jacobelli! Magazines are cheaper, but she didn’t learn nearly as much from them. She found a solution from a stranger in a Santa Monica, Calif.,...
Imagine a doctor in Cincinnati operating on an animal in a calm, agricultural ill in space, or people in the Amazon living a 300-mile boat ride from the nearest physician. While he's only a medical degree, Charles Doarn — who studied microbiology before receiving his MBA from UD — sees virtual presence and telemedicine to help from afar.

"There's a growing shortage of doctors and nurses nationally and worldwide," Doarn says. "But we can only build so many cred-

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Virtual doc

Charles Doarn, ’88

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ELANA CHAPMAN ’92

Vehicle for change

Elana Chapman’s work today will change the fuel of tomorrow.

As a biofuel engineer for General Motors Corp., Chapman researches ways to decrease the amount of ethanol as a gasoline additive to create a cleaner form of energy. She works with fuel economy analysts and archive, and sheresearches how the properties of different fuels affect engine performance.

In changing the composition of fuel, however, also needs to make sure the pipeline travels through, as well as the engine’s power, is protected.

“I want to make sure fuels are readily available for people to use and that the product aren’t damaged,” Chapman says. Her career is born out of her interest in cars and engines and her UD degree on combustion.

“I’m always in touch with engine design and with vehicles,” she says. As a manager, every day of Chapman’s job is unique. One day she is in Pontiac, Mich., preparing for meetings and drafting test plans; another day she is at the GM prototyping grounds in Milford, Mich., working with organic chemists and technicians.

She balances her hectic schedule by arranging routine team meetings and constantly reviewing the progress of her projects. “My career is finding its own way and opening up doors I never imagined,” Chapman says.

One of Chapman’s goals is to help the country fuel cars with alternative fuels. This will reduce the cost and demand of petroleum while also providing a source of energy that is readily available.

Chapman is taking her own challenge, she says. She’s not a fuel addict but she’s a fuel addict.

“I have a consistent amount of ethanol in the marketplace, be it five or six years, 12 years, she says. “I can’t be ready for it.”

—Mike Magee ’11

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SUMMER 2012   UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON MAGAZINE

Green and growing

MARIO PARISI ‘98

Mario Parisi is pursuing his ideas by expanding the family business.

In 2007, Parisi branched out from simply a food service company in Fairfield, Ohio, which his grandfather started in 1944. With the “green” initiative just starting to appear on the West Coast, Parisi saw a business opportunity. “This was before green hit mainstream,” he says.

Parisi describes his upbringing as being connected to how vitally we live. “Mom always raised me as an environmentalist. When we were kids, mentioning her concerns for animals, wildlife and opposition to animal testing. “Even when I was at UD — I lived at 330 Keebler — I remember when we would have parties. I would pick up the case of beer and I would walk them down to the local dumpster.”

While taking political theory at UD, Parisi’s professor said environmentalism would be the hottest political issue in the 21st century. “We are now fought over natural resources,” he says. He wanted to find a way to create a company where he could use his business skills to promote environmentalism.

He started Green Nature Marketing by promoting customers, such as Ohio University where he says he docker did not want to support animal testing. “Even when I was at UD — I lived at 330 Keebler — I remember when we would have parties. I would pick up the case of beer and I would walk them down to the local dumpster.”

With the burgeoning demand for organic products on the rise, Parisi hopes to see the company grow to 35 representatives today.

“Whatever we rely upon for survival is continuous education for the consumer,” he says. “We are on our own journey realizing what we want and what we eat, and the movement continues to get stronger and stronger.”

—John Romo ’12

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—John Romo ’12
Jim Gazzale was working for free just two years ago at Dayton's WQRT-WKRT. Now, millions see his international stories broadcast on Russia Today, an English-language news channel based in Moscow.

Gazzale lived a double life in his last semester of college. He was a senior electronic media major living on Stonewall Road, attending basketball games and working as Fiber Rack's general manager. He was also a full-time producer of ABC12 in Dayton.

"I gave up my Friday and Saturday nights. I was working 10 hours a week, making $6 an hour. I literally never had a day off — it was either a day of class or a day of work," Gazzale says.

After local stints at network affiliates in Louisiana and New York, Gazzale landed an international reporting job in Moscow. Despite a major language barrier, overall culture shock and $10 an hour, Gazzale pictures past success.

"I think that's where we are. Right now we are in the position to really think about what's the best thing to do, because we have never experienced much," Gazzale says.

Our man in Moscow

Jim Gazzale

"When all my friends went out on Friday nights, I would sleep because I had to work in the morning," Gazzale says. "I tried to make the right decision.

