WVUD’S ROCK REVOLUTION
DIGITAL HUMANITY
There’s no finer place in spring than the gazebo on the Roesch Library lawn. Photo by Larry Burgess.
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ON THE COVER
A winning sentiment from the women of
320 Stonemill Road during the I Love UD
COMMENTARY BY DANIEL J. CURRN
PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

A voice for the voiceless

When I addressed faculty, staff and students at my presidential installation 12 years ago, I talked about how a Catholic university must be a force for social change.

Today, I’m more convinced of that than ever.

At a February lunch with students, one shared an intriguing idea about how he could develop safe water in developing countries. During summers, teams of our students have traveled to Africa, where they’ve worked with villagers to install pipelines to carry clean water. Still, the problem of access to safe water persists in too many places in the world.

Our faculty and students have long fought against human trafficking — to the point of encouraging Ohio legislators to pass Senate Bill 235 that made it a felony. Still, more than 1,000 children in Ohio become victims each year.

In October, I signed an agreement with Catholic Relief Services that supports faculty research and advocacy in a campaign to eliminate slave labor in Brazil. Last summer, five professors visited the country to examine slave labor in the manufacture of consumer goods that Americans buy. They met with government and church officials to map strategies for change. Still, the International Labor Organization estimates that 40,000 people work in slavery in Brazil today.

News and social media show us faces of the poor, of refugees, of victims of starvation and genocide. We shouldn’t turn our eyes.

So last fall, we convened a global conference to share research on effective human rights advocacy and announced our intention to create and endow a human rights center on campus. In recent weeks, we’ve met with foundations and alumni to share our vision for a center devoted to education, research, advocacy — and action. We are seeking partners in this work deeply rooted in our mission as a Catholic, Marianist university.

We will be a voice for the voiceless. To do so, we must continue to analyze the systemic causes of injustice, advocate solutions and educate students for work that will advance human rights.

We’re in an ideal position to make a difference. We started the country’s first undergraduate human rights program in 1998 and began offering a bachelor’s degree in human rights studies a decade later. Our alumni today work worldwide in humanitarian roles.

During the past two decades, we’ve held symposia on human rights issues, including the rights of the child and violence against women. Through a generous gift from alumnus Peter McGrath ’72, we began a rigorous research fellows program. Faculty and students conduct research in all areas of human rights, from human trafficking to refugee resettlement.

I’m reminded of Marianist priest William J. Ferree’s philosophy of social justice: It’s not up to individuals alone to make a difference. It’s the responsibility of all to work together to create change.

In the Marianist spirit, through the center for human rights, we will work together to address the world’s systemic injustices and promote the dignity of all people.
Kudos, Professor Trollinger, for your illuminating story of which all Daytonians should be cognizant.

—Jerrold Hopfengardner ’59, Greenville, N.C.

ENLIGHTENING

Thanks to an LA-Boston flight, I was able to read the magazine cover-to-cover. You and your staff are to be commended for such good, interesting, heartwarming news.

The article on the Klan was very enlightening for several reasons. The reference to Jack Brown and Harry Baujan are close to home. Mr. Brown’s daughter Ginny was my hostess for pizza with other football recruits in 1957. Yes, I did come to UD and played for the Flyers before graduating in 1963. Mr. Baujan was helpful in many ways, including getting me an extra year of eligibility — a huge blessing.

Your reference to the “Dark Side” is telling — this is where our daughter lived as well, near the brothers’ house. Colleen graduated in 1992.

Having spent all of my life in sales, I am very thankful for Mr. Talarico’s gift to UD. Yes, we all sell something every day. A very proud Golden Flyer,

JERROLD HOPFENGARDNER ’59
MISSION VIEJO, CALIF.

NAMING OF THE UNION

Regarding the article on the naming of the Kennedy Union [“From sadness to solidarity,” Winter 2013-14], there may be more dreamy nostalgia reported than actually existed. There was, at the time, dissent and harsh analysis over the naming.

In the autumn of 1962, the University began entering the era of political activism from decades of isolation as “monks on the hill.” There was dissent in the autumn of 1963 over the naming for several reasons. At the time, there was no known connection between the Kennedy family and the University. No one could recall any visit by a member of the Kennedy family and the University. No one could recall any visit by a member of the Kennedy family to the University. There was a movement to name the student center after Tom Blackburn, the basketball coach who brought the University to national attention by its national championships. The perceived reluctance to such a naming was based on Blackburn not being Roman Catholic.

And there was political opposition based on Kennedy’s reported sexual peregrinations. Such rumors were persistent on the East Coast, where a number of students originated. Recall that the students were taught in grade school using the Baltimore Catechism, which contained sections on the Ninth Commandment.
unchaste acts, and the Sacraments, timely confession of mortal sins. President Kennedy’s instantaneous death provoked discussions about his moral and religious state at the time of his death. No one suggested the eternal place of his soul, but reflections on our student behavior were made. The article mentions Dave F. Powers [assistant to Kennedy]. A reading of Once Upon a Secret by Mimi Alford relates her lengthy sexual affair with the president. Powers handled arrangements for the liaisons. How hypocritical for Powers to reminisce knowing Kennedy’s use/misuse of this young woman.

Thus, the statue of Kennedy was perceived at the time as being ambiguous: one, as Kennedy worthy of eternal remembrance; and two, as Kennedy receiving his eternal reward for his behavior — a determination that only God makes. And a lesson for us to observe and learn.

RONALD J. VERSIC ’64
DAYTON

from Facebook

Back in 2008, I remember my tour guide telling me and my mother about KU. I came up with a question: “Did JFK come here before?” The tour guide told me that it was a good question. I was bummed to find out that he never did.  

JEREMY VINLUAN

This building reminds me of my many wonderful college meals and hearing a Bob Dylan song via UD radio [WVUD] every morning at 9:30 a.m. It’s been so long ago, and I had forgotten it was the JFK Union. Thank you, UD, for a fantastic college experience and education.

Vince Kelly

MY OLD HOUSE, TOO

There I was — breezing through the UD Magazine — when wow [My Old House, Winter 2013-14]]! Believe it or not, I lived in that house 1948-49, 1950-51 and 1951-52 (lived in Alumni Hall 1949-50 but got tired of sneaking in when I was late, and I didn’t want Brother Nagel on my back). If my memory is correct, the house was owned by Ruth and Bob Dresler. Bob worked at a plant. Upstairs, one room was lived in by Bernard Rice (he was working, not a student), and his brother, Eugene Rice, lived in another room. Gene graduated in 1952 (physical education). I graduated in 1952, then went in the Army for two years.

Also saw where Monk Meinke passed away. He and I were next to one another in ROTC. Sure brought back memories.

JOHN W. MEHARY ’52
RICHARDSON, TEXAS

SALES SUCCESS

I commend Fiore Talarico for the wonderful selling skills donation to UD as featured in the Winter 2013-14 UD Magazine (“Sold on selling”). My 1968-75 UD involvement was spurred on by sales success with the award-winning Cordon Blu Dayton Dudes. Many friends and UD students earned money selling pots and pans as we learned life skills. Thank you, Mr. Talarico, for sharing your success to help many students become better at their chosen fields.

JOHN RUSBOSIN ’75
VIA FACEBOOK

DEAR MR. Z

Some words on the passing of music instructor George Zimmerman. See story, Page 10.

from Facebook

I still have the audiotape he made for us for music appreciation class. I still play it in my kindergarten classroom 25 years later and think fondly of him when I hear these pieces on classical radio. RIP Mr. Zimmerman!

KELLY MCCABE GOTHAM

Truly a one-of-a-kind gentleman — I will cherish the memories of his music, charm and laughter. God bless you, Mr. Z!

PATRICK RYBARCZYK

Have two editions of the cookbooks he published. Loved the stories as much as the recipes. Rest in peace, Mr. Z.

LAURA LAWSON

Have thoughts about what you read this issue?

PLEASE SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:
University of Dayton Magazine
300 College Park
Dayton, OH 45469-1303
magazine-letters@udayton.edu

Please include your city and state. Indicate whether you wish your email address printed. Letters should not exceed 300 words. University of Dayton Magazine may edit for clarity and brevity. Opinions expressed are those of the letter writers and not necessarily of this publication nor the University of Dayton.

From Twitter @daymag

The Campus at Night piece by Ian Moran @daymag is nicely done. Creative photojournalism with getting in close and shooting wide

—@JIMCROTTY

Visiting with an old friend. @daymag arrived today! Title is fitting because I believe I’ll be #upallnight reading it!

—@DEFINITELYEMMA

@daymag makes college romance seem a lot better than it usually is. How sweet is it to see who married and which alumni attended?!

—@BRENDELAAA

Cozying up with the latest @daymag issue. Rudy would rock the Indy 500!

—@UDINDYALUMNI

Aw Hellcat Maggie in the latest @daymag issue. Rudy would rock the Indy 500!

—@UDINDYALUMNI

Just finished a piece by my favorite history professor in the @daymag - it made me miss UD, a lot!

—@ECBUERGLER

So excited my alma mater Univ of Dayton is adding D1 women’s lax! @daymag @LB3GirlsLax @LB3ATLGIRLS

—@CLAIREBOOTHE12

@daymag Today marks 6 years since Maria Lauterbach was murdered. Salute to Maria in Perspectives in current issue is an essay about Maria

—@MERLEWILBERDING

Christmas off Campus Charlotte style! @DaytonFlyers @daymag #COC50 pic.twitter.com/GpoWGLZn4j

—@DOWNEYLE

@daymag one of my fondest memories as a student was attending #COC mass. Hope it is as great for current #Flyers. #COC50

—@MFMIKEM

@daymag is there free hug soon?

—@IF20I
What is your greatest sense of joy in working in campus ministry at UD?

—AUSTIN SCHAFER ’09
HILLIARD, OHIO

I find great joy in witnessing students develop an enthusiasm for God — like when I learn from the deep desire people have to hear and see God’s work in their lives. Sometimes it happens during an “aha” moment that a student has. Very often it happens in journeying with people through struggle. At these times, I am able to witness the faithfulness of a God who suffers with us — and who offers us hope.

How has the person of Mary shaped your life and ministry at UD?

—FATHER MARTIN SOLMA, S.M.
’71
ST. LOUIS

My first attraction to the Marianists was their reverence for Mary as the first disciple — the one whose “yes” to following the will of God resulted in Christ being a part of our world. When preparing for the birth of my first child, I prayed about being a mother. I was overcome by the opportunity my husband and I had to raise children who can represent the presence of Christ with how they live. When I later made this connection to Mary’s mission, this experience became even more profound. I pray that my work with students inspires them to bear the presence of Christ. All of our “yeses” bring opportunity to bear Christ — and build the Kingdom of God.

How can we get a better understanding of different faiths on campus?

—FATEMA ALBALOOSHI ’15
DAYTON

Relationships. Faith is encountered most authentically when it is explored in relationship with other people. It is just as important to grab a cup of tea with someone of a different faith perspective as it is to inquire about his or her beliefs and practices. Relationships help us understand one another and respect human dignity, which is innate to each of us because we are made in the image of God.

If you could instill one habit in every graduating senior, what would it be?

—KATIE DILLER ’10
EAST LANSING, MICH.

Look for signs of God’s love and grace every day.

Can you share some of the ways that you have seen the document Commitment to Community make a difference at the University?

—ED BRINK, S.M.
ST. LOUIS

C2C has helped all students deepen their understanding of Marianist community and their personal responsibility to contribute to it. We see reminders of C2C on campus banners and electronic billboards; first-year students take the C2C pledge and discuss it extensively; students in special interest housing support C2C in their house missions; C2C is used in leadership development programs and as a teaching tool for students. If every student leaves UD understanding what it means to support the dignity of all and support the common good, we will have cause to rejoice!

What is the most important lesson from our Marianist charism that you think all students should have instilled in them before they graduate?

—MOLLY WILSON ’08
CLAYTON, OHIO

Being in a community is about being a part of something bigger than ourselves — something that has the power to change the world. Being a part of a community helps us see ourselves in new ways. We see how we can inspire others. We see God in action.

Pope Francis has had a tremendous and powerful impact on the world discussion of organized religion. What do you see as Marianists’ contribution to that dialogue?

—CHRISTINE SCHRAMM
DAYTON

Pope Francis is a Jesuit. But couldn’t he be Marianist? He welcomes all to the table, gets to the basics of what it means to love one another and live as Jesus modeled, and challenges the status quo for the sake of the gospel. These things resonate with Marianist values — discipleship of equals, inclusivity and hospitality, being formed by Mary to be true disciples of Jesus, transforming the world through justice, being a community in mission. We need to keep being authentically who we are and travel along with him on the journey.
Raise you $2,000

In Peter Titlebaum’s sales and fundraising in sports class, he challenges each student to raise $1,200 for charity. Titlebaum applied his own lessons to the Young’s Ice Cream Charity Bike Tour and beat the $600 participant goal by raising $2,506 for the Alzheimer’s Association. His tactics included personal contact with prospects, incentives and follow-up. His students learned well; the fall 2013 class raised $22,191.92, and junior sport management major Olivia Pinciotti set a new class record with $4,940. Titlebaum is now working with bike event organizers to increase interest in the ride and generate more donations this summer.

Message in a rock

Named for their likeness to writing scratched on stones, graptolite fossils are uncovering an ancient tale in the laboratory of geology professor Dan Goldman. The microorganisms he’s studying are extinct plankton that floated in the Paleozoic seas (about 488 to 400 million years ago) in colonies shaped like twigs, fans and spirals. The evolution of their shape is an excellent indicator of geologic time, and their biodiversity and distribution a reflection of ancient climate change that caused a mass extinction of graptolites 445 million years ago. So he’s looking at fossils (shown above, actual size) from Ohio to Mongolia to Poland, asking, if you are an organism with a wider geographic range, does that create a buffer against extinction? “The question applies to organisms today and to predicting the effects of climate change on living species,” Goldman says.

Crazy for hoops

Flyer fans are the best — and we love our basketball. The Dayton television market continues to be one of the best in college basketball, according to research of ratings for non-conference games during the 2013-14 season analyzed by ESPN. According to the research, the Dayton television market is tied for No. 7 in the country for college basketball TV ratings during the first two months of the season. ESPN has compiled the television data for 11 years, and Dayton has always been one of the top 14 markets. Ohio’s Miami Valley has been in the top 10 three straight years and four of the last six.

“She was happiest studying bears, antelopes and desert tortoises, or riding a spirited horse.”
—OBITUARY FOR WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST AUDREY GOLDSMITH ’62, WHO DIED JAN. 2

“I met myself for the first time in Dayton.”
—SOPHOMORE KWYNN TOWNSEND RILEY IN “SCHOOL IS MORE THAN JUST A DEGREE” IN THE JAN. 22 FLYER NEWS

“He’s what the world needs, and he’s making people ask themselves, ‘How can I be part of this?’”
—CATHERINE MIX, ENROLLMENT SERVICES ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, DURING THE FEBRUARY SEMINAR “POPE FRANCIS: LESSONS FOR OUR CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY”
Of a graphic nature

Books with illustrations are not just for kids anymore. The course ENG 347, The Graphic Novel, offered this spring semester, is taking a scholarly approach to works like Watchmen, with its familiar blood-spattered image (left). Associate professor of English James Boehnlein said he initially dismissed graphic novels as “low art” but later realized their intricacies and cultural importance.

Boehnlein said the 23 students in his class are also grasping that there is more to graphic novels than what meets the eye — such as a limited color scheme signifying the monotony of characters’ lives — while pouring over Ghost World. “When you look at [the books] carefully, you realize it’s a different kind of intellectual inquiry,” he said.

Art for citizens, celebrants

Whether in clay or cast aluminum, Robert Koepnick could capture spirit in his sculptures both ecclesiastical and secular. “It is not the intricacy nor the sweetness of the work that makes a piece a truly fine religious work of art,” he said. “Rather it is the feeling or spirit of the design, conceived with the purpose of aiding the beholder to a greater devotion and reverence.” Koepnick taught UD art students as a Dayton Art Institute instructor from 1936 to 1975 and received a UD honorary degree in 1995, the year he died. Items from his collection, donated to the Marian Library, are on display in Roesch Library through Sept. 7.

Please, have a seat

Midmark, which moved its corporate headquarters to UD’s 1700 South Patterson Building last year, wanted to get even closer to the academic action. So the manufacturer of medical solutions donated examination tables, seating, cabinets and IT workstations for 10 exam rooms where students in UD’s new physician assistant program will learn the skills needed to keep us all healthy.

The PA program, located on the fifth floor of College Park Center, plans to enroll its first students this fall, pending provisional accreditation in March. “UD’s students will serve patients through skillful, compassionate and ethical health care,” said Dr. Anne Eiting Klamar, Midmark president and CEO.

“Remember that, while UD is founded in Marianist traditions, the bond we share must go beyond religion in order to reach our full potential as members of the UD community.”

—NO. 27 ON THE LIST “75 THINGS WE CAN DO TO LIVE THE KING LEGACY” HANDED OUT AT UD’S ANNUAL MLK CELEBRATION

“’You’re crazy to think you’re going to change the world, but if you can change one person to think they can change the world, it’s a ripple effect.”

—SENIOR ADIE LEWIS, WHO PARTICIPATED LAST SUMMER IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICUM IN MALAWI
Next up, gold?
In this Olympic year, it’s only fitting that we improved from bronze to silver.

The University of Dayton received a silver STARS rating for its sustainability achievements from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. Sustainability is “undeniably part of our mission,” President Daniel J. Curran said. “We feel a calling to develop solutions that will make us better stewards of God’s creation and to share those solutions with others to create a more peaceful and just world.”

The University earned positive marks for curricular education, innovation, grounds, coordination and planning, diversity and affordability, and sustainability policies in human resources, such as employee wellness programs and options for socially responsible investing in retirement. The full report is available at stars.aashe.org/institutions/rated.

Return to the classroom
Tony Saliba ’81 will step down as dean of the School of Engineering June 30 after completing his term. He will return to teaching in the chemical and materials engineering department where he’s served on the faculty for 28 years. The University will conduct a national search for a new dean.

“It has been a great privilege for me to serve as dean and build on the legacy of many legendary deans for my alma mater. With the hard work of the faculty and staff and the support of our president and provost, we were able to build the national and international reputation of our school and serve our students with a world-class transformative engineering education,” said Saliba, the Charles R. Wilke Distinguished Professor of Chemical and Materials Engineering. He has served as dean since 2009.

During Saliba’s tenure, the School of Engineering enrolled the four largest, most academically prepared and diverse first-year classes in history. The school graduated more than 75 percent of its students, more than twice the national average.

Your voice, your magazine
In spring, flowers bloom and this magazine asks for your feedback. In April, we’ll be sending our annual online survey to a portion of our readers, asking for your input on how we’re doing and what you’d like to see. Thanks in advance for your help.

And remember that you can send feedback on anything at any time to magazine@udayton.edu.
When renovations are complete, you will be able to drive up the new University Circle to the Immaculate Conception Chapel’s beautiful wooden doors. But between now and then, there’s a lot of work to be done, and guests to campus are asked to pay attention to signage as the construction progresses through summer 2015.

