UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON
Magazine
SUMMER 2015

BELIEVE
RUN TO THE GREAT ELITE EIGHT
The newly painted dome of Immaculate Conception Chapel shines under the summer sun. See a schedule of reopening events, Page 9.

Photo by Larry Burgess
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▶ ON THE COVER

It was a great, Elite-Eight season for the Flyer women’s basketball team. Read more Page 32.

Photo by Leon Chuck
This is our house

This spring, Father Jim Fitz, S.M. ’68, and I carefully climbed up temporary steel stairs and entered the highest point of the Immaculate Conception Chapel just above the old choir loft.

We stood on the scaffolding and admired a vintage circular stained-glass window, uncovered during the renovation and now restored to its original beauty.

I was struck by its clarity, elegance — and undeniable symbolism. As our University adapts and changes for the future, we strongly value continuity and tradition. Those seemingly contradictory traits have always defined the Catholic, Marianist philosophy of education.

Nearly every week during the past two years, Father Jim, vice president for mission and rector, has met with the chapel renovation committee to consider every detail behind the chapel’s first complete renovation since it was constructed in 1869.

This dedicated group was guided by a vision and a set of unwavering principles.

We would preserve the historic exterior and much of the chapel’s sacred art while improving the interior to meet contemporary liturgical norms. We wanted to bring back the warm colors, wooden pews, artistic touches and the simple elegance that have defined the chapel’s identity throughout history. And we needed to add practical enhancements, such as accessible entrances and parking, restrooms, a reconciliation room, a reservation chapel for private prayer, a bride’s room and new devotional areas.

The chapel’s western façade and the towering iconic blue dome — a touchstone for generations of students, alumni, faculty and staff — have been repaired and preserved. The hand-carved woodcuts of Mary and the four evangelists from the former pulpit will be incorporated into the baptismal font. The statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary will continue to be featured in a prominent position behind the altar, flanked by the 1876 statues of St. John and St. Joseph.

Some stained-glass windows will be restored. The new ones will feature 10 medallions, each depicting an image of Mary from the Scriptures. Marianist artist Gary Marcinowski is designing and building the liturgical furnishings — the altar, ambo and presider’s chair. The overhead lighting will be reminiscent of the chapel’s first lights.

When students and faculty return to campus in August, they will enter the chapel’s bold wooden front doors into a new gathering space that reflects our deep sense of hospitality, our commitment to community. I invite our alumni and friends, many of whom supported the renovation, to join us later this summer for worship after the chapel reopens. (See schedule, Page 9.)

Every great Catholic university needs a sacred space in the heart of its campus. This long-overdue renovation goes beyond bricks and mortar to the heart of our identity.

We are — and will always be — a community of faith.
LETTERS

After leaving the first class session, I went back to my dorm room and called my parents saying, "Mom, Dad, I've got a professor that's me in 15 years with a wife, kids and a Ph.D." —Josh Chamberlain '14

TO THE BALLGAME

I really enjoyed reading the article "If They Built It, He Will Come" [Spring 2014] on Dr. John Schleppi and his love of baseball. Because of his love of baseball, I met my UD alumna wife of 28 years. I was in Atlanta in 1985 with Dr. Schleppi and several of my professors -now-colleagues for a physical education conference and, of course, we had to go to a baseball game. We went to see the Atlanta Braves play the Cincinnati Reds, and, on the way out of the stadium, I ran in to my future wife. It was a made-for movie event, but that's another story.

Since that time, I've had the pleasure of going to many a baseball game with Dr. Schleppi — from almost getting hit with a foul ball at a Las Vegas Stars game to walking from Copley Square to Fenway to see the Boston Red Sox play. I can remember many a night he would come back to the hotel very late because he went to some obscure location to see a Single-A team play. He always came back with the scorebook filled out, of course.

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JOSH CHAMBERLAIN '14
CINCINNATI, OHIO

CHILLING OPERA

I had a provocative experience in February. I met a person born in the same year and in the same city as myself. We are both huge Reds fans as well, but from there our demographics diverge. I am female; he is male. I am white; he is black. He sat in prison on death row for two decades for a crime he did not commit while I was free to live my life. I met this man named Derrick, the 119th person to be exonerated from death row, after listening to Sister Helen Prejean’s moving and inspirational talk at UD. Sister Helen, author of the best-selling book Dead Man Walking, spoke about her experiences counseling people on death row. Sister’s talk was extraordinary, but meeting Derrick made it personal.

The following Friday, my husband and I attended the opera version of Dead Man Walking [“Still Life,” Winter 2014-15]. The opera

SOCRATES AND THE MARKET

My experience in Reading Popular Music [“Uncommon,” Spring 2015] dates to before such a class existed. My first class with John McCombe was a section of ENG 114 that focused on the music, art and performances of Michael Jackson within the context of race, class and gender. John’s passion and creative drive completely blew my mind. After leaving the first class session, I went back to my dorm room and called my parents saying, “Mom, Dad, I’ve got a professor that’s me in 15 years with a wife, kids and a Ph.D.”