—Sara Don '12

President, Board of Trustees, University of Dayton

Jim, J.T. Gazzale ’06, moved from Dayton to Moscow this past April, where he now works for Russia Today, a new English-language news channel based in Russia. The move was made possible through a scholarship awarded by the University of Dayton’s Office of International Affairs.

The University of Dayton is a national leader in study abroad programs, which annually send 20 percent of its undergraduates abroad. In 2007, the university launched its Global Vision initiative, an effort to create global awareness and encourage international understanding.

"We're really changing the way we view the world," said President Steven C. Currall. "Not only do we want to enable our students to travel, but we want to ensure their education will assist them in finding jobs in the global marketplace.

Gazzale’s transition from Dayton to Moscow is part of a growing trend in journalism.

"I really wanted to do international reporting," he said. "It’s something I’ve always been interested in."
Garrett Coleman ’11

To get a little break dance with an Irish step, I would choose the hammered sword. That would influence the integrative nature of Hammerstep, which can have close to a dozen performers singing production. Competing nationally and internationally, he won honors including when he was 5, following the path of his mother and three sisters. Dance Co.

COMPETING NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY, HAMMERSTEP HAD ITS ORIGINS IN A DANCE PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON. DANCE CO. was founded in 1970, and since then has performed at a variety of venues and events, including Symphony Hall, Detroit Opera House, and the Kennedy Center. The group has also won numerous awards and has been featured in various media outlets.

The middle room was perfect for me, perfect for Lauren with her enviable ward- robe. At the window, I could sit on a stool and watch as the bus went by. Lauren, with a sun- ny smile, was sitting on her stool, looking out the window at the world. I had to smile at her, too. She was happy.

Be sure to indicate it is not for Class Notes. Or you may send the information to: records@udayton.edu.
Hope and glory

When Bob Hope came to UD’s Fairleigh Dickinson in 1960, the Dixie Dynamoes were asked to warm up the crowd with a musical interlude. Hope even reconvened the band during the show.

“Hey, fiddles,” Hope said, gesturing to Jim Scofield and his tuba. “That looks like he’s kissing a garbage disposal.”

Guests on the show that day included Gene Krupa, who sat on the Dixie's drum set.

“I think Gene Krupa was there to make a point that you can’t just walk into a situation and be a leader,” Scofield said.

They left the festival with an award for showmanship and got a track on a tear-out vinyl record in an issue of Downbeat magazine.

“For a college kid,” Scofield said, “that’s really cool.”

Although the Dixie Dynamoes are dispersed across the country, the group members still keep in touch. Lonsway, who went on to teach music, says a few of the members met at their 50th class reunion in 2010 to reminisce about their undergraduate years.

Of all my college events, there’s a lot I could [jot] down, “ Scofield said, “but the Dixie Dyn...”

—Maggie Maldon ‘n

Reforming schools

On May 5, former Ohio Gov. Bob Taft — a distinguished research associate at the School of Education and Allied Professions — joined Colorado leaders for a panel discussion on education reform, a talk that attracted about 40 community members and alumni from the classes of 1986 to 2011. The event took place at Denver Academy.

Also on the panel were Bob Schaffer ’84, former U.S. congressman and current principal of Liberty Common High School; Andrew Freedman, chief of staff for the lieutenant governor of Colorado; and Rebecca Holmes, executive director for KIPP Colorado Schools. Kevin Smith ’84, the headmaster of Denver Academy; served as the discussion moderator and UD College of Arts and Sciences Dean Paul Benson also attended.

“We wanted this to be more than just a meet-and-greet,” said Denver alumni chapter president Adam Schaffer ’10. “You could tell there was a lot of passion for the topic from those who attended, and people really enjoyed the substance of the event.”

Paying it forward

Alumni of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity visited campus April 17 to present a ceremonial check for $30,000 — $6,000 per year for five years — to provide for financial needs outside of tuition and room and board for one upperclassman minority student per semester. Qualifications include financial need, a minimum 3.0 grade point average and a commitment to volunteer in the Dayton Public Schools or the Dayton Early College.

Chapter roundup

The Seattle chapter welcomes new president Tara Palumbo ’05. Contact her at seattle@alumni.udayton.edu or Teresa Perretta ’04 at teresa -perretta@udayton.edu. Alumni and friends are celebrating the Class of 2016 at their new president Tara Palumbo ’05. Contact her at seattle@alumni.udayton.edu or Teresa Perretta ’04 at teresa -perretta@udayton.edu. Alumni and friends are celebrating the Class of 2016 at their new president Tara Palumbo ’05. Contact her at seattle@alumni.udayton.edu or Teresa Perretta ’04 at teresa -perretta@udayton.edu. Alumni and friends are celebrating the Class of 2016 at their new president Tara Palumbo ’05. Contact her at seattle@alumni.udayton.edu or Teresa Perretta ’04 at teresa -perretta@udayton.edu.