Beginning May 15, the only open and accessible chapel entrance will be the north door facing St. Mary’s Hall. Construction fencing will be erected around the chapel and between St. Mary’s Hall and Chaminade Hall to allow construction workers to remove the arcade connector. Removing the arcade will create more greenspace and outdoor seating areas.

Beginning July 21, the chapel will close for approximately one year, and the loop road from L Street to Stewart Street will be permanently closed. Construction fencing will grow to enclose the construction of a new University Circle.

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The choir of angels is in for a sing-along of biblical proportions.

George Zimmerman, University of Dayton music instructor from 1976 to 1994, died Jan. 1, 2014. He was 91.

Zimmerman came to UD after retiring as supervisor of music for the Dayton Public Schools, where he taught for 25 years.

“I always encourage everyone to sing along,” he said in a 1994 interview with the Dayton Daily News. “I have never told a child he can’t sing. Never. Music is for doing, not listening. It gives you a chance to get your insides out.”

At UD, he served as a lecturer in American music and for 15 years organized the Old-Fashioned Christmas Carol Sing. Students remember Zimmerman for introducing them to American popular music — one student came expecting the Beatles and left enthralled by Debussy — and for his generous hospitality. He would invite ravenous students to his home for gourmet meals and sing-alongs around the piano. Many of his recipes ended up in his annual Christmas cards or in the many editions of his cookbook, Everything Makes Me Think of Food.

“During her career she has seen UD become more intentionally mission-driven. “In the late 1980s, the University began working on ways to retain its Catholic, Marianist identity. We began having mission retreats. In the business school, we began talking about what it means to be a business school in a Catholic, Marianist university. We don’t have the answer completely figured out, but we stay at the table about it, and that makes us better. And a lot of that comes across in how we deal with students.” Untener came to UD in 1987 because of his interest in the students. An engineer at the General Motors division in Dayton, he found himself more energized by his part-time teaching at the University of Dayton than his full-time work. So he decided to make the switch, telling himself that the day he got bored he’d quit.

“I haven’t gotten bored yet.”

He joined the faculty in engineering technology, served as its chair from 1996 to 2000, and then served as associate provost for faculty and administrative affairs from 2003 to 2010 when he returned to teaching. UD and its mission make his job different, he said.

To illustrate, he talked of a class he’s teaching on strength of materials in which students were discussing product liability and the making of safe products. In reaction to certain specifications for a product, one student wrote, “To have something with a design factor that low would be immoral.”

“That’s exactly right,” exclaimed Untener. “Here, we can talk about things a little bit differently. If I were just teaching equations, I’d rather be using those equations. I like to connect with students who have a sense of mission.”

—Thomas M. Columbus
In a world where the simple life feels far away, a few Marianist sisters have found an alternative in a small house in Kettering, not far from campus. The Annunciation House, located near the corner of West Dorothy Lane and South Dixie Drive, opened its doors in August to women discerning their future as Marianist sisters.

UD graduates Gabby Bibeau ’11 and Caitlin Cipolla-McCulloch ’12 live alongside Sister Nicole Trahan, F.M.I., and Sister Marcia Buchard, F.M.I. Cipolla-McCulloch has lived in the house since its inception in August, and Bibeau since December 2013.

One of 300 Marianist sisters worldwide and a coordinator of Marianist vocations at UD, Trahan said that interest in the Marianist community has grown in the past few years.

“I think that there is renewed interest in religious life, and people are becoming more OK with talking about it. More people have realized that this is a viable option for their life and that there are other people doing this,” Trahan said.

UD graduates Gabby Bibeau ’11 and Caitlin Cipolla-McCulloch ’12 live alongside Sister Nicole Trahan, F.M.I., and Sister Marcia Buchard, F.M.I. Cipolla-McCulloch has lived in the house since its inception in August, and Bibeau since December 2013.

One of 300 Marianist sisters worldwide and a coordinator of Marianist vocations at UD, Trahan said that interest in the Marianist community has grown in the past few years.

“I think that there is renewed interest in religious life, and people are becoming more OK with talking about it. More people have realized that this is a viable option for their life and that there are other people doing this,” Trahan said.

Bibeau said. “I’ve spoken with quite a few other people my age who are joining religious life, and we have all reached a similar conclusion. In people our age, there’s more of a desire to do something radical. Young people are becoming more skeptical of society’s false promises of comfort and luxury, and they want something different.”

While building the culture of the house from scratch has been difficult, Trahan said that establishing routines — such as sharing meals four times a week and coming together each day for prayer and Mass — has helped each woman learn along the way.

Women in the process of discernment can choose to live in the house for one month to one year. While living in the house is not necessary for discernment, it serves as a helpful tool to women in the process of contemplating their place in the Marianist community.

“Living in community with the sisters has been essential in my discernment because actively ‘trying on’ religious life is a huge help when you are trying to discern if it’s what God is calling you to,” Bibeau said. “Living with the sisters has made me feel very alive, more my best self. That’s a good indication that it might be what God is calling me to.”

—Caroline Glynn ’16
Omaha!

Yes, it was fun to chant the Nebraska city name along with quarterback Peyton Manning, even if he had little fun in the 2014 Super Bowl.

But Nate Perry '12 is also touting the town as a good place to attract a new crop of UD students.

Perry, admission and financial aid counselor, attended college fairs at 12 Omaha Catholic schools in May 2012, visiting with students eager to travel and get a good education. Fourteen applied to UD, and three enrolled in 2013. So he visited again in May 2013, growing interest to 26 applications for the class starting August 2014. He’s now waiting to see how many will enroll.

“UD has always spread by word of mouth,” Perry said. “The idea is to get the first three, and they tell their friends, who tell their parents, who talk to their friends.”

Omaha is one example of UD’s enrollment strategy that looks to diversify the cities from which UD recruits as Ohio’s population of college-age students declines.

And in that strategy, Perry sees another bonus: “You bring in students from so many different places and backgrounds.” It’s one of the things that brought Perry, a criminal justice major, to UD from Champaign, Ill., six years ago, and it’s what he bets will attract more future Flyers from the nation’s middle and west.
Jack Bauer: “I’m interested in how we become who we become, how we interpret our lives and plan our lives, and then how this predicts how our lives turn out.”

Stuff of life

Work, relationships, health, service — this is the stuff of life. And professor Jack Bauer is interested in how we feel about how our lives unfold over the years.

He, along with fellow psychology professors Erin O’Mara and Matt Montoya, will begin surveying alumni this spring for a longitudinal sequential study to describe how we interact with our world.

“I’m interested in how we become who we become, how we interpret our lives and plan our lives, and then how this predicts how our lives turn out,” said Bauer, the Raymond A. Roesch, S.M., Chair in the Social Sciences.

Alumni should look for an email invitation this spring sent through the UD alumni relations office. Participation is voluntary, but it’s an opportunity to add to a body of data often difficult and expensive for researchers to access but critically important to understanding self-identity and well-being.

“We’re interested in the areas of love, work and play — how they unfold and how alumni are thinking about it,” he said.

The online survey will be followed by future opportunities for those wanting to participate in the study over time. Responses will be confidential and accessible only to the study researchers, not to the University or any third party. Preliminary results — reporting of aggregate data, never individual names — may be published in academic journals and a future issue of UD Magazine.

The College of Arts and Sciences is supporting the research through funds, including hiring a post-doctoral fellow to manage the data set. The study will also be a teaching tool for graduate students who will be part of the research team.

“What leads to what kinds of developments in a person’s life?” Bauer asked. “Alumni participation will be how the world comes to know these kinds of things.”
Got a minute? That’s enough time to convince people they need to hear more, says Jay Janney, associate professor of management and marketing and founder of UD’s Business Plan Competition, now in its eighth year.

“The goal of a pitch is to entice people to listen further, not to get a final commitment,” he explains. “For an entrepreneur, that means getting an appointment to pitch the full plan.”

Janney, the Robert and Patricia Kern Family Foundation Faculty Fellow for Engineering and Entrepreneurship, has coached hundreds of students in UD’s elevator speech competition — named because the spiel can be shared in the time it takes to ride three floors in an elevator. He says it’s the component students usually dread.

“It’s a good life experience for students, but they hate getting up to give pitches. After they do it once or twice, though, they begin to enjoy it, and they get it. We founded the Business Plan Competition to give students an experience they don’t get in class,” he says.

Here’s how to knock your own pitch out of the park:

1. **Be an attention-getter.** “A good opening, or ‘hook,’ resonates with the listener and leads to the problem statement, which ought to make your audience nod and say, ‘Yeah, that needs a solution,’” Janney says.

2. **Say (or play) it again.** Janney teaches this technique: Give your pitch, then visualize the sort of good news you’d want to call home and tell your parents about. “I ask them how that feels and how they’d say it. Then, repeat the pitch. It changes. They are more enthused, more natural.” Or, follow the lead of Aaron Pugh ’13, who won first place in this year’s contest. “I recorded myself giving the speech, then listened to it on my iPod. When I went to sleep, I left it playing.”

3. **Know it’s not all business.** An elevator speech isn’t just for entrepreneurs, Janney points out. “When I networked campus, I found many departments have a pitch; they’re just called different things: an audition, a tryout, an interview,” he says. “The worst thing you can do when selling yourself is ramble, or be unsure or appear to waste someone’s time. Someone who is focused, relaxed and sincere stands out.”

4. **Make ‘em laugh.** Pugh is energetic and funny — and he wanted his pitch for Hot Seat, a portable, heated stadium chair with a USB hub, to reflect that personality. “I like to joke around, so I incorporated that into my pitch; it made it feel more natural. My tagline was, ‘Don’t let frost bite your buns.’ It was clever — and I figured, nobody else is going to be talking about your butt, so it’s memorable.”

5. **Remember your audience.** “What you need doesn’t matter to anyone else besides you; your pitch has to appeal to the person you’re talking to,” says Pugh, who has developed a prototype — and attracted some investors — for Hot Seat. “You only have 60 seconds; make sure you’re emphasizing the benefit to them.” —Audrey Starr
In the news

- Catholic theology may not recognize that pets have a soul, but Pope Francis’ deep concern for all creatures extends to Fido, said University Professor of Faith and Culture Miguel Diaz in a Feb. 20 article for Parade.com. “We were given this earth to nurture and to make it habitable for all creatures. We need to cultivate our dwelling place for all to enjoy, not exploit it.”

- History professor John Heitmann talked to Bloomberg for a story about the use of wood in automobiles. From eco-friendly construction to throwback finishes. “There was a real craft and artisanal tradition of wood use going back to the colonial period,” he said. “The auto industry is at the threshold of an entire new revolution. So why not have body panels made out of wood?”

- While some see the closing of big-box stores as a sign of their demise, marketing professor Serdar Durmusoglu told Marketplace radio, “Brick and mortar stores, in other words, physical stores, are not going to go away. There’s movement from one suburb to the other.”

- In a Jan. 28 article in Scientific American, on safety and health concerns about flame retardants, UD Research Institute fire scientist Alexander Morgan said it is hard to determine what flame retardants are used in which products. “No manufacturer will tip their hands on what are in their products more than they have to,” for fear of competitors undercutting or reverse-engineering products, he said.

- After a commuter-train crash in New York, business professor Steven Harrod was quoted by CNN and the The Associated Press, among others. “If PTC [positive train control technology] had been in place, this accident would not have happened,” Harrod told CNN. “That’s pretty clear at this point. It’s non-negotiable. It would not have happened.”

- The Wall Street Journal quoted School of Law Dean Paul McGreal in a Jan. 18 story about the role compliance officers play in an organization. “There’s a recognition that to be effective compliance has to be knitted into the fabric of an organization,” he said. “It’s more of a role in the leadership team within an organization.” The story also ran in The Wall Street Journal European edition.

- A story in the Dayton Daily News on the phasing out of incandescent light bulbs was picked up by the Boston Globe, Miami Herald and other media outlets. In it, engineering professor Kevin Hallinan, founder of the master’s program in renewable and clean energy, said, “The reason why the federal government legislated the change is because these incandescent bulbs use four times or more energy than other technologies.”

For a wrap-up of all media coverage, visit go.udayton.edu/udstory2012-13.

Healing waters

Every Saturday at 11 a.m., a dozen exercisers eagerly enter RecPlex and descend into the pool’s warm water, ready for another class. But this isn’t your typical workout session.

Spurred by funding from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, UD physical therapy students are putting their textbook knowledge into practice and getting one-on-one experience with MS patients through water therapy techniques.

Up to 10 students are on hand to help participants work through movements and ensure exercises are performed correctly.

“Students are not given any special training, but they learn how to handle and stretch neurological patients in class, so this program allows them to put that knowledge to good use,” said Kurt Jackson, associate professor and neurology coordinator of UD’s physical therapy program.

Participant Jim Fritchard, who has attended since the program’s inception, enjoys the camaraderie along with the therapy.

“People with all different ability levels attend the program, but it seems to help everyone,” he said. “One woman who uses a wheelchair told me that exercising in the water makes her feel like she is walking again.”

—Allison Lewis ’14
Greg McDonnell ‘88 brought UD Magazine along on a trip to the 2013 Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. He writes, “My family, including my brother, John McDonnell ’87, and my sister, Maryanne McDonnell ’90, attended the parade. This was a bucket list trip for me, my family and my two UD-alumni siblings.”

David Bereda ’04, a captain in the U.S. Air Force medical corps, reads his UD Magazine while deployed as an Air Force physician to Transit Center at Manas in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. He writes, “I am honored to take care of the thousands of troops who travel in and out of Afghanistan through this base.”

Ben Sicnolf ’04 and his wife, Kendall, along with Christina Skoch Saluke ’04 and her husband, Dan, traveled through Italy and France. Ben writes, “We took UD Magazine with us through stops in Rome, Florence, Cinque Terre, Nice and Paris. Here we are in front of the Arc de Triomphe — we figured the magazine gets lots of pictures with the Eiffel Tower, so we wanted to mix it up.”

Sean “Monty” Montgomery ’12 submitted this photo he took with three UD students while in Bolivia last summer. He writes, “I was there as a leader for a high school service trip, and they were there with the ETHOS project. We were able to get together for the day and capture this great photo in the town square of La Paz.” Pictured with him are Christine Canute ’15, Rebecca Maj ’15 and Faisal Rahman ’13.

Denny Graf ’69, Dick Davis ’72 and Joe Bausman ’76 took a trip to Cape Town, South Africa, in June 2013, reading their UD Magazine at the Cape of Good Hope.

Kim Smith Ewin ’77 and her husband, Jeff, enjoyed a visit to Denmark this past summer. “Here we are at Kronborg Castle in Helsingor, Denmark, with our children, Matthew, Joseph and Kate,” he writes.

Steve Grismer ’84 and his wife, Teri, live in Dayton. He writes, “In fall 2013, we took a trip to Europe to celebrate our wedding anniversary. Over the course of several weeks, we traveled throughout Germany and the Netherlands. I took along the ‘Our Town’ copy of the UD Magazine to show people we met and let them catch a glimpse of our city and the beautiful campus of UD.”

Marta Ayala Whyte ’86. “We read the UD Magazine while riding the Duquesne Incline to this beautiful view of downtown Pittsburgh. We were only missing Teresa Fitzgerald ’88.”

1987 graduates Jeff French, Jamie Dietz, Mike Stapf and Jim Trybus flew in from four states — Texas, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Michigan — to meet in Siesta Key, Fla., in October. Jeff writes, “We all met freshman year in Stuart Hall, 3 East. I had my UD Magazine along, so we snapped a picture on the beach.”

I brought my copy of UD Magazine when my husband, Kevin, and I took a trip to my birth country of Panama,” writes Marta Ayala Whyte ’86. “We stayed a few days in the Gamboa Rainforest and then took a partial trip of the Panama Canal. This picture was taken while going over the Pedro Miguel locks.”
Expecting the best

A man possessed — Coach Tony Vittorio

By Shawn Robinson

Competitive juices, passion, energy, intensity and enthusiasm don’t flow from UD baseball head coach Tony Vittorio, they flood.

Vittorio, UD’s third-longest tenured coach at 14 seasons, keeps his foot on the pedal whether he’s on his way to the school’s first NCAA Division I baseball tournament appearance (2012) or trying to rebound from an 11-win season (2013). He’s always looking for a competitive edge and the best out of his players.

Former UD and current Washington Nationals pitcher Craig Stammen got a dose early in his sophomore year after walking a batter in the ninth inning up seven runs.

“I’m pitching at Richmond. At that point, I had zero career wins. Ninth inning, I go out there for the complete game and walk the first guy,” Stammen said. “Here comes Coach V marching out to the mound. I thought, ‘This is going to go over real well.’ He said, ‘Why are you walking guys right now? Do you want me to take you out of the game right now, because I will without anybody warming up in the bullpen.’ It was like a two-second conversation. He just said it and turned around and ran back.

“But, that sums up his personality to a T. No matter the situation, the best is always expected of you and there aren’t any excuses.”

Vittorio is equally as adamant and competitive about getting the best for his players. He lists two of the most important parts of his job as inspiring his players to be the best they can be — in the classroom and the community and on the baseball field — and ensuring they experience a Division I atmosphere.

He went all out to help raise money for a new stadium for the Flyers — Time Warner Cable Stadium. After a brutal road trip and little sleep, he spent five hours tracking down eight-time national title winning coach Geno Auriemma for some inspiration for his team.

“The year after we won the league (regular-season) championship, we went into 2010 as the pre-season favorite. We went into the opening A-10 conference series at LaSalle and got swept. We got home at 2 or 3 in the morning. I turned on SportsCenter and saw UConn’s women’s basketball team was in town (for the NCAA tournament). I woke up at 7 a.m. after three or four hours of sleep. It hit me that Coach Geno was in town, and I’m going to get him to talk to our team about handling expectations. I got it done. I had one goal that day and I wasn’t going to bed that night until I accomplished it.”

There’s another goal Vittorio achieves most every day and sums him up to a T — laughter. You can’t help but leave a meeting with him in stitches after hearing stories like the time he argued with an umpire only because the baseball sports information director was short on action photos of Vittorio for the media guide. Once he got there, he told the umpire what was up and counted to three so the umpire would be ready.

“My dad knew how to live, laugh and love. If there’s anything my dad taught me, it was how to laugh. We’re going to live 50 to 100 years, so why not have a good time in doing it?” Vittorio said. “We recruit guys here who are high about life and have a lot of passion and energy. I’m a believer you can’t get to where you want in life without passion, energy, intensity and enthusiasm. Even if the big guy upstairs gave you enough ability, you’re not going to get there quick enough without passion, energy, intensity and enthusiasm.”

Vittorio combines this cocktail of competitiveness, passion, energy, intensity and enthusiasm into a family atmosphere that has resulted in success at three stops during his career.

At Lincoln Trail Community College in Illinois, he transformed a 2-48 program into one with 144 wins during the next four seasons, two Major League Baseball draft picks and 22 players advancing to four-year programs.

At Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, Vittorio won 80 games in three seasons after inheriting a team that went 9-41.