Many students view education as the means to an end, the training they need to develop a skill set they’ll utilize to earn a salary to support themselves for the rest of their adult lives. John McCombe’s classes offered the antithesis of this: the reading of culture, media and the substance of our lives for the purpose of understanding the manner in which we as humans live our lives. The marketability of this skill set is undervalued and perhaps irrelevant. As Socrates reminds us, “The unexamined life is not worth living.”

KEITH COSBY ’78
DAYTON, OHIO

Read the magazine via iPad, iPhone and Android mobile apps available at no charge through the Apple and Android stores.
was good, but not sufficient. In some places it was deeply powerful, as in the redemption scene in which Joe confesses his guilt. Hearing all the parents — of the victims and the killer alike — sing of their sorrow together on stage was also most moving. However, the opera was also deeply disappointing. Although we heard the killer’s name, “Joseph,” sung dozens of times throughout the performance, the victims remained nameless and even faceless.

For me, perhaps the most chilling part of the opera was when the medical staff set up the IVs and execution apparatus with the normalcy of prepping a patient for an extraction of wisdom teeth. What effect did these actions have on their real-life counterparts? On their emotions, on their psyches, on their souls?

If justice cannot be accomplished without turning an innocent civilian into a cold-blooded killer of a defenseless human being, then no justice, no moral merit, no redemption can be found in capital punishment.

For this reason, and for the well-documented existence of innocents on death row, our society should join Sister Helen in her cause and terminate — not fellow humans — but capital punishment.

MARY ELLEN DILLON
UD DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY
KETTERING, OHIO

DEATH PENALTY ARGUMENT

Many years ago, when I was much younger, eliminating the death penalty was a major topic of debate. It was a good topic because there were strong arguments on both sides and none of them was a clear-cut winner. The best argument for eliminating the death penalty was it ended the possibility of killing an innocent man. For many this argument was conclusive. It certainly is true and, unfortunately, innocent people were occasionally executed wrongly.

Your article in the last magazine [“How the Death Penalty Lives,” Spring 2015] tried to deal with the practice by [mentioning a journal article] that claims the death penalty is now defended by racists. Even if true, this is a despicable tactic commonly used in our society today. Nevermind attacking the issue. It’s more effective to discredit those who hold the view and win the argument without ever addressing it. I am extremely disappointed to find this tactic appearing in your magazine and suggest you do another piece in which you discuss the arguments in this still-divisive issue on an honest basis — so that people can make an informed judgment on this practice after being exposed to the underlying questions.

Mary Ellen Dillon
UD Department of Biology
Kettering, Ohio

Forgiveness

I was so pleased to read about professor Alan Demmitt’s forgiveness research [“Forgive-me-nots,” Spring 2015]. I too believe forgiveness is essential to a healthy and happy life. I have found that forgiveness is as much about forgiving yourself for trusting someone who broke your trust as it is about forgiving that person for wrongdoing. I eagerly await your research findings.

Jill Lindsey, Ph.D.

Spending some quality time w/ my @daymag. Perfect timing for Easter relaxation.
—@nicolina1989
POSTED TO TWITTER

Edmond Farrell
Lynbrook, New York

Editor’s note: To read the abstract about “racist localisms” and the death penalty, visit bit.ly/UDM_racist_localisms.

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POSTED TO UDQUICKLY.UDAYTON.EDU

Triple Trouble

We enjoyed your article [“Bringing Home to Home,“ Spring 2016], but there was at least one more set of triple trouble siblings on campus. Our son, Patrick, graduated from UD this spring, but his final year was his best ever because he found two of his best friends also on campus. His younger twin brothers, Thomas and Charles, were part of the entering first-year class.

The three of them had many great times on campus and enjoyed seeing each other in the engineering building, various dining halls, with the Projector Boys of 455 Kie...
(check them out on Facebook), at RecPlex and even class. They took a biology class together and sat in the front row (pity the professor). They went to church and brunch on Sunday mornings, made the dean’s list together and finally won a coveted intramural championship T-shirt. It was the perfect end to Patrick’s time at UD, and now his brothers are recruiting their little sister to come to UD’s Class of 2020 and play on their intramural team.

KATHY BENTON
JOHNSTOWN, OHIO

MY OLD HOUSE: 108 WOODLAND

What a fun house! Lived there (eight girls) 1998-99. Somehow we got lucky and had two refrigerators. Funny looking at all the pictures and how the house hasn’t changed in over 15 years. Thanks for posting — fun reminiscing about our old house!