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Shannon McDonough Chawk’s daughters didn’t want to know the exact day their dad was due home. He was returning from a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan. Before, they waited, only to be crushed by disappointment as schedule changes and extensions kids cannot control.

So on a chilly January morning, Shannon ’94 trained her video camera on the unsuspecting tweens to capture the surprise reunion. Watching the video—the pure joy in the rush of hugs and the megawatt smile on the big, tough Marine Corps lieutenant colonel’s face—it’s impossible not to cry.

The clip is posted on Shannon’s Facebook page—the countless comments and “likes” below brim with elation, joy and appreciation for her husband Frank’s service. But most of the comments were expressions of awe and admiration for the person who never appears on the screen.

Shannon had a nomadic upbringing. So when it became obvious that she and Frank Chawk ’95, who met at a sorority function in 1992, were heading toward the altar, the majority of the comments were expressions of awe and admiration for the person who never appears on the screen.

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Michael Doman this summer is taking his final classes at the University of Dayton School of Law. He might not be there if not for a man dead for more than a third of a century.

"The program in law and technology," Doman said, "is one of the main reasons I chose to attend UDSL."

He points to the qualifications of the faculty and to an annual event — the Scholarly Symposium Series: Current Issues in Intellectual Property Law. "The program provides great opportunities to connect with alumni through the intellectual property symposia. These events are not only great for networking but also provide an opportunity to hear perspectives from attorneys who are currently practicing," he said.

Jason Williams, who received a UD juris doctorate in 2011 and a master of laws in 2013, saw the same benefits of the symposium as did Doman. "A number of us in the IP track attended the symposia regularly, " he said. "It's a great networking event. We go to meet people who met us."

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Williams and Doman both see significance in hearing the perspectives of practicing attorneys. The topics are often current and of a kind not found in class. Brining that perspective back to class, Williams noted, added depth to the classroom experience.

And the symposium’s treatment of current, cutting-edge subjects draws practitioners to campus, noted Kelly Henrici ’94, director of the program in law and technology.

"The symposium is able to exist because of a man dead for more than a third of a century. That man, Hubert Estabrook, before he died in 1975, made a decision that continues to affect the profession that he served.

In 1990, Estabrook was one of the founders of the firm Estabrook, Finn & McKee, the predecessor by merger of the Dayton office of Porter Wright Morris & Arthur. At his death, he and his wife, Gladys, left their estate to be used to fund legal education in Ohio. The foundation distributes its funds to Ohio’s nine law schools and other institutions that advance the study of law in the state.

According to R. Bruce Snyder, current trustee for the trust, the first trustee was John Henry, an adjunct professor at UD. Upon Henry’s death in 1989, Snyder succeeded him.

"From then until now," Snyder said, "the trust has distributed about $150,000 a year to try to jump-start programs at the nine Ohio law schools, programs that were perhaps risky and might not be tried."

On campus in May during Alumni Weekend, Estabrook attended the Honorable Walter H. Rice Honorary Alumni Award, Snyder remarked that the school’s “professors and students have made a career of making us look good as trustees; we give seed money and often these things fail; at UD, they don’t.”

Snyder indicated that during his trusteeship, donations to the School of Law from the trust and Porter Wright have supported a number of programs at the school besides the program in law and technology. One of those in tune with the University’s mission as a Catholic and Marianist institution is the Symposium on Law, Religion & Ethics.

"Most recently," Snyder said, "the trust pledged $200,000 to renovate the student lounge [the Jory Box]. The trust’s first grant to the law school was to create a student lounge."

As Henrici said in speaking of the format of the intellectual property symposium: “We feed the mind, the heart, the soul and the belly.”

—Thomas M. Colkerus

M ore than 100 years ago, on an island far away, a bushy bearded man hauled his big busy camera up to picturesque hillsides and down to cascading waterfalls, capturing life on glass plate negatives.

The Society of Mary appoint- ed Brother Gabriel Bertram Bell- inghausen, S.M., to introduce its educational mission to the Hawaiian Islands, according to Kimberley Neumenschwander, as- sistant archivist for the Marianist Archives. Bellinghausen took over St. Louis College in Honolulu in 1881 and increased the size of the student body tenfold over the next 22 years. It was just one way in which he was prolific.