See Vittorio, Page 19
It would have been difficult for Craig Stammen to go unnoticed among his classmates at the start of the spring semester in January, even if he wasn’t almost a decade older.

“I’m kind of the elephant in the room,” he said.

A 6-foot-3, 215-pound pitcher with a major-league build is going to stand out in most classes, but Stammen really caught the students’ attention when he told his life story during the typical round of first-day introductions.

It went something like this: “Hi, I’m Craig Stammen. I’ll be 30 in March. I started school here in 2002 but left in 2005 to enter the Major League Baseball draft. I now play for the Washington Nationals, but I’m back to finish my degree.”

He’s already beaten the odds. The Nationals selected Stammen in the 12th round of the 2005 draft. He made his big-league debut in 2009. A veteran entering his sixth season, Stammen recorded a 2.54 ERA over 170 innings since settling in as a relief pitcher in 2012.

Still, Connie Stammen had reason to be concerned about the likelihood of her son fulfilling his pledge. College degrees among Major League Baseball players, who typically enter the draft fresh from high school or midway through their college careers, are a rarity, and those with international backgrounds are often signed as teens. According to a 2012 FOXSports.com survey, just 4.3 percent of 917 players appearing in at least one game by May 18 of that year had a degree.

Stammen wanted to be part of that 4.3 percent but kept hitting roadblocks when he reached out to UD. It would be impossible for him to complete his courses in-person during an offseason lasting from early October — assuming the Nationals didn’t make the playoffs — to early February, and he couldn’t do it all online.

In 2013, he got a break-through from an unexpected source. Matthew Shank, dean of the School of Business Administration from 2008 to 2011, ran into Stammen in the preseason when Nationals players visited a Greater Washington Board of Trade event. Now president of Marymount University in Arlington, Va., outside Washington, D.C., Shank was there to represent his school and indulge his baseball fandom.

He had attempted to help Stammen when he was dean, and after seeing the former UD player years later, Shank wanted to give it another shot.

“Hey, do you still want to graduate?” Shank asked.

Stammen’s answer was simple but hopeful in its tone: “Yeah.”

“We could never quite figure out the recipe to get those classes finished,” Shank said. “What I really applauded was his desire and motivation to complete his education, and I wanted to help any way I could.”

The timing had also improved. More faculty members had become comfortable with virtual instruction, increasing online offerings. After some outreach from Shank, Terence Lau, chair of the department of management and marketing, started working with faculty to craft a plan that included independent
study, online courses and hybrid classes to fit Stammen’s schedule. “When Craig first approached us we wanted to help, but we knew we had to treat him like we would any other student within a semester of graduation,” Lau said. “What he’s undertaking isn’t easy. The entrepreneurship program is rigorous, with a minimum GPA required for admission and to stay in the program. “He’s clearly determined to succeed, and we have every confidence he will.”

Stammen started that fall with Irene Dickey’s digital marketing class and an independent study course in which he researched and analyzed the marketing model for the United Way of the Greater Dayton Area.

From Jan. 13 to Feb. 7, he drove from his home in Cincinnati, where he lives in the offseason, to UD to receive live instruction for three more classes. Working with academic adviser Brad Balser and professors Tracy Miller (MGT 423: Human Resource Management in the Emerging Firm), Nicky Adams (ENG 372: Business Communication) and Tony Caporale (ECO 480: Sports Economics), he’ll complete the remainder of his coursework virtually during spring training in Viera, Fla., and the regular season in April and May. “They’re basically changing their whole setup just for me,” Stammen said. “I’m eternally grateful they were willing to do that. I get all of the press, but they deserve all of the credit.”

In addition to securing his future — Stammen hopes to take over North Star Hardware & Implement Co., the family business in North Star, Ohio, an hour northwest of Dayton, or work for an athletics organization when his baseball career is over — he wants to be a role model for his younger siblings and future children. His sister, Cheri, is a 2008 UD graduate, and his younger brother, Brent, is on track to graduate from Ohio State this spring.

Stammen said Brent would tease him about getting his degree first, despite being years younger, but Craig might ultimately have him beat. Graduation ceremonies for Brent and Craig are on the same date (Sunday, May 4), but UD’s exercises start at 9:45 a.m., while Ohio State’s don’t begin until noon.

Craig won’t be at UD Arena to shake President Daniel J. Curran’s hand, as the Nationals play the Phillies that afternoon, but, by the end of that day, all of the Stammen siblings will be able to say they’ve earned their college degrees, ensuring Craig won’t be the elephant in his family much longer.

Shannon Shelton Miller loves the Detroit Tigers so much she held her wedding reception in Comerica Park.

In brief

■ During Tim Horsman’s five seasons (2003-07) as head coach of UD’s volleyball team, the Flyers appeared in four NCAA tournaments as the A-10 champions. He’s back on campus coaching the Flyers again.

■ Scott DeBolt is the new senior associate director of athletics and director of UD Arena. DeBolt spent 12 years as vice president of operations for the Columbus Crew.

■ Need a soccer fix before this summer’s World Cup? Check out the UD men’s soccer team vs. a professional team, the Dayton Dutch Lions, 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 15, Baujan Field. Or watch the women’s team at Baujan April 2, 5, 6, 13 or 23. See daytonflyers.com for times as well as information on all Flyers teams.
If they built it, he will come

John Schleppi loves the game and its ballparks

By Thomas M. Columbus

“T’was a moonlit Saturday night. I was at Hinchliffe Stadium in Paterson, N.J., getting my picture taken. I had just bought a brick and put it in the newsstand. I couldn’t walk into a ballpark carrying a brick. So I put it inside a newspaper and walked in. Then I bought some popcorn and put the brick in the container.”

But he got his photo.

In a minor league park in Miami, he found another hole in a fence — as well as several non-genteel individuals imbibing heavily. “They didn’t have the energy to bother me,” he said.

And he got his photo.

Recently, minor league parks have become the breeding ground of a new generation of baseball fans. “Indianapolis was a pioneer of change,” Schleppi said. “It’s downtown. It’s family-friendly. Kids can run around on the outfield berm during the game. And there, though not in the stands, families can bring their own food. Although the kids may not watch the game, they enjoy being in a ballpark. And that they will remember.”

Also, as Schleppi overheard a parent remark, “It’s cheaper than a movie.”

MLB parks cost more than a movie, but they have their attractions, too.

“The Marlins’ new park, on the site of the old Orange Bowl, has a restaurant over the field. A ball can land at your feet. The owner, an art collector, has a piece of ‘art’ in centerfield. If a ball hits it, the piece goes off like a pinball machine.”

“Seattle is the best of the domes. It’s not enclosed. The dome slides over the railroad tracks.”

“The people behind the design for the new Mets Stadium were Dodgers fans. The front is a takeoff on Ebbets Field; the suites have Dodger names. There is no Giants memorabilia.”

“This year is the 100th anniversary of Wrigley Field.”

On the other side of Chicago from Wrigley is Comiskey Park, the first of the new ballparks, one year older than Baltimore’s Camden Yards.

“I went to a game while they were tearing down the old one next door,” Schleppi said. “I wanted a brick. On my way to the game, I got it. Then I realized I couldn’t walk into a ballpark carrying a brick. So I put it inside a newspaper, looked the ticket taker in the eye and walked in. Then I bought popcorn and put the brick in the container.”

Schleppi’s next quest: a tour of all the parks in the Gulf Coast League. If successful, he can add it to his list of leagues in which he’s visited all the parks: Appalachian, Eastern, New York-Penn, Northwest, Interstate, Southern, Midwest and Pioneer — as well as the American and National.

Schleppi invites any fans who are in Dayton on the afternoon of Saturday, May 10, to come to the conference room at Fifth Third Field at 2 p.m. for the semi-annual meeting of the Dayton Chapter of the Society for American Baseball Research. Attendees will receive, while they last, free tickets to that night’s Dragons game. Speakers will include a player and coach of the Dayton Dragons. “It’s open to the public,” said Schleppi, who can be contacted at jschleppi@gmail.com. With evangelical zeal, he added, “We’ll grab people off the street if we can convert them to baseball fans.”

Columbus is a Cleveland Indians fan. He has lots of memories, no bricks.
IT WAS A RISKY PLAN, RELINQUISHING CONTROL OF THE UNIVERSITY’S 50,000-WATT FM RADIO STATION TO THE ROCKERS.

But the students would tell you it’s the best thing that could have happened — for the progressive music scene and for themselves.

Above, Alan “Mike” McConnell ’77 at the controls
It’s 12 a.m., 1973. The doors to Kennedy Union are locked tight but WVUD-FM is spinning, the DJ on-air with his feet up on the control board.

He jams to his album pick for the night until a handful of stones thrown against the second-story window rattles him from his groove.

“I wanted to be a part of it,” said Patty Spitler, who tossed those rocks. Like so many
students who had to work or just wanted to hang out, Spitler '76 wanted in on a radio revolution that was sweeping the nation. For them, the entry point was UD’s commercial 50,000-watt megaphone controlled largely by the students to attract listeners like them. It was a risky plan, relinquishing control to the rockers. But if it succeeded, it would change the world — or, at the very least, their worlds.

‘MR. TELEVISION’

When those stones thrown by co-workers or friends would rattle the window, the disc jockey would put on a “bathroom song” — like “Stairway to Heaven,” a song long enough for the DJ to take care of some quick business. He’d swing a chair around to prop open the locked door and bolt down the stairs with his footsteps echoing behind him to retrieve his new company so that he wasn’t alone with the music all night.

“With no cell phones and the hotline ringing all of the time, it was really the only way to get in at times,” said Chris Cage (Christian Caggiano ’70), a former program director of WVUD.

That scene, so familiar to decades of student DJs before an era of swipe door locks, described the excitement of 1969-76, the era when WVUD transformed from your mother’s (yawn) traditional music station to the students’ (rock on) music powerhouse.

In 1964, WVUD, “the Voice of the University of Dayton,” officially went on-air operating under 99.9 FM thanks to a man most knew as “Mr. Television.”

In 1964, WVUD, “the Voice of the University of Dayton,” officially went on-air operating under 99.9 FM thanks to a man most knew as “Mr. Television.”

George Biersack ’52 was the father of television in the Miami Valley, producing thousands of shows for educational and commercial TV. He wired University of Dayton classrooms for closed-circuit TV but had even bigger ideas about how to expand educational offerings. He wanted to take the speech department — with its 15 majors in 1961 — and grow it into the communication arts department “in order to provide a more comprehensive communications program attuned to contemporary needs,” he wrote to the provost.

The new department, founded in 1964, included moving journalism from the English department and strengthening the theater arts and broadcast offerings. “Our prime obligation is the training of professional communicators,” he told Flyer News. By 1966, the new department had 175 majors; it would grow to be one of the most popular majors at UD.

A practical yet creative man, Biersack knew he needed hands-on opportunities for his students to learn, and he wanted a radio station. He approached the owners of WKET, a classical radio station broadcasting from the basement of the Hills and Dales Shopping Center a few miles from campus, and negotiated a sweet deal. According to Jim “Swampy” Meadows ’72, Speidel Broadcasting Corp. sold the station to UD for $25,000 while also donating $25,000 to the University. UD took ownership of the station in April 1964.

The station moved, along with Flyer News and UDCC (the closed-circuit television station, which would grow into Flyer TV), into offices in the new student union. Biersack’s daughter, Mary Biersack Stine ’72, remembers her father sitting behind the controls of the bulldozer during construction for the radio tower to be placed atop Stuart Hill.

WVUD went on-air to help fulfill the University’s educational and cultural responsibility to the community with the intention of avoiding being too “stuffy.” This WVUD — by all recollections, broadcasting at 25,000 watts that barely reached south over the Oakwood hills — was smaller and quieter than what it would become.

In 1967, the station operated 75 hours a week, 12 months a year with eight student announcers who got no class credit but were paid $1.25 an hour, as reported by Flyer News. “They’re getting paid for experience they couldn’t hope to buy,” Biersack told the student newspaper. Airtime was devoted to classical, folk, jazz, theater, dinner, Broadway albums, full operas, talk shows, “music to work by” and even Mass. By 1968, the station affiliated with American Broadcasting Company’s FM channel and gained airtime that included cultural interests, such as reviews of plays, books and recordings.

Biersack wrote that he hoped by 1970 “our radio
station WVUD-FM will be well-established as an outstanding example of a public service station to the community.”

It already sounded good. WVUD was the only station in Dayton to broadcast stereophonic sound, which mimics the human ear by using two independent audio signal channels to create an overall better, more real listening experience.

Despite being ahead of the game technologically, the station wasn’t getting the attention Biersack had hoped for. As general manager, he added more upbeat jazz offerings to the classical and instrumental music rotations. But Biersack wanted more.

So he presented his young but dedicated staff with this challenge: Make WVUD appeal to a younger audience, and do not play Top 40. In 1971, that meant one thing: album-oriented rock.

FROM BRASS TO THE BOSS

Biersack put his faith in his students and a new program manager. Cage, a communication major, had worked at Dayton’s WING-AM during college and after graduation. In 1971, he took a job at WVUD as program director and sales manager. He said that in his time at WVUD, from 1971 to 1974, the station grew in Arbitron ratings from 1.7 percent to 7.3 percent of the total audience share.

Cage believed in tight programming, scripting a detailed plan with specific titles or genres student DJs were required to play. Known as a walking encyclopedia of radio, his total commitment to changing the station from “stereo with brass” to progressive music made him a perfect mentor for passionate student DJs.

“A little of ‘painting by the numbers’ is good for inexperienced people,” Cage said. “But once they learn how to do it well … you can allow them to freeform more.”

Allowing this freedom meant opening up the playlist. For a time, the station was criticized for airing a weird hybrid of sounds. The daytime format was upbeat, background music to appeal to adults with news updates from WVUD’s affiliate, ABC. At night the DJs would spin edgier progressive rock for a younger audience that would turn up the volume. Progressive music in the early ’70s blended folk, blues, jazz, rock ’n’ roll and sometimes even classical into hits like those by Yes and the Moody Blues.

When the clock turned to 7 p.m., “Wax Museum” dominated the air. The rock ’n’ rollers plugged in their headphones — and recording devices. For one hour every day, WVUD played complete or nearly complete albums, usually rock and progressive style. Listeners would wait to hear a resounding “beep” that alerted them to the start of the album and then hit record on their tape cassette decks or reel-to-reels. “Wax Museum” provided its audience with new, complete music to own and listen to whenever they wanted — for free.

WVUD’s “Wax Museum” sparked the fire that became the station’s album-oriented rock programming. When the show ended at 8 p.m., DJs played songs in this style until 2 a.m., going after the young adult audience that preferred to not hear the extremes of commercial Top 40 or entire obscure albums. By 1973, the progressive format would dominate the station around the clock.

There were hits and misses, but the students got to lead the experimentation, push
the envelope and discover new music.

Along with the change in music style, Cage helped the station embrace its commercial license. While WVUD was one of only three college-owned stations in the country to have a commercial license to sell airtime as advertising, Biersack said in a 1964 Flyer News article that he had no intention to use it. He saw that operating in the red was more than offset by the education the University provided to future broadcasters.

Cage thought differently: that commercial license was not going to be wasted. The station began selling advertising. Meadows recalled his first ad sale — Athena’s Bridal Creations — and some of the more inventive spots using owner Tom Weiser to do the voiceover on ads for The Forest Books and Records. Bill Andres ’75 was the mastermind behind the copywriting, said Dan Covey ’77, who became the station’s music director.

“Bill really knew how to speak to the audience,” Covey said. “He always found a way to make it really compelling. Whether it was funny or dramatic, people really wanted to hear it.”

Listeners also heard inventive — and suggestive — promotions. The banana shtick — where listeners walked up and asked people if they were the “WVUD Big Banana” or “Electric Banana” — made it onto bumper stickers for the station. Another promo, by DJ Steve Wendell ’73, asked listeners to call in and guess the length of his “Wazoolie.” (Answer: 12 inches.)

The edge found in the music and banter led to the success — and attention — the station was after.

“We lived the style of rock ‘n’ roll for the most part,” said Covey, who deejayed at WVUD while in college. “We knew who the audience was, well, because we were the audience.”

Covey also knew the audience because he was a Daytonian. He started out at the station — his first position was receptionist — as a shy student with inherent ambition and evolved into a respected music expert who created and maintained critical relationships with record stores in the area. Cage said Covey was one of the reasons WVUD was ahead of the trends.

“All of the record stores knew and liked him,” Cage said. “He always wanted to work and have greater responsibilities; we had to throw him out almost every night.”

Being music director meant constantly exposing new music to listeners, and it included meeting with record labels to discuss what music would be played at WVUD.

Before the age of the Internet, record companies sent representatives to stations with precise agendas. They knew how to navigate people, specifically college students, and attempted to use the power of free food to sway the direction of the conversation.

WVUD music and program directors received invitations to the hallowed Pine Club on Brown Street. They’d be served steak and fine wine right next to a heaping stack of new album releases from the label’s superstars. On top would be what the representatives would push on stations. But Covey said WVUD had a different idea of what “exposing new music” meant.

“They knew our format and wanted to stay with our direction, but they would push what the labels were paying them to sell to help certain artists they thought would make it,” Covey said.

A steak would not sway the students
from playing music from groups yet to become household names. For example, if records similar to the first Tom Petty album were shown to Covey, his common response would be: “Eh, I don’t hear it.”

But four or five albums down the stack, he’d catch a glimpse of something interesting that hadn’t been discovered or widely heard yet — like Bruce Springsteen before his 1975 album *Born to Run* made him famous. The record companies wouldn’t even mention it because it wasn’t part of the acts that labels were getting behind.

Covey said WVUD music directors of that era predicted who would become stars. He admits that at times they had to comply with companies’ requests because, “Sometimes, it’s just business.” But their goal was to play new music and act as a discovery station for progressive rock and pop music lovers.

**ROCK ‘N’ RIVALRY**

In the 1970s, glasses were big, University of Dayton basketball uniforms were small, and technology enthusiasts had 8-track players in their living rooms. It was a time of social, governmental, cultural and technological revolution, and the radio industry was part of this change, thanks to the Federal Communications Commission.

In the works since 1964, the FCC’s FM Non-Duplication Rule required stations to get creative with their programming. Prior to this, many AM stations that had acquired FM bandwidth would simply double their AM content on this new portion of the dial. With this new rule enforced in 1967, stations had to broadcast at least 50 percent original content, forcing them to think outside the Top 40 playlists popular with their AM audiences.

Some stations turned to an all-talk format, while others — such as KLOS-FM in Los Angeles to WNEW-FM in New York City — began experimenting with progressive and album-oriented rock.

WVUD was part of this trend. The station told its story through Ten Years After, Carole King and the Allman Brothers interspersed with commentary and advertisements to make listeners feel like they were on the inside of the funniest jokes.


*Billboard* contributors were opinion leaders at “the nation’s leading progressive stations” in the largest population centers, and being on the list put WVUD in the company of KZAP-FM in San Francisco to WRIF-FM in Detroit.