STEFANIE
POSTED TO UDQUICKLY.UDAYTON.EDU

MY OLD HOUSE: 40 CHAMBERS

Three other guys, Lou Mazza, Don Ross, Mike “Fitz” Fitzpatrick, and myself lived here in 1977-78. During the blizzard of ’78 the electricity was out so we broke into the basement room below the front room to turn on the gas to the front room fireplace to say warm. Classes were canceled, fireplace was roaring and “Dark Side of the Moon” was blasting. Can’t think of a better way to spend a weekday.

JOHN SPRAVKA
POSTED TO UDQUICKLY.UDAYTON.EDU

From the editor: Seven years ago, we redesigned University of Dayton Magazine. It’s time for a refresh. In autumn, we’ll update our fonts, graphics, stories and sections to reflect your feedback from these pages and our readers’ surveys. Your feedback is welcome anytime to magazine@udayton.edu. Thanks for reading, and here’s to many, many more stories we’ll share together.

Have thoughts about what you read this issue?

PLEASE SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:
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Dayton, OH 45469-1303
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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. Not all letters received are printed due to space. Opinions expressed are those of the letter writers and not necessarily of this publication nor the University of Dayton.
**Road to peace**  
**NOV. 81, 1995**

To some, “Dayton” means the city, the University or the basketball team. In the Balkans, it means peace. To help honor the 20th anniversary of the Dayton Peace Accords and the end of a four-year war, UD and the U.S. Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina are offering Peace Accords Fellowships to three students from Bosnia and Herzegovina. “They will learn from within UD the role that freedom of speech, freedom of religion and multiculturalism play in building a peaceful and prosperous democratic nation,” said Annea Hapçi ‘12, a native of Pristina, the capital of Kosovo; she is helping spread the word in the region.

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**15 green elephants**  
**TONS OF DONATIONS**

A bag of clothing here, a truckload of furniture there — it can be hard to gather together all the items students donate during move out. So Kurt Hatcher, UD’s environmental sustainability manager, lined up a visual for us: 15 green elephants. That’s the weight — 110 tons — of...
Rooted in service
FOR SISTER DOROTHY STANG

With death comes new life. On a frigid 18-degree morning, 80 members of the Dayton community planted more than 400 trees and shrubs at Five Rivers MetroParks’ Great Miami Mitigation Bank. They honored Sister Dorothy Stang, S.N.D.deN., on the 10th anniversary of her martyrdom. Stang, a Dayton native, dedicated herself to sustainability and reforestation efforts and ultimately died fighting for rights of the poor in Brazil. More than 55 UD students from five sustainability, service and education clubs volunteered. Said sophomore Teresa Bradford, “We can’t all move to the rainforest, but this memorial tree planting event lets us take an active role in protecting land at home.”

On a roll
WWW.LINKDAYTON.ORG

Bright green bikes are buzzing around Dayton this spring thanks to Link, the city’s new bike-share program. Users can purchase 24-hour rentals for $5 at station kiosks or $65 annual memberships, which enable them to use bikes at 24 stations throughout the extended downtown Dayton area. Riders used Link bikes 1,300 times in its first week. UD is a Link founding partner and now hosts five campus kiosks, including stations at Roesch Library and RecPlex. Said UD President Daniel Curran, “This new bike-share initiative will provide greater connectivity between our campus and downtown.”

Fan of the arts
UD CHINESE CULTURE CLUB

Charity is an important value of Chinese culture, so it is only fitting that the Chinese Culture Club embodies a giving spirit. At its Charity Bazaar this spring, members sold Chinese fans, car and door hangers, paper screens and other gifts. They raised $700 and donated it to the Seedling Foundation, a nonprofit that supports arts and academic programs at Stivers School for the Arts in Dayton. The club’s adviser, Jack Ling, was a board member for the foundation and suggested it as a beneficiary. “We hold this charity event because we can use the money to help those who need to be helped,” said club president Qiu Cheng Li.

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—JUNIOR KATIE LIVICK, WHO MET WITH ALUMNI AS PART OF THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE’S DAYTON2DC TRIP IN MARCH

Goodwill, St. Vincent de Paul, Catholic Social Services and the University of Dayton Summer Appalachia Program.

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The search for the 19th president of the University of Dayton is off to a strong start, said David Yeager ’75, University trustee.

This spring Yeager, chair of the search committee, reported he was encouraged by the diversity and qualifications of the pool of prospects. “There is a lot of interest in the position, and we expect many new qualified candidates to emerge as the search progresses,” he said.

The presidential search committee continues to meet to review prospective candidates and narrow the candidate pool.

In December, President Daniel J. Curran announced he would step down in June 2016 after a 14-year tenure.