While in Hawaii, Belling- hausen shot nearly 2,000 photo- graphs, which Father Paul Viessen, S. M., director of the Marianist Arc- hes at UD, describes as “marvel- ous” and “incredibly clear.”

“They’re very valuable in the sense that they record pictorially all the flora and fauna and a lot of the life in the Hawaiian Islands in the late 1800s and early 1900s,” Viessen said.

Bellinghausen's plates, boxed and secured with neon green bungee cords, before arriving at UD, this set of plates traveled from Ha- waii to Cupertino, Calif., the site of the former Marianist Pacific provinces’ archives. Viessen said. The provinces were later com-

HIDDEN TREASURE

From left, Kelly Henrici, Michael Doman and Jason Williams

We give seed money and often these things fail; at UD, they don’t."

Today, the Marianist Archives holds approximately 1,150 of Bell- inghausen’s plates, bound and neatly lined up across 23 shelves, secured with neon green bungee cords. Before arriving at UD, this set of plates traveled from Ha- waii to Cupertino, Calif., the site of the former Marianist Pacific province’s archives. Viessen said. The provinces were later com-

Bellinghausen's photographs have been displayed at UD at least twice. Tom Patterson, adjunct visual arts teacher at Stivers School for the Arts in Dayton, scanned the plates several years ago and printed a selec-

tion of them for the exhibitions. The scans were also sent to Chaminade Universi- ty, next to what is now known as St. Louis School.

“These photos are valuable for us [the Mar- ianists] because they give us pictures of the schools we had,” Viessen said. “They’re also valu- able because there are pictures of the brothers and priests who were there — Marianists and other missionary groups as well — which you otherwise might not get. They really are a treasure.”

—Sorcha Fennermayer '12

A vision allows risky programs to flourish In trust

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“ar the University of Hawaii and the Hawaiian Historical Society.

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—Thomas M. Colkerus
Kabul normal

By Bob Saum ’84

I first flew to Kabul, Afghanistan, May 1 for a three-year assignment. This was the first of the first 24 hours were anything to go by, I realized that the government in addressing fiscal challenges focusing primarily on accountability and transparency, I know it is difficult to match rhetoric with results. I understand that real development focusing primarily on accountability and transparency, I know it is difficult to match development challenges. That is why I am here in Kabul.

As the next three years unfold, I will work closely with the government and development partners on making a success of the Transformation Decade (the five years after the 2001 transition during which the Afghan elections and substantial withdrawal of the international troops take place). Results already being achieved (improvement in health services, active community engagement in developing 50,000 of the poorest rural villages, opportunities to leverage natural resources into wider and inclusive growth) can provide the foundation for this transformation. And the opportunity to be a part of this is why I am here.

Saar was recently appointed at the World Bank country director for Afghanistan and Wharton. He moved to Kabul, Afghanistan, May 1 for a three-year assignment.

Snowglobe

By Noah Fitch ’90

At the town hall only orphans gather. Each one with perfectly parted brown hair. I want to yell about things around the thick oval glass.

Things like: “Your future is non-transferrable” or “I will be lucky if by the window to bring out the sunshine in all of you.”

But instead I pick up the globe and give it a sturdy shake. The snow particles fall in a 20th century kind of way.

It’s almost like to witness the first time. But as months pass, so does the interest. To keep my curiosity

I figure I should reassess myself with those inside the tiny globe. I try to put myself in my miniature snow boots

imagine how they must live — outside frozen, necks constantly craned like a flowerbed of tulips, awaiting any sudden jolt.

Their world is shaken upside down and sometimes side to side. And when I look closer

I realize that it’s not the birds showing across the sky or the children’s kites dangling from a tree, or even the rear of an airplane keeping their attention upward.

It is the dizzy, laminated impression my finger

bats smudged all across their horizon.

Erma

By Teri Rini ’90

For three days, we laughed. It was OK, we howled. So much so that we dubbed UD’s biennial Erma Bombeck Writers’ Workshop the “Woodstock of Humor.”

But it’s not just the sound of laughter I remember from this spring’s gathering of 50 writers from around the nation.

My eyes closed, I listened to Suzette Marti

stood strong. She pointed out how to seize the moment of truth. I am early in my UD career, and I worry about getting this video assignment right. “It was like getting ready to go on stage,” remembers Anna Fina Bombeck “as she sat in front of me and delivers an 84-second anecdote about how Marianist Brother Tim Price, her English profes

sor, first told her she had a gift for writing. She speaks directly from the heart to the videogra

pher as though we are all dear friends. No notes. No hesitation. No pretense.