In 1973, WVUD entered its next revolution: 24-hour programming, followed not long after by an upgrade to 50,000 watts that screamed into homes in southeastern Ohio and parts of Indiana and Kentucky. Geoff Vargo ’73 as program director ushered in this era as he replaced Cage, who moved on to a station in Princeton, N.J., and later onto a career at WRKI-FM in Connecticut.

Convey remembers Vargo as one of the most creative and energetic personalities at the station, passionate and always ready to solve problems, his caring nature gave him the ability to “get people fired up” about the station, Covey said. Vargo was one of the primary reasons Covey became interested in UD and wanted to join WVUD.

“He lit up a room with positive energy,” Covey said. “He does it to this day.”

The 24-hour format skyrocketed the popularity of the station. Vargo stretched the “Hot Rotation Singles” — when DJs would play hits pushed by record companies — from three hours to six and added new artists, oldies and up-and-coming musicians. News reports said the phone lines rang off the hook with more than 150 requests per day.

The students also had other innovations. One was Spitler, WVUD’s first female morning personality. Her show, “Waking Up With a Woman,” highlighted her booming voice and pithy humor. Spitler was unexpected and unapologetically woman.

“Someone would say I ‘talked dirty and played the hits.’ I didn’t really talk dirty, just some innuendos. I was feisty … and maybe a little naughty,” she said. “We competed with the big dogs, people who did this as a living, and we were winning. We were breaking new ground.”

WVUD’s success was attributed to the students, their zany, risk-taking nature and the freedom UD gave them to maneuver within the progressive format of the station.

In Dayton, WVUD was “king of the mountain” of progressive rock, said Chuck Browning, who would move to Dayton to become program manager of what would become WVUD’s largest competitor. Browning’s station was WTUE-FM 104.7, which has the FCC non-duplication ruling to thank for its programming split from sister station WONE-AM. When Browning, at age 23, arrived in 1976, WTUE was playing a schizophrenic mix of album rock and Top 40, mashing Led Zeppelin up against The O’Jays. He started instituting a playlist of album rock with an ear toward what the kids at UD were spinning.

While he cleared up the playlist, WTUE couldn’t compete with the far superior signal coming out of WVUD’s radio tower. “I spent the first two years at TUE getting my head caved in by a college radio station,” Browning said. “We remained the second radio station.”

The students relished the rivalry, beating out WTUE in ratings and, as Covey said, discovering new music while WTUE simply “stuck with the hits.”

While the students had the innovation, WTUE had the money, and eventually Browning got the technology boost needed to compete with WVUD’s signal.

But the students were ready to hurl one more rock at Goliath. Cage said the same day that WTUE upped its wattage and started broadcasting stereo, WVUD took out an ad in the newspaper announcing its next big leap in technology — a Dolby-B noise reduction system. It made its stereo FM broadcasting quieter while increasing the station’s effective range with no increase in power.

WVUD had built the popularity of progressive rock, and WTUE cashed in on it. After the technology upgrade, WTUE’s ratings skyrocketed, jumping from a 6 percent share of the
audience to 13 percent in one rating cycle, Browning said.

The students may have been looking to beat WTUE at any turn, but Browning said he had a lot of respect for the student-run station. Covey remembers attending a local rock concert and bumping into Browning in the pressroom. Browning offered a greeting and said that the town was indeed big enough for them both. “I was a college punk,” Covey said. Covey’s response: “Hell no, there’s not.” And he walked away.

But Browning didn’t. He realized that UD attracted the best college talent from Chicago to Philadelphia and said he was able to build WTUE’s success thanks to the students.

“I was able to listen, pay attention and hire some of the best of them,” said Browning, who lists his time at WTUE and his most recent position — as general manager of KMYZ-FM and KTOS-FM in Tulsa, Okla. — as the most rewarding of his career.

The students had gotten to the top, accomplishing what Biersack had asked them to do, if not exactly in the way he might have imagined. But once the rest of radio caught up with the progressive music phenomenon, it was time for the University to create new plans for the future of WVUD-FM. As the freedom of the ‘70s melted away into more formatted radio, the WVUD alumni carried their opportunities with them as they scattered across the nation.

REAL PIONEERS

Working at “The Radio Station” was far more valuable than the minimum-wage paycheck they received.

While the students were having fun, they were really building lives. The 17- to 20-year-olds weren’t just kids playing music; they were licensed DJs gaining professional experience, real revenue and popularity for the University of Dayton.

Andres, the WVUD copywriter, went on to careers in film, advertising, production and publishing. He attributes much of his success to the camaraderie among the students. If you were on-air — even late at night — and you did something great, one of your co-workers would always call in to tell you so. (They’d call, too, if you messed up.)

“To this day I stay in touch with people I worked with from WVUD,” he said from his home in Arizona. “It’s because we went through this all together. It was a great training ground and atmosphere, and we made great friends, because it was a great place to work. It was a rare hybrid — a 50,000-watt station owned by a university. It was the perfect place to discover radio as an art form and a one-on-one communication medium. It was unparalleled … and prepared me to be a professional communicator.”

The students helped push progressive rock in the Dayton market, and generations of female DJs have Spitler to thank for progressing the view of women in radio, Andres said: “She was a real pioneer.”

The station — in this era and beyond — helped shape the careers of radio personalities, sports announcers, station managers, media executives and producers in television and Hollywood.

Covey talked about his good fortune at being named music director. “That created an opportunity for me to establish the relationship with all the record labels,” he said.

His first job after college came at the invitation of Andres, who went to a station in Ann Arbor, Mich. When a program director job opened in Illinois at WZOK-FM, a record label rep suggested Covey for the job. His career brought him back to Dayton in 1980, and he now works as a senior account manager for Clear Channel.

Cage remembered a young Dan Pugh ’79 applying to work as a DJ. The station passed him over — twice — before giving him a shot. Pugh — also known as Dan Patrick — went on to DJ at WTUE before working for ESPN radio and now announces for NBC Sports and hosts The Dan Patrick Show.

WVUD of this era launched many careers. Steve Downes ’72 is morning man at WDRV-FM in Chicago and the voice of “Master Chief” on the game Halo. Alan “Mike” McConnell ’77 went from WVUD to WTUE, leading to on-air positions at WLW-AM in Cincinnati and WGN-AM in Chicago.

When Spitler graduated in 1976, Browning promptly hired her for WTUE’s morning drive show. It was a success — its ratings beat WVUD, she said, plus she got her first real paycheck, $200 a week: “I was rich beyond belief.” She went on to become a TV anchor in Indianapolis and is now host and producer of nationally syndicated Pet Pals TV.

They moved on, but they didn’t leave UD entirely behind. At WINE-AM and WRKI-FM in Danbury, Conn., Cage hired Flyers John Fullam ’75, Bob “Buzz Night” Kocak ’78 and Al Tacca ’78 to join him. Covey continues to interact with UD students through the Clear Channel co-op and internship program. Last summer, engineering technology major Michael Harper ’15 worked at Clear Channel.

“It’s about seizing every opportunity you get on campus,” Covey said, “making a contribution, being a part of something, trying to make a difference and then trying to maintain the relationships once you get out of school and paying it forward.”

By the 1990s, WVUD had grown into a light rock powerhouse that still employed students, but they were no longer in control. In 1992, UD sold WVUD to Liggett Broadcasting Group for $3.5 million, which went back to the University to support academic programs and other funds. The call letters changed to WLQT-FM, and the station moved downtown.

Student-centered radio, though, persists in the student-managed, non-commercial WUDR Flyer Radio. The free spirit of WVUD flourishes on channels 99.5 FM and 98.1 FM. It’s no 50,000 watts — 10 watts with a 50-watt translator, sending the signal into Dayton’s near suburbs — but it has the potential to reach far and wide thanks to Internet streaming. And the students have freedom to play what will attract listeners like them — an idea that has empowered students from 1964 until today.

“Everything was the right place, right time,” Spitler said. “It was magic.” UD

CC Hutten is a junior English major who stumbled onto the WVUD story during Reunion Weekend 2013. She writes, “The more I delve into the epic ‘70s music scene, the more convinced I am that I’m attending the University of Dayton in the wrong decade.”

Michelle Tedford once sat in the control room with a DJ friend who played “Rhinestone Cowboy” (not on the designated playlist) during the last days of WVUD.
DIGITAL HUMANITY
Technology has altered our behavior.
Her patience ended as the flight began boarding.

Sister Angela Ann Zukowski, M.H.S.H., had just changed seats in the airport concourse for the third time, desperately seeking solitude from a chatty passenger. His conversation, however, was not with her.

“I had found a quiet place to work,” remembers Zukowski, religious studies professor and director of the University of Dayton’s Institute for Pastoral Initiatives. “Then, a man talking loudly on a cell phone sat down across from me. So, I moved. He followed. I moved again. He followed again. After the third time, I asked him not to follow me, to which he replied, ‘But, I’m trying to get away from all the noise!’”

That was the beginning, she says, of her heightened awareness of what it means to be human in today’s digital civilization. “Everybody’s talking to somebody, but they’re not talking to the person in front of them,” she says. From dinners with friends interrupted by text messages to wilderness hikes punctuated by the ding of an email notification, Zukowski soon felt surrounded by a “culture of distraction.”

Technology has given us new ways to explore, communicate and connect; we already learn, interact and worship differently. We can’t escape it, but we can be aware of it — and recognize our response to a shift that’s changing more than what we do; it’s changing who we are.

A DIGITAL ODYSSEY

The feature that makes current technology so desirable is also what’s advancing our dependence on it. The telegraph, the radio and the personal computer, for instance, proved transformative for previous generations. But, at some point, their users could — even had to — walk away. Portability marked a new frontier.

“Any time new technology is introduced, it is so attractive that it captures our imagination, and we spend a lot of time with it

By Audrey Starr

□ Is it also changing our values?
simply because we’re enamored,” Zukowski explains. “The question is, how much time do we spend before either the admiration passes or we get totally sucked in?”

Think about the evolution of transportation. When the main mode was by foot, travelers’ moderate pace allowed them to notice the beauty of the trees, see the flowers blooming, observe the changing seasons. Now, zooming down interstates and flying through the sky, we still see autumn leaves and snowy hills, but they’re passing by rapidly, a peripheral thought instead of a focal point.

Zukowski — a former member of the Vatican’s Pontifical Council for Social Communications — sees this trend at the Caribbean School of Catholic Communications in Trinidad, which she co-directs and is co-sponsored by UD’s Institute for Pastoral Initiatives. When the school began in 1994, students were eager to learn about new media, although most of their parishes owned none of it. Then, six years ago, students began bringing cell phones to class. A year later, the phones were already being replaced with newer versions.

“Then, they brought digital cameras. They brought laptops. They brought iPads. This is a developing country, but suddenly, our students had more technology individually than we had within the whole school,” Zukowski says.

According to a 2013 report by the United Nations’ International Telecommunication Union, there will soon be as many mobile-cellular subscriptions as there are people inhabiting the planet, with the figure set to pass the 7 billion mark this year — meaning that many individuals own multiple devices.

By the end of last year, 96 percent of the globe had been penetrated by the mobile market, and almost half (41 percent) of the world’s households were connected to the Internet. The report also shows that, worldwide, young people are almost twice as networked as the population as a whole.

“This digital culture is informing, forming and transforming our students, the digital natives, at quantum speed,” Zukowski says.

Call it the Rip Van Winkle effect: One day, we rolled out of bed, and it seemed the whole world changed while we slept. For today’s youth, though, it’s all they’ve known. A 2010 Nielsen study noted that 36 percent of children ages of 2 to 11 use both the Internet and television simultaneously, with children ages 8 to 10 spending about 5.5 hours each day using media — eight hours if you count additional media consumed while multitasking.

Education for these “cyberzens” — citizens of a digital civilization — is no longer contained within four walls. Today’s learning environments are without borders, as communication theorist Marshall McLuhan predicted: “We become what we behold. We shape our tools, and then our tools shape us.”

Many textbook companies have rebranded, offering “personalized learning experiences” that deliver a mix of text, videos and digital assignments.

The new learning ecology calls us to move from “learning about” something to “learning to be,” Zukowski says. “In the 20th century, the approach to education was focused on learning about things and creating stocks of knowledge that students might deploy later in life. This approach worked well in a relatively stable and slow-changing world where students could expect to use the same set of skills throughout their life. But now lifelong learning is imperative. Everything is in flux, with constant change calling for flexibility.”

Take the Caribbean school, for instance. When leaders realized the vast amount of technology students possessed, they revamped their learning model to accommodate it. Instead of creating lesson plans in advance, coordinators approached each class based on the tools students brought with them. Monday could mean learning about f-stops on DSLR cameras; Thursday might see a tutorial on mobile blog posts.

Zukowski found a similar situation happening in the U.S. As a judge for the Catholic Schools of Tomorrow Award, she realized that a third of last year’s entries indicated their schools are 100 percent paperless, with students issued tablets instead of textbooks.

Indeed, the days of solitary lecturing may be numbered.

“Students’ brain scans actually look different, and they communicate differently,” Zukowski says. “I teach my UD courses now like a TED Talk. I’ll give a presentation for 15 or 20 minutes, then ask them to discuss the ideas, then do something within their table cohort. I feel like I cover more material in a traditional lecture, but you can tell that
doesn’t get through to them anymore. They zone out. And, if students are being taught differently in elementary and high school and then come to college and our environments are still traditional, that won’t work. The universities that will survive will be the ones willing to shift.”

Shauna Adams, associate professor of education and executive director of UD’s Center for Early Learning, follows the neuroscience behind our changing brains.

“Any interaction that you have, any language that you use, any sensation that you engage in, the more it’s repeated, the more it becomes part of your neuro-network,” Adams says.

Zukowski points out that adults born before 1965 came of age when the amount of knowledge was more manageable, when someone could start at the beginning of a book and read to the end. So, people growing up in the 20th century learned to read left to right, top to bottom, start to finish.

This is not how young people influenced by the Internet read, she says. They read in the form of the letter “F,” conditioned by a website layout to read across the top first, down the left side and then skim through the center. Their minds have been rewired for kaleidoscope color and constant movement. Black and white pages are yesterday’s news.

BEING MORE HUMAN

As instructors in Trinidad noticed more and more digital devices being brought to the school, they also noticed something else: Fewer students were socializing with each other after lessons ended. In previous years, students could be found “liming,” a Caribbean term for a casual, often unplanned social gathering. Now, it seemed, they were still hanging out—but it was happening virtually.

As Zukowski says, “New technology creates new opportunities, but with any change, something’s being lost. Sometimes, you lose something you wish you hadn’t.”

Like silence. In a recent BBC feature, The Noisy Planet, Dutch sonographer Floris van Manen notes that noise is like a drug, so easy to get hooked on that most of us now feel distinctly uneasy when confronted with silence. He offers this example: “The next time you go to a concert, listen carefully to what happens when a long, loud passage is followed by a quiet one: many people start coughing. The constant overexposure of our aural nerves is as addictive as using chemical stimulants.”

But listening highlights the dignity of the human person, Zukowski says, suggesting that community is essential to being and becoming more human. By treating time with other people as valuable — and not something that passes the time in between text messages and Facebook likes — you’re communicating your respect for them as individuals. Zukowski refers to a “vibration reflex syndrome”: the urge to double-check that your device is still on, and fully charged, when it’s been quiet for a few minutes.

“We’ve gotten into the habit of making the people we’re with feel like there’s always somebody or something else more important waiting to come our way,” Zukowski told the audience gathered at the University’s 2013 Catholic Education Summit. “If your cell phone is on vibrate right now, why? Why aren’t I the most important person in your life right this minute? Why do you want to be distracted by that next text message?”

The fourth annual Civility in America: A Nationwide Survey purports that rudeness in the U.S. has reached crisis proportions. The most recent study found Americans encounter incivility more than twice a day on average, and nearly half expect to experience it in the next 24 hours, prompting the report’s authors to call rude behavior the country’s “new normal.” For the first time since the survey began in 2010, the Internet and social media rose into the top ranks of perceived causes, joining politicians, youth and the media.

“It’s as simple as taking everything for granted instead of treating everything as a gift,” Zukowski says. “People are accustomed to instant gratification now. They expect instantaneous responses, which leaves little time to explore or reflect on issues in any depth.”

Adams sees the trend in her students, too. “One of the things I’ve noticed is that they have a need for immediate answers. Their ability to wait for information is very different than it used to be,” she says. A lack of access to answers is more uncomfortable for today’s learners, she says, because it activates anxiety, increasing stress hormones.

It also relates to values, says Zukowski: “Only that which is new is good and true. If it’s six months old, it’s gone. Our role and our responsibility as Catholic educators is to educate our young people to realize that they are cybercitizens and can also transform this culture. This is a culture that is shaping them, and they’re not even conscious of it.”

LIVING HOLY — AND WHOLLY

Speaking at the TEDxDayton conference in November, Chris Wire, president of Real Art Design Group, said we’re still inherently curious, asking Google around 60,000 questions a second. The problem, though, is that we’re less interested in the exploration cycle.

In his talk, “The Magic of Brainpower, Deductive Abilities and Curiosity,” he said technology is “accelerating the fading of wonderment.” With a computer in our pockets, it’s become too easy to neglect the power of our own mind, asking “Why?” less and looking for quick, data-driven answers more.

“I’m not saying reject technology,” he told the crowd. “I’m saying we need to re-script our use of it. Think for yourself. Don’t let Google be a reflex. Don’t be a passive consumer of information; become an active creator. Come up with your own ideas of how it could or should work first, then go check your answer. You just might have a brand-new, nutty, crazy, magical idea.”

To help, Zukowski encourages her students to disconnect and actively seek out “Sabbath moments” and has found that they want them, too. She recalls a conversation with Lauren Glass ’13, one of her Chaminade Scholars, a program for honors students to explore their vocation and faith.

“Quiet time, to me, doesn’t just mean removing exterior noise. It also means silencing your thoughts,” Glass says. “It’s good to get away from the gazillion screens, or people, or the stressful parts of our day — but we need to take time away from ourselves, too. By consciously existing outside of our own ego, we’re moving toward cultivating peace and selflessness in our lives.”

Sabbath time, like other periods of rest, allows us to re-create ourselves — to focus our minds and center our hearts. It’s a temporary fasting of the tangible that strengthens the spiritual.

Zukowski says, “We need to live more holy, and wholly — consciously and intentionally, carving out time to detach. These are values important to developing a spiritual life. If only our search for God was as intense and constant as our search for a Wi-Fi connection.”

If it’s increasingly hard to ignite our
creative minds, cultivating a sense of religious imagination in students can be equally challenging. Mirroring changes happening in the classroom, many churches now offer multiple worship styles, maintaining a traditional service as well as a contemporary, interactive one that appeals to minds that crave more activity and stimulation.

“Imagination in the Catholic Church is strong; our churches are full of symbols and stories,” Zukowski points out. She cites author G.K. Chesterton, who said that intellectual knowledge is important but, without imagination, we lose a sense of what’s transcendent.

Such is the challenge for Catholic educators, she says. “I believe firmly that education, particularly Catholic education, can and does offer a value-added dimension in the face of a new digital civilization. We have the blessed opportunity to communicate faith that stimulates the religious imagination of our students and acknowledges the presence of a merciful, compassionate and loving God, even — especially — in a virtual culture.”

For Adams, recognizing the challenges and needs of a new generation of students is essential. “One challenge for professors today is that we are often not seen as the authority on a subject as identified by the millennials we teach,” she says. “They don’t trust information, and they look at it more collaboratively. If I tell them something, they don’t view me as the expert in early childhood; they will check it out and communicate with their friends and go to social media.

“Class today does not stop when they leave the classroom. It continues, and students process information constantly,” Adams adds. “They want to have an ongoing conversation between scheduled lectures.”

Ultimately, Zukowski sees more fulfillment — and less frustration — in the digital frontier ahead. “I strive to see the new digital landscape as a gift evoking a call and not a threat provoking fear,” Zukowski says.

Next time you’re in an airport concourse, choose your seat wisely. The world may expect to hear your phone call — but it doesn’t have to.

Audrey Starr is managing editor of UD Magazine. She finds Sabbath moments during long walks along RiverScape (aided by a pedometer iPhone app).
Cancer is a word that seems to exist in everyone's vocabulary in the 21st century. Why is this? In this unit we strive to provide students with an opportunity to learn more about the mechanisms of cancer and help students realize that even though all cancers are unique, they all have at least one thing in common; a treatment for cancer.

The first medical description of cancer was found in an Egyptian papyrus. The first medical description of cancer was found in the papyrus. The papyrus contained the teaching of the Egyptian physician Imhotep about cancer. The first medical description of cancer was found in the papyrus. The papyrus contained the teaching of the Egyptian physician Imhotep about cancer.

We chose to develop a unit centered around clinical trials for new anti-cancer drugs for several reasons. The first was addressed in the introduction: statistically everyone has been touched by cancer in some way. Secondly, we had the wonderful learning opportunity to spend two weeks in the summer of 2012 interning at the Florida cancer research and clinical laboratories. The first oncoprotein was termed src (pronounced “sarc” as in sarcasm) and was first discovered in a chicken retrovirus. This gene was also one of the first genes to be associated with breast cancer.

Cancer: disease caused by an abnormal growth of cells. Although smoking rates have fallen in recent years, cancer research has changed little. The biotech company Genentech gained FDA approval for Herceptin (trastuzumab).

The development of cancer is a multi-step process that requires mutations in both tumor suppressor genes and proto-oncogenes. The first tumor suppressor gene for breast cancer was identified in 1978. This gene was termed the retinoblastoma gene. The human genome project was completed in 2003. The entire genetic material of a human being was identified. The underlying peculiarity is that this gene was discovered in the mouse. The human genome project was completed in 2003. The entire genetic material of a human being was identified. The underlying peculiarity is that this gene was discovered in the mouse.

Angiogenesis: the development of new blood vessels. The first vascular bed to be established is the cervical plexus. The first vascular bed to be established is the cervical plexus. The first vascular bed to be established is the cervical plexus. The first vascular bed to be established is the cervical plexus.

Hippocrates was the first to use the words cáneros and cárinnmonic to describe tumors, and the term “cancer” was coined. Hippocrates was the first to use the words cáneros and cárinnmonic to describe tumors, and the term “cancer” was coined. Hippocrates was the first to use the words cáneros and cárinnmonic to describe tumors, and the term “cancer” was coined.

Mastectomy: surgical removal of all or part of a breast. The papyrus contained the teaching of the Egyptian physician Imhotep about cancer.

The development of cancer is a multi-step process that requires mutations in both tumor suppressor genes and proto-oncogenes. The first tumor suppressor gene for breast cancer was identified in 1978. This gene was termed the retinoblastoma gene. The human genome project was completed in 2003. The entire genetic material of a human being was identified. The underlying peculiarity is that this gene was discovered in the mouse. The human genome project was completed in 2003. The entire genetic material of a human being was identified. The underlying peculiarity is that this gene was discovered in the mouse.

Tumor Suppressor Gene: A protective gene that normally limits the growth of tumors. When a tumor suppressor gene is mutated (altered), it may fail to keep a check on the growth of tumors.

Oncogene: a gene that contributes to the production of a cancer. Oncogenes are generally mutated forms of normal cellular genes.
Cancer is a word that seems to exist in everyone's vocabulary in the 21st century. For many diseases, especially cancer.

Translational medicine is the application of traditional "bench to bedside" discoveries "at the bench" into clinical discoveries "at the bedside." Although we may have lost patients to cancer and not been able to treat every case of cancer exactly as presented, we have gained FDA approval for Herceptin and other drugs.
Science has waged a full-scale attack on cancer. One teacher is ensuring high school students are prepared to protect themselves and help find a cure for what will kill a quarter of all Americans.

By Michelle Tedford  Statistics can sit on the page, cold and lifeless. But sitting in front of Jennifer Sunderman Broo ’04 were 21 warm, breathing humans, high school sophomores in ponytails and Uggs. And every one of them raised her hand to Broo’s question: “How many of you know someone who has cancer or who has lost his or her life to cancer?”

It’s how Broo begins teaching her new curriculum, “The War of the 21st Century: The Cell Cycle, Cancer and Clinical Trials,” funded by the National Institutes of Health and made available this winter to teachers nationwide. She teaches the science of cancer in the context of our personal experience with the disease, embracing the fear and the determination that we can find a cure for what statistics say will kill a quarter of all Americans.

That cure might come from the mind of one of her students; inspiring the next generation of cancer researchers is one of her goals. Even more likely is her role in creating a more informed generation, one that understands the biologic processes that cause cancer and the choices we can make to reduce our risk or treat the disease — lessons we’d all do well to learn.

**THERE’S A FROG SKELETON IN THE CUPBOARD.** Photos of scientists are pasted onto tissue boxes. And on an orange sheet of construction paper taped near the dry-erase board in Broo’s classroom are these words from Albert Einstein: “Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The impor...
tant thing is to not stop questioning.”

Broo — tall and blond with fingers blackened by the dry-erase marker in her hand — asks lots of questions of her students at St. Ursula Academy in Cincinnati, an all-girls Catholic school that educates based on the teachings of a young woman who, in the 16th century, empowered women to serve God within the context of their families and professions.

Broo also asked one question of herself: Can I teach the science of cancer to students who are unlikely to take another biology class in their lifetimes?

“Sometimes I think teachers try to give all the practical stuff to the higher-level kids,” said Broo, who before joining St. Ursula two years ago taught Advanced Placement biology in Florida. The girls who sit around the black lab tables in her biology class are future writers and teachers and some who would rather earn accounting degrees than map out chromosomes. Yet Broo believes that understanding the science of cancer — how it occurs, what factors contribute to our risk, how clinical trials are run — is imperative for every student, every person.

“I tell them that I want them to have the information because, God forbid, when this happens to you or someone you love, you can search the Internet as an informed citizen,” she said.

Plus, she thinks cancer science is exciting. You can hear it in her voice as she describes the clinical trials that are leading to novel therapies for fighting cancer. Her energy comes from a lifelong fascination with nature and the systematic way it responds to changes in our environment. But she understands the looks people give her when she tells them she teaches cancer. “It was weird for me to be so excited to teach something that is so horrible,” Broo said.

Sophomore Gracie Ehemann was not at all interested in learning about a disease that had killed so many in her family and already threatened her.

“How can you be so excited to teach something that has taken my whole family away?” she asked, naming grandparents cancer has killed. “It was very, very hard to let myself open up to this.”

Broo knew it would be, which is why she begins teaching the unit each semester by asking about cancer’s impact on her students’ lives — raising their hands, writing reflection papers and discussing cancer truths and myths with their classmates.

Ehemann reflected on a painful memory: sitting in a doctor’s office with family members, hearing words she didn’t understand, and feeling fear and confusion.

“I had no idea what was going on. It all sounded so scary to me — even the word itself sounds super scary,” she said. “I think that this course really broke everything down. … Every piece of what the doctors were saying when I was younger I know about now.

“I wish I would have known before what everything meant, because I honestly feel that if a doctor came to me to talk about cancer and all the vocabulary, I would have a much better time understanding it.”

And it’s not just children who are struggling. Broo watched the family of her mother-in-law, Jackie, battle through the last months of Jackie’s breast cancer. “I wish I would have gotten to know her better,” said Broo of Jackie, a smart and vibrant woman who died in August 2012, three months before Broo married into the family.

“I saw the toll it took on their whole family,” Broo said. “I couldn’t help them, but at least I could help other families to be able to talk about it and deal with it.”

So to start the conversation, when her students raise their hands to the question about knowing someone with cancer, Broo now raises her own — for Jackie.

AS A UD STUDENT, BROO ENJOYED}

hiking at Glen Helen in Yellow Springs,
developing a benchmark for therapies that may eventually be tested in humans.

From their lab experience, Broo and Mahoney developed a lesson plan for their high school students in “translational medicine,” often referred to as “bench to bedside.” It is the application of traditional laboratory research — “bench” — to better the human condition and create novel treatments for diseases such as cancer — “bedside.”

Their first lesson plan focused on the genetics of cancer. But giving the students a little information on inherited cancers, like those resulting from the BRCA-1 gene, led to lots of questions. What about tanning beds? Smoking? How do environmental factors and lifestyle choices relate to the hereditary factors?

“They felt like we weren’t telling them the whole story,” Broo said. So the teachers expanded the curriculum, producing a two-week unit that incorporates traditional biology lessons and meets Next Generation Science Standards. It contains readings, videos and activities that can be adapted to students at a variety of learning levels. They presented the curriculum at the National Association of Biology Teachers conference at the end of November. It is available for free download [see Continued Conversations, Page 40, for the link].

One of the activities they added was the game “What’s My Risk?” Students pick cards to help understand that a combination of inherited and acquired risk factors could lead to cancer. Through the game, they learn why using sunscreen or exercising regularly helps reduce cancer risk, whereas heavy alcohol consumption or use of tanning beds can cause a mutation in the gene responsible for suppressing tumor growth.

“I didn’t realize there were so many steps to get cancer. I thought it just sort of happened,” said St. Ursula sophomore Annie Hamiter. Her cancer education that semester included a dose of relief from a fear she’d been carrying around for years. Doctors had told her family that her mother’s cancer diagnosis meant an increased risk for her. “With Mrs. Broo walking us through it and saying ‘You have to train them to start to think a little bit, let them make mistakes and learn from them.’ how everything has a step, and how things have to happen in your body for you to get it, I think that eased my mind. It’s not as if one day I’m going to wake up with cancer, it has to be a process that has to happen.”

It’s a process she now understands. [See “Division and mutation,” Page 40.]

IN THE UNITED STATES, ONE IN THREE women and one in two men will develop cancer during their lifetimes.

Broo shares that fact with her students not to scare them but to inform them. But fear — or passion or excitement — makes her students more invested learners.

“I joked with my husband that I’m emotionally manipulating them to learn science,” she said. “Anything that you can connect with on an emotional level pushes you to learn a little more than does just reading something in a textbook that doesn’t apply to you.”

It also helps when your teacher has written the textbook. On a Thursday afternoon, six of Broo’s former students sat around a table to discuss what they had learned. They gushed the most about having a teacher who not only did cancer research but also cared enough to teach it to them. Sophomore Gretchen Thomas called Broo “passionate.” Classmate Madeleine Morrissey agreed: “You need a teacher to be enthusiastic to rub off onto the students.”

Learning should be about more than just getting an A. Broo wants them to challenge and argue and question the material — and one another and her, which they did during a lesson on clinical trials.

Hamiter was angry to learn that cancer patients whose last hope may be an experimental drug would not know if they received the drug or a placebo. “I remember I kept on fighting with Mrs. Broo. Why would they let some people die for science?” Hamiter asked.

Broo insisted they read about the pros and cons of the practice and apply their own morality. For Hamiter, the question was more than academic. She struggled to find an answer, but she appreciated the space that allowed her to come to her own conclusion: “I’ve come to believe — it sounds awful to say — but these few people will die for the greater cause of creating a cure.”

The students took what they learned in class and carried it throughout their day, out of the classroom and into their homes. They started conversations with their parents, some for the first time having an open discussion about family health history.

Sophomore Marley Molkentin talked about her grandmother, who had died of lung cancer nearly a decade ago.

“I hadn’t thought about my grandma in awhile because I just don’t really like thinking about it,” said Molkentin, her voice soft and full of memories. “This class made me think again, and I don’t feel as sad anymore about it.”

The students said their conversations helped with closure or brought the family...
I wish I would have known before what everything meant, because I honestly feel that if a doctor came to me to talk about cancer and all the vocabulary, I would have a much better time understanding it.'
closer together, with the girls feeling good about being experts in a subject elder generations likely never learned in school.

They also mulled over their new knowledge and molded it into possible cancer cures. They would come to class with suggestions on ways to cut off the blood supply to cancer cells or to target chemotherapy drugs more precisely. Their approaches were simple, based on their 10th-grade science, but inventive. “They were coming up with some viable mechanisms that, if you could find a practical way to do them, could actually be some pretty great treatments for cancer,” Broo said.

She knows that few of her current students will go into science careers — those students are more likely to choose honors or AP biology — but she wants them to understand you don’t need to be a doctor or researcher to impact cancer. To demonstrate, students sat in a circle. Each girl represented one person involved in clinical trials — patient, spouse, oncologist, pharmacist, nurse, researcher, social worker, drug company executive. They tossed back and forth a ball of blue thread until it created an interlocking web of patient care.

“My favorite job was the person who would play and talk to the kids who have cancer and keep them sane through it,” said Luebbers, recounting watching a video of children with bald heads and bright eyes dancing with their nurses and singing to the song “Brave.” “I never knew there were people who did that, and I thought it was really cool.”

In the end, it’s a hopeful message that Broo wants her students to take from such a scary topic. For more than 4,000 years, humans have been making progress in treating, curing and preventing cancer.

“You have to train them to start to think a little bit, let them make mistakes and learn from them,” Broo said. “That’s one of the things I like about the cancer unit — there are lots of opportunities to internalize it and add their own spin — and hopefully it encourages them through the stories to take the mental energy or the mental effort to do that.”

That energy was evident in sophomore Monica Luebbers, who wriggled in her chair as she recounted her life’s ambition at age 10: to cure cancer. She said it was a dream that got lost in the chaos of middle school, when so many girls turn away from science.

“I think I want to get back that childish dream of trying to pursue a cure for cancer,” Luebbers said. “Mrs. Broo kept that fire alive, and maybe added some gasoline and made it grow bigger.”

Now that’s a way to wage a war. UD

Michelle Tedford is editor of University of Dayton Magazine. She hasn’t taken a biology class since the ninth grade.

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**Division and mutation**

Cancer can form when the normal process of the cell goes awry. To illustrate this, Jennifer Broo has her students at St. Ursula Academy work in teams to draw a poster-sized diagram of the cell cycle.

Typically, the cell goes through a predictable process of duplication and division, producing cells for specific functions within the body.

But things can — and do — go wrong. DNA can replicate incorrectly, causing mutations that could become cancer. The cells have opportunities to correct these errors at checkpoints. On the cell diagram, Broo illustrates them as stoplights. At each stoplight, the cell can ask itself, are more cells needed? Are the environmental conditions right for cell growth? Is my cell DNA replicating correctly? If the answer is no, the cell can delay division, repair the mistake or kill itself (apoptosis), making room for neighboring healthy cells.

Broo teaches her sophomores that cancer development is a multistep process that requires mutations in both tumor suppressor genes and proto-oncogenes within the cell.

The function of tumor suppressor genes is to prevent mistakes that could lead to cancer. These genes slow down cell division, repair DNA mistakes and tell cells when to die. Tumor suppressor genes can be turned off because of an inherited deficiency such as BRCA-1, the gene deficiency inherited by actress Angelina Jolie, or because of a mutation that develops over a person’s lifetime.

Proto-oncogenes regulate the normal processes of a cell. They are genes that signal to the cell what function to perform and how often to divide. Mutations to proto-oncogenes can also be inherited or acquired.

Age is a risk factor; the more cells have replicated, the more chances there are for mistakes to occur.

But students learn about other risk factors that are within their control. They learn skin cancer is the most com-

**They learn that many of the breakthroughs in cancer are likely to be in understanding ways to prevent it.**

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**Recommended by Jennifer Broo:**

**THE EMPEROR OF ALL MALADIES: A BIOGRAPHY OF CANCER BY SIDDHARTH THUMBERJEE**

“It is a long book, but very readable, even if you haven’t had a biology class since high school.”

**CLINICALTRIALS.GOV (NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH)**

“This would be one of the sites I would go to if I knew someone with a rare type of cancer or who had tried standard treatment options and wasn’t improving.”

**ONCOGENES, TUMOR SUPPRESSOR GENES AND CANCER. BY THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY**

“This provides an easily understandable explanation of the genes involved in cancer.”

**INSIDECANCER.ORG (COLD SPRING HARBOR LABORATORY)**

“Another comprehensive website with good animated tutorials.”

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**Continued Conversations**
Call center

JACK JOHNSON ’62

Jack Johnson doesn’t have dropped calls on his phone, he says. Instead, he’s been fixing others’ phone problems since the mid-1950s.

At 83, Johnson has worked in the telecommunications field for the past 50 years, first with Ohio Bell and now in UD’s division of information technology. Citing what he calls a story of “hard work paying off,” he grew up on Dayton’s East Side and joined the Air Force following high school. After serving in Korea, he settled down and married.

“I came to UD because I heard of a veterans program that would help with tuition,” Johnson says. “I was already raising a family and working part time at Ohio Bell.”

After earning an associate degree in telecommunications, Johnson continued working at Ohio Bell — first in construction and later as a service technician, then engineer. In 1983, he joined another phone company, which contracted with UD at the time.

“I was preparing to retire around 1997 when I was asked if I wanted to stay on part time in the UD telephone department,” Johnson says. “I thought, ‘Why not?’ I wasn’t ready to retire yet.”

As part of the University’s information technology division, Johnson’s work ranges from service calls to wire removal.

“We have a whole room of phones here, and I also make sure every room has a phone jack,” he says.

Some buildings are easier than others, Johnson says, mentioning College Park Center and the Jesse Philips Humanities Center specifically. “Those are great places to work in,” he says. “They’re well-built and easy to navigate.”

Wherever he is on campus, Johnson says there’s much to see and learn.

“I’m lucky to be here after all these years,” he says. “I enjoy the work, and I enjoy connecting with people.”

He’s not half bad at connecting them with one another, either.

—Mickey Shuey ’14
As a ringside physician, Dr. Joe Estwanik is charged with caring for the physical health of the athlete.

But his Catholic education has challenged him to approach health more holistically.

“Going to Catholic and Christian institutions has allowed me to observe all facets of the body — mind, body, heart and spirit,” the orthopedic surgeon said.

Estwanik says he wouldn’t have had the opportunity to practice medicine if it weren’t for his preparation at UD. The school’s major draw was the undergraduate pre-medicine program — one of the few offered in the country at the time. Prior to UD, he attended a Catholic high school in Lakewood, Ohio, where he first became involved in the combat arts.