Her words still give me a chill.

“So I must tell you, you sort of slide things under the door and wait until the great critic comments on them,” she recalls. “And he saw me one day and said, ‘That’s a good one’ and he said these three words to me, that’s all, just three words that were to sustain me for the rest of my life, I think. He looked at me and said, ‘You can write.’”

I can’t suppress a laugh when she quo

es, “I won’t believe him. And then I thought, no, he’s a man of the cloth. I mean he’d have to be on his knees for the rest of his life repeating for this if he didn’t mean it.”

Her words, filled with warmth and humili

sory, spoke directly from the heart to the video camera.

But instead I pick up the globe and give it a sturdy shake. The snow particles fall in a 20th century kind of way.

To those who grew up with Erma’s column on their refrigerator doors, Erma always felt like our next-door neighbor. Her writing captured the joyful moments in family life in a way that made us laugh at ourselves. “I bought myself a household,” she once wrote, “to sweep the room with a glance.”

“We don’t know of any other writers’ confer

ence that the famous and the unknown sit side by side in mutual respect. That’s why I am here,” Erma, observed Tracy Becke

rman, a nationally syndicated humor columnist and author from New Jersey who found the confidence to write after attending her first Bombeck workshop in 2006. Today, she’s on the workshop’s fac

ulty. “When I came to my first conference, I had one column in one small-town newspaper. The support of this writing community is incredible,” she said. Writers leave the workshop renewed and re

spired, ready to find their own voice.

“People may tell you you’re the next Erma Bombeck. No, you’re not,” author and stand-up com

edy Nancy Bisker cautioned writers in her “What the Power of Erma” session. “Do it your way. Listen to the voices that matter.” Just like Erma did.”

‘Set Back’

—Niki Tu dây Gunnerson Connolly

www.plunkettseven.blogspot.com/
I’m not a fan of boxing — watching hits that barely dent muscled flesh threatens to shatter my eye sockets — but I am a fan of the boxer. Michael Gaffney’s story of his year with Muhammad Ali [“Muhammad and Me,” Page 28] intrigued me because of the intimate lens the photographer had into Ali’s life; I also must admit I glow each time a Flyer does something of wonder and worth. But the photographs completely overwhelmed me. In Gaffney’s book, I can see the physical transformation Ali undertook to rid his body of any softness that contributed to his title loss against Leon Spinks. I see calves famous for conveying deft footwork, arms triggered for the assault. Gaffney captured Ali’s mischievous smile, behind which I see cheek muscles that could crush a can.

By those images, I am both awed and envious. It’s the same feeling I get when I watch the Dayton Contemporary Dance Co., which begins another year as UD’s community artist in residence. That bodies can be so graceful and powerful seems implausible. In the darkened theater, I squeeze my husband’s arm as a man who seems twice my size leaps in interpretation of an ostrich or airman or pusher or preacher, each muscle moving precisely thanks to training and talent.

I do not look like a boxer. I do not move like a dancer. I occasionally run because I know I should (and because my dog is bored). I joke at my soft spots and order the Peanut Buster Parfait. And I love to watch others move.

This summer will be a cornucopia for spectators who believe bodies are finely engineered temples. Among my favorites at the Olympics will be Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt. I will refuse to breathe for the five minutes before — and the 9-point-wow seconds during — Bolt’s race to again prove he’s the fastest human alive. I will devour everything from shot put to sailing, and my dog will be bored.

Before Gaffney met Ali — and before Cassius Clay took the name Muhammad — Ali won the light heavyweight boxing gold in Rome in 1960. In 1996, the former boxer, ravaged by Parkinson’s, set the Olympic torch afire in Atlanta. As I watched through my living room TV, I could see that his loss of strength had not diminished his spark. I said I am envious of exhibitions of strength. But I am equally amazed by what that strength — or lack thereof — says about obstacles overcome, goals attained and limitations accepted. The muscles are not the story; the man is.

What I crave more than anything is a good story, to feel close to people tough as nails or mushy as soft-serve. When they are made real — through words, images or interactions — a sliver of that enigma called humanity is revealed. And I am once again awed.
The cost of constructing Alumni Hall in 1924 was about $350,000, which, in today's terms, would be about $4.7 million. This summer, campus is seeing about $30 million worth of construction, nearly half of which is the beginning of multiyear projects to modernize the Science Center and Roesch Library. And in August, 400 students will be moving into the $25 million residential complex at Brown and Caldwell streets.

Photos: Above, courtesy of University archives; right, Larry Burgess