His formal foray into the sports medicine field was in 1980 when he was asked to help at the USA National Boxing Championships. As a fighter himself, he said caring for these Olympic collegiate athletes didn’t feel foreign. But what did feel off was the sport’s archaic approach to medicine.

“I saw that boxing was so far behind in the application of sports medicine compared to soccer,” he said, and vowed to laterally transfer those best practices of medical care exhibited by soccer to the boxing world.

Since then, his career has taken him to 20 countries — places such as China, Indonesia, Peru and Thailand. Most notably, he served as a ringside doctor for the USA boxing team, working international events such as the Goodwill Games in St. Petersburg, Russia.

“It has opened up my life and let me meet fascinating people in the sport,” he said of his travels.

Through all that travel and prestige, the doctor has remained true to his faith and moral compass. Theology does go into the practice of medicine, he says, it’s just not always explicit.

“Right is right and wrong is wrong,” he said. “The Catholic presence needs to be strong yet speak to all aspects of health.”

—Lauren Caggiano ’07

A real knockout
JOE ESTWANIK ’69

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Leagues of his own

MICHAEL DeFOREST WILSON ’70

A standout Flyer fullback in the mid-to-late 1960s, Michael DeForest Wilson dreamed of playing in the league.

He got that opportunity five times over, joining teams in the American, National, World, Canadian and United States football leagues during a 13-year period. He believes he’s the only athlete to have played in all five leagues.

“I got to meet a lot of different people and take my skill to the highest level possible,” Wilson said. “It was challenging with a family, though. It would’ve been nice to make the kind of money players make today.”

Wilson began his career in 1969 with the Cincinnati Bengals of the NFL and became an NFL athlete when the leagues merged in 1970. After a stint with the Buffalo Bills, Wilson played in the short-lived World League from 1974-75, and then spent four seasons in Canada. He won the CFL’s Most Outstanding Offensive Lineman Award in 1979 and 1980.

The USFL’s first season in 1983 would be Wilson’s last in football, and he returned home to Dayton to raise four sons with his wife, Cheryl, and settle into a 23-year career as a child support investigator with the Montgomery County Prosecutor’s Office. He also owned a trucking business.

During football off-seasons, Wilson worked at the Boys Club of Dayton and as a teacher. His desire to serve never dissipated, and he began considering a life in ministry. His mother had been a pastor, and Wilson said he’d long felt an “anointing” that protected his health and his family’s well-being during his football career.

“I ran from it as long as I could,” Wilson said. “I accepted my calling at Corinthian Baptist Church under the leadership of Dr. R.E. Henderson Jr.”

Nine years ago, Wilson became pastor of Beacon Light Baptist Church in downtown Dayton, where he leads a growing flock of parishioners eager to tackle life’s challenges and grow in their faith.

—Shannon Shelton Miller
ANATOMY OF A CLASS NOTE ’77

America’s barns hold history — and heart, says Tom Laughlin ’77, who treks across the Midwest to document their stories. What’s on the pages of your life story? Tell us in a class note today. Email classnotes@udayton.edu.

Fresh from graduation, Laughlin set his sights on a broadcast news desk. “The start of my illustrious career as a newscaster was in the mailroom of CBS affiliate WBBM in downtown Chicago,” he says. “I took a small-town radio job in Wisconsin before transitioning into newspaper photojournalism work. I also began working freelance video crew jobs in the Milwaukee area. Since then, I’ve managed to stay in the production business, scratching out a living with a camera.”

When Laughlin put out a call for barn stories in Wisconsin farm newspapers in 1999, he received four dozen responses, including one from Art, a struggling 60-something farmer whose wife had recently passed away. “We’ve been good friends ever since,” Laughlin says, adding that he’s helped Art bale hay and move 40 cows into the barn for winter. “He has such a quirky personality, he’s a show in himself. I’ll try to get at that one of these days.”

1973

Tom Laughlin ’77 (COM) lives in Lake Geneva, Wis. He writes, “I’ve enjoyed my years since UD, producing media across many platforms for companies large and small. I’ve just released the third installment of my PBS television series, American Barn Stories and Other Tales From the Heartlands. I also do personal presentations of the show to groups and continue to be amazed at the passion so many people have for our old barns.” He invites alumni with their own old barn stories or video production needs to contact him at www.americanbarnstories.net.

‘As a kid growing up in the 1960s, I always wanted to be a cowboy, like Roy Rogers,’ Laughlin says, noting that he was inspired to do things differently after his 56-year-old father died from lung cancer in 1980. A well-respected hobby photographer, Laughlin’s father introduced him to cameras at an early age. “I’ve made a living in the creative world of cameras, editing, video production, media and writing, and I love it — I think my dad would be proud.”

—Audrey Starr

His PBS connections helped Laughlin launch his own programming more than a decade ago. “I shot footage of old barn stories in 2000 and had it produced and ready to go when 9/11 happened. The project got shelved for several years,” he says of the series, which premiered in 2008 as Wisconsin Barns: Touchstones to the Past. Since then, Laughlin has added presentations to libraries and other groups.

“People hold something deep in their heart and soul about our old barns, and it’s my pleasure and privilege to capture that,” he says.
A good fit

TINA WOOD HANNAHS ‘83

Fifth-grade teacher Tina Wood Hannahs knows what it feels like to look in the mirror and dislike what you see.

But she didn’t want her students — or her children — to experience the same struggle.

“Eight years ago, a voice inside me said, ‘Enough.’ I had gastric bypass surgery, joined the local gym and hired a personal trainer,” said Hannahs, who has since lost 150 pounds.

Cheered on by daughter Elizabeth, 21, and son Sean, 18, she kept the momentum going. Hannahs — who lives in Ravenna, Ohio — joined a nonprofit women’s fitness group, Fit Chicks Inc. She entered a triathlon and worked with Ravenna Parks and Recreation, West Main Elementary, Kent State University and the health department to form PIP (Personal Improvement Plan), an after-school lifestyle program for elementary students.

“I fought with my weight most of my life, and when I noticed my students experiencing similar struggles, I knew I had to do something,” she said.

Founded in 2012, PIP meets twice weekly, October through May, and includes guest speakers, healthy snacks and trips to grocery stores. Along with student volunteers from Kent State, Hannahs coordinates the program for 50 third-, fourth- and fifth-graders.

“The students absolutely love staying after for PIP. It’s fun, but we take our role seriously,” Hannahs said. For example, the group partnered with the health department to record Body Mass Index numbers, at no cost, for each child.

Hannahs’ passion also spurred a second career. Since retiring from her teaching position last year, she works part time as an independent distributor for AdvoCare, a company offering health and wellness products.

“UD taught me to be independent, but that if you need help, ask for it,” Hannahs said. “There is no need to struggle when there is someone out there who can help.”

That’s a life in good shape.

—Allison Lewis ’14
Dan French came to UD as a mechanical engineering major, but the moment he started writing jokes alongside his answers on calculus tests, he realized it was time to pursue a new career path.

“I’ve always loved comedy, love to joke around with whoever, wherever, whenever,” French says. “In college, I had a friend, Libby Lamb, who told me I should go to Wiley’s Comedy Club and perform at open mic night. I never did, but it got me thinking.

“A few years later, while living in Louisville, Ky., I performed for about 200 people on a Tuesday night during Thanksgiving week. It was awesome.”

He’s been doing standup ever since. A move to California meant opportunities writing for high-profile comedians and television programs, including George Lopez, Wanda Sykes, David Letterman, Dennis Miller, The Late Late Show and The Best Damn Sports Show Period. Two Emmy nominations followed.

“Comedy writing is sitting in a room with maybe 10 other people — some of the funniest, oddest people you would ever meet — and everyone trying to make each other laugh,” French says. “It’s a magical way of making a living.”

His career isn’t all funny business, though. French earned a doctorate in communication studies, with specialties in rhetoric and cultural studies, from the University of South Florida and began teaching college courses in persuasion, relationship communication and screenwriting.

Then, after losing 125 pounds, he dubbed himself The Healthy Comedian and created a one-man show exploring new ideas about obesity.

“I dug into all sorts of non-mainstream information about health, and it’s fascinating to me,” French explains, “so much so that I wrote a one-person show about it all, ’The Comedian’s Diet.’ I love spreading the word about new ideas in health through comedy.”

If our medicine comes with a spoonful of laughter, we’ll take it.
—Megan Garrison ’14
Unleaded renovations

ANNE DAGES NUTT ’90

She painted happy butterflies on the walls of her twin girls’ bedroom. But it was what was under that purple paint that worried Anne Dages Nutt.

“Our industry has done so much damage with lead-based paint,” says Nutt, president of Dages Paint Co. in Louisville, Ky. “I got to know so much about it, it was making me sick.”

Her grandfather started the family business out of the trunk of his car during the Depression. Today, the business has one storefront and six employees in a neighborhood dotted with gingerbread Victorians. She is also a mother of three who wants to keep safe her children and those of her customers. In 2009 Nutt partnered with two customers to create a solution for homeowners to deal with lead-contaminated paint and soil in urban neighborhoods.

LockupLead is about to release its third product and is working on a fourth. Before it was outlawed in 1978, lead was added to paint and soil in urban neighborhoods.

Children who have been exposed to lead dust are at special risk for brain and nervous system damage.

“The amount of dust created from a paint chip the size of your fingernail can contaminate a room; the quantity that could fill a sugar packet can contaminate an entire house,” she says.

The three partners adapted for home use an EPA-proven technology that chemically binds lead. When sprayed on painted surfaces or on contaminated soil, LockupLead reduces lead’s bioavailability — absorption by the body — by more than 80 percent.

Paint, she says, can transform a home; her new products will ensure that transformation is both safe and beautiful.

—Michelle Bedford ’94
IN MEMORIAM

ALUMNI

1936
George Spahn — Sept. 2, 2013
1943
1944
Brother Arthur Cherrier, S.M. — Nov. 15, 2013
1947
Bertrand Heckel — Dec. 29, 2013
1949
1950
Anthony Kohnen — Dec. 27, 2013
1951
George Hogan — Dec. 26, 2013
1953
Frank Modica — Sept. 25, 2013
1954
Emil Mershad — Dec. 22, 2013
1956
Philip Kapp — Oct. 31, 2013
1957
Paul Miller — May 4, 2013
1959
John Bock — Nov. 28, 2013
1960
Robert Petrokas — Dec. 21, 2013
1962
John Bamrick — Nov. 3, 2013
1964
Sue Mitchell Magnuson — Nov. 22, 2013
1965
Paul Peters — Dec. 24, 2013
1969
Anatoly Kowalczyk — Nov. 19, 2013
1970
1971
George Franke — July 17, 2013
1972
Amos Arwood — Dec. 30, 2013
1973
Robert Butler — Jan. 1, 2014
1974
Richard Simmnerman — Nov. 2, 2013
1976
David Thomas — Nov. 10, 2013
1977
James Yeager — Nov. 24, 2013
1978
Elsie Hevelin — July 19, 2013
1980
1982
Deborah Savoie — Dec. 25, 2013
1984
Rita Agne — Dec. 20, 2013
1989
Sharon Long Sorg — Nov. 29, 2013
1990
Beverly Glaser — Nov. 6, 2013
1991
Karri Eldred Kanczk — April 28, 2013
1993
Ruth Wilson Lykins — Nov. 26, 2013
1994
Connie Jenkins — June 5, 2013
1998
1999
Shirley Purkey — Dec. 17, 2013
2001
Aaron Kaelin — Nov. 25, 2013

FRIENDS

Gordon Anderson — Nov. 12, 2013; retired education professor; survived by son David Anderson ’83 and daughter Rachel Anderson Vautrin ’94.
Anne Aumer — Dec. 16, 2013; survived by husband Robert Aumer ’68.
Elmer Baldwin — Nov. 18, 2013; UD Research Institute engineer.
Brenda Birch — Dec. 30, 2013; survived by daughter Carla Birch-Sclawny ’95.
Maureen Carney — Jan. 27, 2014; survived by grandson Brendan Carney ’17.
Paul Corey — Dec. 11, 2013; survived by grandson Mark Hawk ’14.
Howard Feldman — Nov. 27, 2013; survived by daughter Annette Johnson ’84.
Allison Hakerem — Nov. 6, 2013; survived by mother Megan Cuicos Hakerem ’01.
Margie Jung — Feb. 18, 2013; survived by daughter Margaret “Peg” Jung ’69.
Peter Leatherman — Dec. 21, 2013; current student.
Jean Merrick Mack — Oct. 17, 2012; survived by daughter Hannah Mack ’12.
Nathaniel Madden — Dec. 21, 2013; survived by grandfather James Madden ’55.
Michael McMurray — Dec. 21, 2013; former University communication instructor.
Eugene Moulin — Dec. 15, 2013; education professor; survived by daughters Tamara Moulin Bicknell ’81 and Renee Moulin Stein ’87.
Daniel Quinn — Dec. 1, 2013; survived by sister Molly Quinn Bailee ’87, brother Tim Quinn ’84, brother Thomas Quinn ’90 and daughter Maggie Quinn ’17.
Evelyn Rodgers — Nov. 18, 2013; survived by daughter Betty Rodgers Reamer ’91.
Patricia Schlotz — Nov. 5, 2013; survived by husband Herbert Schlotz, UD executive chef.
Sharon Schumann — Sept. 30, 2013; survived by daughter Todd Schumann ’70, son Matthew Schumann ’99, and daughter Marjorie Schumann Novotney ’05.
William Stump — Nov. 10, 2013; University IT senior system analyst.
Kathleen Valenta — Dec. 15, 2013; survived by daughter Catherine Valenta Babington ’74.
Marilyn Vincie — Dec. 8, 2013; survived by husband, John Vincie ’83.
George Zimmerman — Jan. 1, 2014; retired University music lecturer.

“Do you know what happens when you tell God you can’t do something? He laughs and sends you signs to prove you wrong,” says Erin Dooley Dalian of her now decade-long film career.

For Dalian, a marketing graduate, throughout her directorial debut of the faith-based musical Broken and Beautiful, God was in the mix the entire time.

“I went for a run, praying for answers about who would purchase the script, knowing that not many faith-based movies are produced,” she said. “I felt God tell me that I should produce it, and soon after, I was connected with someone in Hollywood.”

The feeling continued: The film, which played in film festivals in 2012 and 2013, used mainstream music to tell the story of a congregation dealing with struggles from infidelity to addiction, and Dalian needed to secure rights to songs heard on everyday radio.

“Bam, I win tickets to a concert by one of the artists, and half of the other artists were coming to town within the next month,” she said. “I stayed late after each one, waiting until midnight to talk to them.” She awoke the next morning to one musician’s email, offering to write original songs for the film.

As Dalian begins production on her newest film, Shadows of Death, she is also proud of the strides she’s made in creating opportunities for women in a male-dominated industry.

“I’ve placed a woman in all of the key positions of production. Through my Catholic faith, I believe in equality, and try to be an example of it,” Dalian said.

Getting started may be hard, she said, but so is the follow-through.

“After you begin, hang on. It is not only talent, but perseverance, that defines a success.”

—Emma Jensen ’16

Film star

ERIN DOOLEY DALIAN ’00

2000

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Recipe for community engagement

HILARY ROSS BROWNING ’07

It wasn’t a lack of time or motivation that prevented Hilary Ross Browning from enjoying the array of recipes she found in cooking magazines or in The New York Times.

Too often, the difficulty of finding ingredients close to home thwarted her efforts.

What started as a personal quest for fresh, high-quality food piqued her interest in issues of food security and accessibility. When Browning turned her hobby into a full-time business, Thistle Confections, in 2010, she aimed to provide the best in delectable concoctions using natural, locally sourced ingredients. Within months, Thistle was supplying cookies for Ghostlight Coffee in Dayton’s historic South Park neighborhood, where she lives with her husband, James Paul Browning ’06. She had also acquired a booth at 2nd Street Market in downtown Dayton.

“It was both a blessing and a huge challenge,” Browning said of her foray into entrepreneurship.

The income earned was a blessing, but Browning, who graduated with degrees in English and sociology, and later, a master’s in public administration from UD, hadn’t envisioned becoming a business owner. But when budget cuts in 2009 eliminated her position at the U.S. Government Accountability Office, giving her more time to travel miles for fresh food. After three years operating Thistle, Browning was eager to reenter public life. She sold the company in January 2014 and is pursuing a career in public administration. With her business experience, she wants to help budding Dayton entrepreneurs navigate bureaucratic challenges. And, she plans to continue her mission to ensure that residents don’t have to travel miles for fresh food.

“I’m passionate about finding innovative solutions to food deserts,” Browning said. “Equal access to food is a human right — and, just like other social struggles, finding better solutions is our responsibility as a society.”

—Shannon Shelton Miller
“Trash Jenga”  That’s what you could find seniors Danny Brner, Matt DeSapri, Andrew Gibson, Dan Hawks, Mike Molnar and Matt Wills playing at 118 Lawnview Ave.

“Basically, we tried to see how long we could go piling up trash in our kitchen garbage can,” Gibson ’08 explained. “The person who ended up knocking trash over while trying to pile their trash on had to take it out to the dumpster. This game really taught us some important life lessons, like don’t play Trash Jenga.”

Instead, the crew recommended video games. Wills ’09 said Guitar Hero was a big draw, and it would pack players in front of their old-style, thick, 60-inch television squeezed into their small living room — which was right next to Wills’ bedroom. The lesson? Sleep when you can.

The house had four bedrooms and only one bathroom for six men, but Molnar picked it as among the best in the housing lottery. It was an especially easy walk to class for Wills, an industrial engineering technology major with classes in Kettering Labs; he is now a manager of construction projects in Baltimore.

Another draw: the porch.

“It got the job done,” said Brner ’08, an underwriter with Cincinnati Insurance. It attracted a crowd on a nice day and, in the fall, it was the place for carving pumpkins. Students knew 118 Lawnview as the “crab house” for the bright yellow flag emblazoned with a red crab that hung from the porch roof.

The house had another distinctive feature. “Behind our house, there was a little attached storage area that really served no purpose,” Gibson said. “People, apparently, thought we were still living in the early 1900s and had an outhouse.”

The shed and basement were too creepy for Brner, but he did explore the attic once and found old magazines, more evidence of the generations who have called it home.

“I’d love to go back and see what the current students have done with it,” Brner said. “People, apparently, thought we were still living in the early 1900s and had an outhouse.”

Best hopes are the porch is still drawing friends on a warm afternoon while the memory — and smell — of Trash Jenga has faded away.

—Megan Garrison ’14

Take a tour at http://udquickly.udayton.edu.
And suggest we take a tour of your old house. Email us at magazine@udayton.edu.

SPRING 2014 UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON MAGAZINE 51
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Can you UDentify us?

If making a mess is fun, these students are having a rollicking time at the campus carnival, as pictured in the 1969 Daytonian. To see your name in print, drop us a line if you can identify them. Email magazine@udayton.edu. And see more archival images at digital.udayton.edu.

From our last issue

Alan Saliwanchik ’77 thought he recognized one of the students in the photo last issue but had to phone a friend to be sure. Indeed, the guy on the far right was he. Alan writes, “I worked during the 1975-76 school year for the computer science department, which was chaired by Brother Schoen (pronounced ‘Shane’). I monitored the room where UD had an IBM 370 mainframe and helped other students who used the mainframe. The printer in the foreground looks like the console that was part of the 370. At the time, most of the programs we wrote were done by creating large decks of punched cards. I sure don’t miss those punched cards, but at least I never had to re-boot the cards because they froze up.”

CLASS NOTES

Send information for Class Notes to: Class Notes, University of Dayton, 300 College Park, Dayton, OH 45469-1303. Or you may send it to: classnotes@udayton.edu.

Be sure to include your name, year of graduation and major. For the records office, please include cell phone number. Please also include email address, indicating whether you wish to appear in Class Notes. Also include maiden name and spouse’s name (if applicable). If you’re sending information about your children, please include birth dates rather than ages. The magazine does not publish announcements of engagements or pregnancies. Photos of alumni are welcomed and published as space permits. Notes may take up to two issues to publish.

RECORDS UPDATES ONLY

Send information for records to: Advancement Records, University of Dayton, 300 College Park, Dayton, OH 45469-7051. Please remember to send email address and cell phone number. Or you may send the information to: records@udayton.edu.

Be sure to indicate it is not for Class Notes.

STAY CONNECTED

To be sure you receive the latest news between issues of University of Dayton Magazine, update your email address and other information at alumni.udayton.edu.
Out of Africa

In her first job since graduation, Molly Daniels ’12 was busy. She facilitated meetings with government and community partners, created programming and workshops, organized mentors and volunteer services and supervised construction — all from a small office in rural Uganda that, on most days, had no electricity.

Daniels, a human rights and international studies graduate, concluded last August a yearlong stint as outreach coordinator for Arlington Academy of Hope. AAH is a nonprofit based in Virginia but filled with Dayton spirit.

Best friends (and fraternity brothers) Richard Burk ’67 and George Molaski ’67 serve on the board of directors as president and treasurer, respectively, and Matthew Shank, former dean of the School of Business Administration and current president of Marymount University, recently joined AAH’s advisory board. Together, these individuals represent nearly a quarter of AAH’s staff and volunteers, a statistic that didn’t surprise executive director Maureen Dugan.

“At first, I thought, ‘What are the odds that a tiny organization in Virginia would have four links to UD?’ But, the more I learned about the University of Dayton, I realized it’s not that shocking,” Dugan said. “The UD community feels a calling to do something more, to make a contribution that matters.”

For Burk, joining an organization committed to helping Ugandans was serendipitous. After graduation, he headed to Africa as a Peace Corps volunteer working to eradicate a contagious eye disease in a rural area near eastern Uganda. When he neared retirement three decades later, Burk found himself looking for another opportunity to help the country, and people, he calls “life-changing.”

“We become citizens when we serve a cause greater than ourselves,” Burk said. “UD made it clear to me that an obligation to give back is simply part of the rent we pay for being in the world.”

While Daniels was well-prepared for outreach, other aspects of Ugandan life came with a learning curve. Expecting a hot climate, she was pleasantly surprised to find daytime temperatures in the 60s. Prepared for a lukewarm greeting, Daniels was met by friendly faces who “love having visitors from other countries, especially the U.S.” She also had to adjust her animal expectations.

“I was hoping to get a pet monkey. But sadly, I’ve only seen monkeys in protected areas such as national parks and reserves. In fact, wild animals rarely exist outside the parks, and the closest thing to a wild animal I have seen in my village is a chameleon,” said Daniels, who was able to bring home Yaya, a dog passed down by the previous AAH coordinator.

Daniels is grateful for the opportunity, despite electricity battles (“I rarely had power; often, it would be out for weeks at a time, coming on briefly for a few days then shutting off again”) and meetings that lasted all day (“In Uganda, it’s not uncommon to wait two hours to start a meeting or event”).

“Overseas opportunities like this provide plenty of useful job experience, but it’s a tremendous amount of responsibility, and you give up lots of creature comforts,” Dugan said. “In exchange, you get a personal growth experience that is, indeed, life-changing.”

Daniels agreed. “The most rewarding part of my time, without a doubt, was time spent with the children. Even though most of them went home to mud houses and no dinner, they understood the importance of a good education and wanted to work hard so they could live a better life. They gave me hope for the future.”

Daniels now works in California through AmeriCorps Vista for the Community Housing Opportunities Corp., where she’s developing an after-school curriculum that gives low-income children skills to live more environmentally friendly.

—Audrey Starr
Write to Roesch

Final exams week often means stress, anxiety (and coffee). This year, it will also include some extra encouragement. University Libraries is sponsoring Finals Friends, a note-writing drive for alumni to send well wishes to current students as they burn the midnight oil.

Whether heartfelt (“Wishing you the best of luck!”) or humorous (“I did my best studying stuck in the elevator — sorry you have a new one.”), notes will be delivered at random to students studying in Roesch Library during the semester’s last days. Follow Roesch Library on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to see students’ reactions.

Cards were available at regional chapter events this spring, and an electronic version is available at go.udayton.edu/finalsfriends.

Fund it like a Flyer

Build it, and they will give. That’s the idea behind crowdfunding (crowd-sourced fundraising that often happens virtually) and the support behind several UD student projects.

A team of engineering students knew their vision for a hydro-dynamically efficient boat powered only by batteries and a solar array could compete in the 2014 Solar Splash — but only if they had help putting the pieces together. Students in ETHOS (Engineers in Technical Humanitarian Opportunities of Service Learning) contributed $1,100 of their own money to send a student across the globe to areas in desperate need — but they needed triple that amount to fund the trip.

By mid-February, these and other Fund-a-Flyer initiatives had received more than $2,000 in support. Read more about these and other student-led projects at udayton.edu.

Sunshine state of mind

Florida Flyers, take note: the newest alumni chapter is starting up in Orlando. More than 830 UD alumni reside in the greater Orlando area, and the fledgling group has already hosted a networking event and a basketball game-watch, with more in the planning stages.

“There’s definitely interest in this chapter,” says Luis Llop ’02, an accounting graduate who’s lived in Orlando since 2007. “We all love UD and are passionate about our time there, so this is a great way to extend the UD community to central Florida.”

Watch your email and visit udayton.edu/alumni for information on this and all chapter programming.

ALUMNI BOOKSHELF

Retirement Renaissance /WILLIAM CLARKE ’58/

As a management consultant, Bill Clarke’s firm provided advanced financial retirement planning. But when it came time for his retirement, Clarke found himself in a state of melancholy. “My discontent with my retirement experience drove me to find out why I wasn’t happy. The result was a comprehensive book that helped me cope with my personal crisis,” Clarke says. He looks at retirement from a holistic — not just a monetary — approach that allows retirees to make an individual plan. “I assure you, as a veteran retiree, that achieving happiness and personal fulfillment in retirement involves much more than financial planning.”

The Spirit Keeper /KATHY LAUGHEED ’86/

Written in two parts, The Spirit Keeper chronicles an epic journey across the early Pennsylvania frontier. Laugheed explains, “My grandmother was proud of her pioneer heritage, and she bequeathed to me both a deep fascination for frontier history and a good deal of ancestral guilt. I wrote this book as part penance for the sins of our past, part tribute to all our ancestors, part defense for my own sorry existence and part grandiose delusion as I hope to remind modern Americans of the pile of carcasses our forefathers had to crawl over in order to give us the life we take for granted today.”

The Liar Society /LAURA ROECKER STROPKI ’03/

Stroplki teamed up with her sister, Lisa, to co-write a “book we would have loved reading as young people.” The duo is now three installments into their Liar Society series, which follows 15-year-old Kate and the secrets she uncovers within her posh co-ed private school. “We discovered that it’s not as easy to write a young adult book as it is to read one, but we’re hooked now on the writing process,” Stroplki says. Their favorite part? Getting fan mail from girls who have become avid readers because of their books.

Drenched Uniforms and Battered Badges: How Dayton Police Emerged from the 1913 Flood /STEPHEN GRISMER ’84/

Retired Sgt. Stephen Grismer, a 25-year veteran of the Dayton Police Department, wanted to give a voice to the policemen and women who worked to keep Dayton safe during the Great Flood of 1913. Volunteering to help put together an exhibit in Carillon Park, he quickly realized what little information was available about these unsung heroes. “At that time, newspapers were the only way information traveled; so, I spent a lot of time researching news articles released during the flood and interviewing family members of police officers from 1913 for their stories.”

—Emma Jensen ’16

Find more alumni books at magazine.udayton.edu.
Kevin Foley ’89 has crashed his share of reunions. Growing up 5 miles from campus, it was easy to swing by a Friday night reunion party when his father, Tim Foley ’64, celebrated a milestone year.

Says the elder Foley, “I planned the reunions for our 25th and 45th years, and now I’m planning the 50th.”

This summer, a rare occurrence has sparked a bet sure to go down in Foley family history. Tim is planning his 50th class reunion, and Kevin is planning his 25th reunion. Reunion Weekend 2014 is June 6-8. Register at reunion.udayton.edu.

“We’re betting a dinner on who gets more people to attend,” says Tim, a New York accent creeping into his voice. “And I’m going to win.”

Kevin agrees the Class of 1989 has its work cut out for it. “If we are talking purely about the number of people who attend, then my class might be in trouble, because he and his friends show up in droves,” he said.

Tim Foley’s story unfurls like many from his era. A kid who played stickball on New York’s city streets, Tim was the first in his family to attend college and did so on an ROTC scholarship. Marriage and military service followed soon after, then a 30-year career with Ernst & Young punctuated by stints in Brazil and Argentina. Ultimately, he and his wife settled down in Dayton and immediately indoctrinated three children into Flyer fandom.

It worked (mostly — “We lost the first one to an Ivy League school,” jokes Tim, “but I’ve still got two grandchildren left.”). While Tim was busy organizing the first of three reunions he would plan, Kevin entered UD as a freshman; his sister Maureen came to UD a few years later. Today, Tim is retired and, with his wife, lives on what he describes as a “nice little island with no bridge” in South Carolina.

“I’m getting old,” says Tim, laughing while trying to figure out what years his kids started at UD. “And I’m an accountant.”

Despite the dawn of social media that some say has dimmed the allure of reunions, the Facebook page for the Class of ’89 is active and has, says Kevin, drummed up buzz for the weekend with talk of hotel rooms, happy hours and old haunts. He’s counting on linking up with his rugby buddies and roommates, but for a guy who grew up on UD sporting events and nosh at Milano’s, it’s also a chance to go home.

“I moved to Boston in spring 2012,” says Kevin. “And even in the time I’ve been gone, I’m sure things on campus have changed.”

Tim is pleased to report that several of his 1964 classmates who’ve never been to any reunions will attend this year’s festivities. “The 50th,” he says, “holds a certain mystique about it.”

Members of the class will be inducted as Golden Flyers in a ceremony Friday in the chapel. Class member Brother Raymond Fitz, S.M., former UD president and current professor, will speak that evening.

“It’s really about the camaraderie,” Tim says. “But there’s a fair amount of discussion about our aches, pains, and knee and shoulder replacements, too.” That’s something Kevin and his former rugby-mates can likely speak about as well. Kevin says his class needs to take a cue from the Goldens.

“I’m hoping that in another 25 years, we can get together and have as much fun as my dad’s class does,” he says.

—Molly Blake ’96

Molly Blake is a freelance writer. When she interviewed Kevin Foley for this story, the two realized they both lived in the same “thin blue” house. If only 226 Kiefaber’s walls could talk.
“Myself, a good friend and my youngest daughter all joined the FULL MOON GROUP, which meets monthly at Barton Springs Pool to howl at the moon. It felt really liberating!”
—Susan Cefai ’69

“When I worked for Dell Computers, there was a call put out to volunteer at the food bank. A number of us volunteered. We sorted food, and the new Dell team met up after, swapped experiences and had a light supper.

THE WEIRD PART: that was Dell and that was fun.
—Barbara Kellogg Varnado ’79

“Drink wine out of a PLASTIC CUP while sitting in a creek wearing a bathing suit and Chuck Taylors.”
—Emily Moore Brouillet ’99

“I started playing ULTIMATE FRISBEE when I moved to Austin. I played with some great girls and traveled around the country. We had some crazy fun along the way.”
—Amy Eskridge ’00

“I STOOD IN LINE FOR THREE HOURS waiting to eat at Franklin’s Barbecue. It was worth every minute.”
—John Stephenson ’92

WHAT’S THE WEIRDEST THING YOU’VE EVER DONE IN AUSTIN?

FRANK PAWER

“Watching Chris’ band, The La Rues, perform an official SOUTH BY SOUTHWEST show.”
—Mary Madigan Hadley ’02

“And running into a fellow UD grad at the Austin City Limits Music Festival.”
—Chris Hadley ’02

“AUSTIN

Go ahead, call them weird. Members of the Austin alumni chapter want it that way.

From bat-watching boat cruises to a Texas hold ’em tournament, the University’s second-smallest chapter — edged out only by Puerto Rico — embraces its quirks and those of the city.

“The city’s tagline is ‘Keep Austin Weird,’ so we’re known for having an edge,” explains Michelle Arnett French ’87, chapter president. “We like to brainstorm outside of the box and take advantage of all the non-typical things Austin has to offer.”

French and her husband, Jeff, a 1987 grad, had lived in Texas for seven years when they began having what she calls “UD encounters.” Once, they asked a bartender in a sports grill to turn on a UD basketball game. He told them someone was already in the back, watching it. Then, they saw someone wearing a UD T-shirt at a nearby gas station. The group grew large enough to become an official chapter in 2007.

“Jeff began keeping an email list of fellow Flyers we met until we had enough to become an official chapter. The dot-com explosion brought a lot more people to Austin, including UD grads,” French says.

Like Emma DallaGrana ’13 and Nick Doyle ’13, who both found jobs in Austin before they’d even donned a mortarboard.

“When I found out I was moving to Austin for a job with 3M, I immediately logged on to alumni.udayton.edu and was thrilled to see an alumni chapter there,” DallaGrana says. “I had no connections in Austin and did not know a single person in the whole state of Texas. From the beginning, Michelle and the chapter have been so welcoming and engaging. Just knowing a group of Flyers in the city made it that much easier to move here.”

A 2012 recipient of UD’s Innovative Program of the Year Award for the bat-watching event, the Austin chapter’s programming is also philanthropic. More than half of the proceeds from a recent poker tournament, which included a tutorial on how to play, were given to the Dan Haubert Memorial Scholarship. In February, the group laid out a welcome mat — in the form of carbohydrates — by hosting a post-race celebration lunch for alumni in town for the Austin Marathon. They also formed a cheering section the day of the race, which several alumni ran in memory of Haubert ’06.

“One thing I love about our smaller chapter is that we’re able to go beyond having the same alma mater; we can build personal relationships,” says French, who helped DallaGrana find an apartment and hosted her and Doyle for Thanksgiving dinner.

“Your background and your age don’t matter — when you’re a Flyer, you’re family.”
—Audrey Starr
Legal support

Many people hope to leave a mark on the community through their professions, but few actually do. A new scholarship in the School of Law will thank a local attorney for leaving such an impression.

Public service became Lee Falke’s work when he took a job as assistant prosecuting attorney in Montgomery County, Ohio, nearly 60 years ago. Eight years later, he was elected county prosecutor, a position he held for 27 years. Falke earned respect from constituents, law enforcement and the legal community for his just, fair, diligent and principled leadership.

He served terms as president of the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association and the National District Attorneys Association and, in 1975, established a victim assistance division, one of the first in the country, to help victims of violent crime.

Falke has also served as a mentor to young professionals. Many have gone on to distinguished careers as judges, including Dayton Municipal Court Judges Bill Wolff and Carl Henderson, and Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas Judge John Kessler, who was the longest-serving judge on the court when he retired in 2007.

“Falke is known for his unique hiring practices,” said Larry Lasky ’77, a Dayton attorney who initiated the scholarship. “Many chief prosecutors require employees to be of the same political party. Falke hired someone of either party as long as they could try a case, tell the truth, be kind — and win.”

Lasky worked with Falke for more than 25 years and credits his success to their time spent together.

“Falke is not afraid to do what has to be done. He fired me twice and hired me three times. Altogether, I spent 26 years in his office and became a better lawyer because of it,” Lasky said.

A UD student for three years — long enough to become a two-time letterman in baseball — before transferring to Ohio State his senior year, Falke hired many UD School of Law students throughout his career.

“I tried to hire people who got good grades and seemed like they would be enjoyable to work with. At one time, I felt like I hired more students from UD than anywhere else around because so many of them possessed those traits,” he said.

Being in the spotlight is not something Falke enjoys, but he is honored and humbled to have a scholarship created in his name.

“I hope to use this as an occasion to show my appreciation to some of the people who got me here,” he said. “Also, when I worked as prosecutor, it seemed like many students did not fully appreciate the role of a prosecutor. I hope this scholarship will help students see prosecutors as the lawyers in the white hats, not the black hats.”

Falke’s career is a testament that prosecutors can do a great deal of good, something Lasky knows and others see, too.

“Falke made me a much better lawyer than I would have been on the street or on my own,” Lasky said. “His office had a very collegial atmosphere that taught people a lot and allowed them to do great things. I wanted him to see just how many lives he’s touched.”

—Allison Lewis ’14

Community effort

Community: that’s what Paul McGreal, dean of the University of Dayton School of Law, thinks of when you mention the Lee C. Falke Scholarship.

“Falke has made the world better by contributing to both the School of Law and the legal profession itself. Honoring him in this way will lessen the financial burden of law school and allow some students to go into public service and again better the community by making similar contributions,” he said.

The scholarship will be based on financial need and awarded to a student with an interest in public service or criminal law. Nearly $60,000 of the scholarship’s $100,000 goal has already been committed. To add your support, visit givenow.udayton.edu.
Warm and fuzzy

The question isn’t, “Do you still have your fuzzy button?” It’s, “Where is your fuzzy button?”

They live in drawers, nestled next to multicolored paper clips and rolls of Scotch tape; on walls, tacked beneath calendars and dog-eared photos; and in basement trunks, buried with a couple of yearbooks and four years’ worth of ticket stubs. Even out of sight, the fuzzy button — a trademark of the late Father Matthew Kohmescher, S.M. ’42 — still carries an impression.

A philosophy graduate, Kohmescher — who died from cancer in 2007 — served as chair of the religious studies department for 20 years, leading the program during the transformative Vatican II years and the hiring of the University’s first Protestant and lay theology faculty in the 1960s.

He was known by several monikers, from the “grandfather of Founders Hall” to “Father Bean-ie,” thanks to a distinctive red and blue skull cap. As the unofficial UD greeter welcoming future Flyers to campus, he was simply “Father Fuzzy.”

“A ‘fuzzy,’ according to Father Matt, is a way to make the world a better place through a smile, a gesture or a helpful act,” said Brandon Artis ’09, who worked alongside Kohmescher for two years as a student tour guide. “Every student who came into contact with him learned about the fuzzy pledge. I still have my button; it sits on a bookcase, next to a picture I took of him. The pledge was simple in application but its implications were potentially monumental.”

As Kohmescher explained in a 1998 interview, “The older I get, the more compassionate and understanding I become. I’ve learned that you can’t change the world by [complaining] about it. Even if you pull all the weeds, if you don’t plant flowers, you still end up with just mud.”

Wrote Jackie Sudore-Flood ’95: “I loved Father Matt. He was my angel during my four years at UD, and I learned so much from him. One nugget that has always stayed with me: You don’t have to always like the things you do, but you must always love yourself. I still have my fuzzy pin from 1991.”

During his last year volunteering with the office of admissions, Kohmescher greeted more than 4,000 visiting families, estimates Carin Andrews ’08, former campus visit coordinator. The fuzzy pledge was also a reminder to live responsibly and make wise choices, she said.

“Tough subjects we have difficulty tackling with our own children — alcohol, drugs, sex — Father Matt would discuss with warmth, understanding and compassion, knowing that these were concerns many parents have when sending their children off on their own. There won’t be another like him,” Andrews said.

She catches a glimpse of her fuzzy button, pinned next to her door, as she leaves her house each morning.

—Audrey Starr
If this isn't real, what is?

By Thomas M. Columbus

This isn’t like the ‘real world.’ It’s home.”

One expects to hear those words from a UD undergraduate, particularly one coping with the separation anxiety of graduation. But the words may not be what one would expect from the controller of one of the country’s leading academic research centers. They did come, however, from the mouth of Kathy Weisenbach ’83, controller for the University of Dayton Research Institute.

I have thought for some years there was something particularly UD-ish about UDRI’s people. They have nice picnics. You see them at Flyers games. They have a penchant for staying here rather than going on to other jobs. So I wasn’t particularly surprised a couple of years ago when Father Norb Burns, S.M. ’45, after having a number of discussions across campus on UD’s mission, mentioned to me that he found the folk at UDRI to be particularly engaged and thoughtful about the mission.

I decided to go talk to some of them myself.

Dale Osborne does have good reason to like his co-workers. They saved his life, literally. In June of last year, when he suffered sudden cardiac arrest at his job at Wright-Patterson, UDRI and Air Force employees quickly found a defibrillator and used it. But his liking for his employers goes beyond a time of emergency.

“UDRI wants you to advance,” he said, “not just for their sake but for you and your family.”

Back on campus, Patrice Miles, a secretary in the aerospace mechanics division, expanded on the “family” theme: “This is a family. You spend more time here than at home. People have an attitude of ‘if this person looks good, we all do.’ There’s no ‘this isn’t my job.’”

The attitude goes beyond the job; Miles belongs to a UDRI prayer group that visits employees — or their friends and relatives — when they are hospitalized, bringing them baskets with items like magazines, puzzles, cards and snacks.

Weisenbach believes the Marianist philosophy of community, of caring, is made manifest at UDRI. “It makes you a better person,” she said, “You feel better about yourself and others. You want to help others. If they see Jesus in you, they start doing things they never did before.”

Weisenbach herself serves as a mentor to six female students who live and pray and eat together in a house on Stone mill. In doing that, she said, “I found a different way of praying and sharing.”

This is all a side of UDRI that many of us in other divisions don’t see. “I avoided writing research stories,” said Pamela Gregg ’06, a former colleague in our office. “I thought they would be dry and lacking the human interest element pervasive in other stories from campus.”

But then she had to do a story on the Humpy Bumper, a research project to make NASCAR vehicles safer. She was fascinated. “This was research to save lives,” she said. “The more research stories I wrote, the more I realized human interest — and interest in humanity — was the norm in UDRI research, not an anomaly.”

Now she is UDRI’s communications director. “Working here I have found just how much the Marianist spirit is vibrantly alive in UDRI,” she said. “Our employees are always quick to help others in and out of the workplace.”
Their spirit of camaraderie was tested recently by cuts in the budgets of the federal government and other sponsors. Last year “was a difficult year with a relatively soft economy and tremendous uncertainty,” said John Leland, director of UDRI. “At UDRI, if you are not on a paying project, you are at risk of being laid off. This past year everybody was insecure.”

The effort to gain funding to keep employees intact was immense, complicated and successful as employees sacrificed to help each other. This helping of each other to stay working and to gain new funding is not unusual at UDRI, but, Leland said, “I didn’t expect the degree to which it happened. It’s a challenge in normal times. Here, people were making sacrifices even with their own futures uncertain.”

One reason for the collaboration was that people knew and trusted each other. According to Mickey McCabe, vice president for research and executive director of UDRI, the leaders of 35 groups that comprise UDRI try to meet regularly to share information on research programs. “They talk business and then they socialize,” he said. “That adds to trust and credibility. And that increases as they get to know each other.”

Another reason is that the people within the organization, not just on top of it, run it. “UDRI is driven by the principal investigators, not by the directors,” said Mike Bouchard ’81, head of the aerospace mechanics division. “They don’t tell us what to do. We are run by our experts. And they in turn value their technicians. People recognize the key roles others play.”

Bouchard sees the culture in religious terms. “Give us this day our daily bread,” he said. “That means something to us; if we don’t get contracts, we don’t get paychecks.”

He also credits the cooperation among group leaders and within groups. “We are made in the image of God,” he said. “That puts value on each and every person. We are all sinful people. We make mistakes. God deals with us with forbearance. So we should, too.”

**Broccoli and the ages of life**

By Jessica Gibson-James '06

If you had told me when I was 10 that some day my favorite soup would be broccoli and cheese, I would have laughed at you, for a very long time, and probably called you a name.

If you told me again when I was a teenager, I would have declared that such a statement proved that you didn’t know me at all, no one really knew me at all. Then there would have been tears and possibly the slamming of doors.

In college, I would have argued that picky-eating was a valid lifestyle and that you were oppressing me with your pro-vegetable agenda. I would have then used the word hegemony, probably incorrectly, and written a paper about it.

In my mid-20s, I would have asked, “Why? Does broccoli and cheese soup have some sort of fertility-increasing properties? ‘Cause if not, I don’t want to hear about your stupid soup.” This would have been followed by tears and possibly the slamming of doors. Clomid makes you crazy.

When I was in my late 20s, I would have said, “If you are going to ramble on about your disgusting soup, would you at least whisper? ‘Cause if you wake that baby, I will lose my mind. And also beat you.”

Newborns also make you crazy.

When I had reached the wise old age of 30, I would have said, “Really? That seems doubtful, but stranger things have happened.” And at 34, I’d say, “Yeah, didn’t see that coming. I’ll have another bowl, please.”

**The Crocodile Hotel**

By Father Callistus Jeje, S.M.

Elizabeth’s parents died when she was young. She lived with her grandmother during primary school. The grandmother, who could afford no more schooling for the child, then sent her to live with an aunt in Nairobi.

There, Elizabeth lived with the woman and her husband and their six children in a house about 10-foot-square. It had a bed. Some of the children slept under it; some, in the middle of the floor. The aunt found Elizabeth a job; during the day she cared for the children of a middle-class family. At night she returned to the family in the 10-foot-square house.

One Sunday at Mass, Elizabeth heard something that changed her life. A group of men called Marianists ran a training center where poor people of Nairobi could learn skills and find jobs. Elizabeth was accepted into the Chaminade Training Center and became one of the best students in its catering course. Fluent in English because of her primary education, she was placed in an internship in the Mamba Village hotel. (“Mamba” means “crocodile.”) After her internship, Mamba Village gave Elizabeth a full-time job.

Elizabeth now rents a house of her own in a middle-class section of Nairobi. It has only one room; but it does have a stove, electricity and running water.

When I first came to Nairobi, I had never seen slums like the place where Elizabeth lived. I was born in a small Kenyan village, many hours away from Nairobi. I first saw that city shortly before I graduated from high school. Marianists I had met at a youth conference invited me to visit them in Nairobi. I did so at a Marianist community next to a section of the city called Mukuru. The word means “dump.” The land had been a dump and now was inhabited by people who did not own it but had gathered there in small, sheet-metal houses.

I saw the slum and realized people lived like this. And I saw the Marianists were making a huge impact. I said to myself, “I want to be part of this.”

So I joined the Marianists, went to college, spent a semester in Rome and was ordained. I have worked at the Chaminade Training Center as a teacher and administrator, most recently as director of CTC before coming to UD to pursue advanced theological degrees at the International Marian Research Institute.

Nairobi is home to about 50 Marianists. Father Martin Solma, S.M., now provincial general of the U.S. Province of the Society of Mary, served nearly a quarter of a century in Nairobi, much of that time as manager of Our Lady of Nazareth, a 2,000-student primary school. East Africa was part of the U.S. Province before becoming a separate province in 2010. Ties between the two provinces are still very close.

The Chaminade Training Center came into existence as part of an evolution of the Marianists’ work in East Africa. In 1963, at
the time of the country’s independence, the government invited Marianists to come to Kenya to set up schools. The schools they created flourished and are now run by the government. While the Marianists were focused on schools, poverty was growing in the country — especially in rural areas — and people migrated to Nairobi, the capital, whose slums swelled.

In the late 1980s, the Marianists founded Maria House, whose efforts to aid women with unwanted pregnancies led to comprehensive programs to combat poor living conditions and provide training. Both Maria House and the CTC operate under the umbrella of IMANI, an acronym for Incentives from the Marianists to Assist the Needy to be Independent and a Kenyan word for “faith.”

CTC offers programs in carpentry, metal working, electrical installation, dressmaking, knitting and hair styling. All programs take a year to complete except hair styling, which takes six months. CTC trains about 180 men and women per year. With skills come jobs, money and independence. People’s lives change.

Yet after all this, sometimes I look at my country and it seems it’s not getting better. I become more hopeful when I think of what might happen under the new constitution with its attempt to decentralize government and improve rural conditions, stemming the flow of the poor to the city.

And I think of Elizabeth’s story and thousands of stories like hers. And I remember why I became a Marianist.

Father Jeje plans to finish work on his licentiate of sacred theology by the end of the year, complete his dissertation and receive his doctor of sacred theology in 2015, and then return to the Marianist Province of Eastern Africa.

Journal from Liberia

By Laura Huber ’14

Monrovia

On the way to an interview for my research, my companion mentioned that during the civil war the area we were passing through was one of the killing fields of Monrovia. Here, not long ago, thousands were killed and their bodies dumped in the streets.

Two blocks from where I am staying, hundreds of men, women and children sought refuge in a church and were slaughtered.

Each day I walk by the church.

Support

The program director for an organization supporting women with AIDS/HIV told me of a client who kept her AIDS secret even from her daughter even as the daughter came with her to the agency for a girls’ empowerment meeting. The girl, meanwhile, became interested in joining the police force but hadn’t told her mother because she knew she would disapprove.

Eventually, the director convinced the mother and the daughter to come to a meeting with her to confide in each other. The mother told the daughter of being raped by a soldier and of her subsequent AIDS. The daughter handled the news fairly well. Then she told her mother about her career plans. The mother cried, “How could you want to join them when one of them did this to me?”

The daughter replied, “So I can make sure no one can ever again hurt a woman like they hurt you.”

The daughter now serves in the Liberian National Police Force.

Prince’s family

When Prince was 3, his family fled Liberia’s violence. His mother became separated from Prince, his brother and his father who settled in a refugee camp in Guinea. While there, Prince’s father began a relationship with a woman whose husband had been killed. The young boy knew her as his only mother. Two years after the family returned to Liberia, Prince’s actual mother had not returned. His father married the woman whom he had met as a refugee.

When Prince was 17, he learned of the existence of his birth mother when she showed up at his house. She had worked for years to save enough money to return home.

She now lives in Sierra Leone near the refugee camp where she had stayed.

Graduation

Prince invited me and a few other foreigners to his brother’s high school graduation party. The journey to his house took about an hour, the second half of which went through dense forest on a road with massive potholes.

The house was fairly large; it had three rooms. The small children there were too timid to approach us. We could see them darting each other to go over to the white strangers. I had a camera. They quickly learned to love seeing themselves on its screen.

We talked with the other guests and had cassava (tapioca-root) leaf soup and rice, which was good but incredibly spicy. A certain something followed, complete with opening statements, remarks by the family and the presentation of gifts.

Although we had eaten barely two hours earlier, more food appeared. This time the cassava leaf was also very good but not as spicy. Again, the children gathered around us. One started talking to us. The next thing I knew, about 15 little hands were on my head petting my hair. And they took turns touching — and, oddly, smelling — my hands.

Then we started dancing. I find it awkward, but Liberians can dance all day. It was amusing for the children to watch four white people try to dance like Liberians. I had to stop dancing every now and then to fist bump a small child. I had taught them how to do that and they obviously enjoyed it. While dancing with an especially cute boy, who was probably about 4, I happened to look up.

I saw a broad, beautiful sky full of stars.

Majoring in international studies, political science and Spanish, Huber spent a month last summer in Liberia conducting research for her honors thesis on the impact of UN peacekeeping missions on local women’s empowerment. Above are adaptations of excerpts from a journal she kept during that month.
When we’re among friends

Editor’s note: When I told my Indiana high school guidance counselor I was considering the University of Dayton, she told me — a 17-year-old — that I had to go: It was neighbor to the best pub in the world. She had visited Flanagan’s Pub after a UD football game and marveled at how at-home she felt in an unfamiliar city. Pat Flanagan made everyone feel that way. He opened the bar and grill on Stewart Street in 1976 and served as host to the “Flyer Feedback” basketball call-in show and friend to generations of students. He died Dec. 19, 2013. Jim Ziemba ’83 posted a version of this remembrance on Facebook the following day.

By Jim Ziemba ’83

We lost our “Benevolent Host” of Flanagan’s Pub yesterday. Pat was my friend for the better part of 35 years. He took me under his wing as an undergrad, gave me a job, taught me the ins and outs of running a small business, and became a close friend in the process. Starting soon after graduation and continuing right up to his cancer diagnosis, I would regularly receive phone calls from Pat updating me about UD, the Flyers and all the people I had come to know while living in Dayton. Pat celebrated 30 years of sobriety this year and about 25 years of being tobacco free. I was confident that he could beat cancer the way he beat the others.

His wife, Melissa Flanagan, has become a dear friend to me and my wife, Maureen. Our families grew close as we spent time together on vacation trips — the Ziembas to Ohio and the Flanagans to New Jersey. The Jersey University of Dayton gang celebrated Pat and Melissa’s engagement during one of their visits, shared in their wedding celebration, and stood in awe as they expanded their family with the adoption of Emma and Patrick, two beautiful children who are a living legacy of Pat and Melissa’s love.

I made a trip to Dayton with James Stiff ’82 and Tim Evans ’82 Nov. 20-21, to visit Pat. I was blessed to sit with Pat and share some great conversation. We listened over the Internet to UD’s victory over Georgia Tech, and Pat was so happy with the win.

Near midnight, after I left the hospital, I made my pilgrimage to Flanagan’s Pub on Stewart Street. The warmth of Flanagan’s was evident as soon as I walked in the door. Rini, Chuck, Tish, Dave, Ruth, Susan, Phil, Claire and the balance of the 14 Evanston boys, including Bill Kantlehner ’82, were all there. Pat’s presence was felt at Flanagan’s that night as he brought us together once again.

Pat’s presence will always be felt when I find myself among my UD friends.

My last Pat Flanagan anecdote came from his hospital room. One of Pat’s friends sent him a get-well card. It was hanging on a wall across from his bed. The front of the card simply stated, “F*** cancer.” An ancillary staff member of the hospital entered Pat’s room to do her business. It was apparent to Pat that she noticed the card and appeared to be offended by it. Pat, in his quick wittedness, turned to the staff member, directed her attention to the card and asked, “Which word offends you?”

I will miss Pat. There will be a void in my future visits to Dayton and a lingering sadness that my phone won’t ring again for me to hear Pat’s greeting, “Hi, honey!” Thanks, Pat, for being a friend and for bringing so many of us together.

Above, Jim Ziemba, left, with his benevolent host, Pat Flanagan
Did you hear about the great Toledo War? No? Then you weren’t sitting around the Tedford kitchen table in 1984.

The World Book Encyclopedia was more common on our dinner table than a glass of spilled milk, and my all-elbow adolescent self spilled enough to float the entire 22-volume set. Alongside pork chops in mushroom sauce, my parents served a heap of curiosity with a side of disbelief that could only be remedied by a trip to the bookcase.

My father, Clint, loved history. As a boy, this son of a farmer whose fields lay adjacent to an Army artillery range looked to the skies for his future. He had read all about Charles Lindbergh, the pioneer aviator who, like him, had grown up in Little Falls, Minn. Charles and Clint graduated from the same high school 40 years apart, and my father followed in his flight path and became a commercial airline pilot.

Dad’s black leather flight case smelled of hydraulic fluid and the thin air at 30,000 feet. Inside, next to his flashlight and logbooks, was a pocket dictionary, worn by repeated thumbing. Watching him leaf through it demonstrated to me, a girl with abysmal spelling skills, that with the right resources anything was possible (and, yes, I just misspelled “abysmal” twice before getting it right).

Which leads us to those hallowed blue-bound World Books. At supper that evening in 1984, when we challenged his assertion that a war was fought over what we knew as Toledo, Ohio, he sent us thumbing through the volume “O.” We learned that the only casualty, other than a stab wound, was suffered by Wisconsin. Not yet a state, Wisconsin lost its “head” — what would become Michigan’s Upper Peninsula — when President Andrew Jackson brokered a truce that allowed Ohio to keep the disputed “Toledo strip” by giving Michigan the resource-rich wilderness.

If you thought this column was about history lessons or family dinners or encyclopedias, you are wrong. It is about cancer. My father was diagnosed in 2002 with glioblastoma multiforme, a brain tumor. After surgeries, chemotherapy and radiation, the still-growing tumors pushed out his knowledge of the Toledo War. While he remembered our names, he did not know which end of the video camera to speak into when recording his last message to us. He died in 2003.

I did not want to write a feature on cancer. Like young Gracie Ehemann in Jennifer Broo’s high school biology class [see story, Page 34], I did not want to talk about a disease that has killed my father, my cousin, my grandma and so many others.

But, in sitting and talking with her students, I found hope. And then there’s the story of Maryland teenager Jack Andraka. Motivated by the death of a neighbor, he developed an easy test for pancreatic cancer. If science could find a way to harness the enthusiasm of 15-year-olds, the problems of the world could be solved. Broo’s students are joyful and honest and curious. They refuse to take “no” for an answer in the way only a know-it-all teenager can. I hope every high schooler in America will learn from Broo’s cancer curriculum.

We all deserve to have every seat at the dinner table filled with those whom we love. It’s time to find a cure for cancer. It’s time for this great war to be over.

—Michelle Tedford ’94
Editor, University of Dayton Magazine
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The smell of burning candles and waxed wooden pews hangs in the air of this photo, taken in 1920 during Easter in Immaculate Conception Chapel. Wooden pews will again grace the chapel after renovations, set to begin this summer (artist rendering of exterior, above). See story, Page 9.