Confidential inquiries, nominations and referrals continue to be accepted. Updates and a position profile can be found at go.udayton.edu/presidentialsearch.

Andrew Strauss is the next dean of the School of Law. A professor of law and associate dean for faculty research and strategic initiatives at the Widener University School of Law, Strauss begins at UD July 1. Strauss’ scholarship focuses on international jurisdiction, public international law, international economic law, international transactions, international organizations and global warming litigation. He has conducted human rights missions to Asian countries and consulted for Human Rights Watch, among others. At Widener, Strauss led initiatives that included increased emphasis on legal writing skills and technology in the classroom, and he spearheaded the reorganization and growth of Widener’s international and graduate programs.

Dean appointments

A member of the UD faculty since 2002, Jason Pierce is the next dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, effective July 1. The former chair of the Department of Political Science has been serving as interim dean since last summer. As chair, Pierce led the development of experiential learning initiatives in the College of Arts and Sciences, including the Human Rights Center, McGrath Human Rights Research Fellows Program, Statehouse Civic Scholars Program and Dayton2DC, a career immersion experience in the nation’s capital. Pierce said he will work to expand experiential learning and increase hands-on learning opportunities that allow students to explore different vocations. Supporting faculty research is also a key priority, he said.

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Building boom

The University is investing $17 million during the next two years to build and upgrade housing in its student neighborhoods.

Projects include $8 million of new infill housing, $6 million to renovate Garden Apartments on the south side of East Stewart Street and a new $6 million mixed-use facility on the site of the McGinnis Center.

Construction has already started on eight five-bedroom, three-bath houses on several lots at the east end of Stonemill Street. The new housing will seek green certification, with features such as insulation, energy-efficient furnaces and appliances, tankless water heaters and airtight windows.

“Our student neighborhood is a real community,” said Beth Keyes, vice president for facilities and campus operations. “Students want to live there because the experience is at the heart of learning and living in community together and exemplifies what they most love about the University of Dayton.”

Other campus construction projects to be started or completed this summer include:

- Renovation to the Donoher Center at UD Arena for new locker rooms and training facilities for the men’s and women’s basketball teams.
- Installation of a second passenger elevator in Kennedy Union.
- Infrastructure upgrades to Alumni Hall.
- Relocation of approximately 17,000 square feet of labs from the basement of Kettering Labs and Kettering Labs Annex to the 1700 South Patterson Building.
- Upgrades to the Frericks Center to improve lobby and office space and support the championship volleyball team.
- New turf on Baujan Field.

If you drive to campus this summer, remember that College Park Drive now ends at the chapel. The former roadway between the library and St. Mary’s Hall is being converted to walkways and green space. Also, Caldwell Street will be closed through the first week of August as the city of Dayton installs new water infrastructure.

Chapel reopening

The stained glass windows in Immaculate Conception Chapel are again radiant as construction and renovation work wraps up this summer. A rosette window formerly hidden behind the organ in the choir loft can be seen from the inside for the first time, and new windows created in the style of the original stained glass have been installed (picture right). The chapel is on schedule to be completed by the Aug. 16 grand reopening. Here’s a list of events:

- The first Mass, grand opening and rededication will take place at 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 16. This is an invitation-only event, but a video will be available immediately after the service for public viewing.
- Daily midday Masses will resume Monday, Aug. 17, with start times at 12:30 p.m. each day. The public is welcome to attend.
- Faculty and staff can tour the chapel immediately following the 9 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 19, prayer service for the new academic year.
- Sunday, Aug. 30 will be the first weekend with a full schedule of Masses. A prayerful recognition of the rededication will take place at each Mass that day, as well as receptions with the student body.

Details on the renovations are at go.udayton.edu/chapel. Read the autumn UD Magazine for a detailed look inside.

The house that love built

When he was a student, Tom Schmitt ’01 was sitting on his Lawnview porch when alumni walked up, wanting to see the time capsule they had left inside the house. Together they looked through its contents, which included Flyer News issues and a Milano’s menu. What stuck with Schmitt was that a part of these alumni remained in the house long after they had graduated.

This year, he and his wife, Jessica, a former UD employee, got their turn to be part of the UD legacy. Their names were among those on a banner buried in the foundation of the new “I Love UD” house. Schmitt said, “To know that we’re a part of the house, literally and figuratively, is cool.”

On May 15 — thanks to more than 800 gifts and 1,200 votes on the location, color and design of the house — concrete was poured on the 400-block of Stonemill. A banner that holds the names of donors who gave $25 or more to the project was buried in the foundation.

These donors — no matter the size of the gift — are our University’s foundation, said Melanie Henterly, advancement marketing and communications coordinator.

The five-bedroom house will be home to five students in the fall.

—Sarah Spech ’16
In the tunnels under UD Arena, one new alumnus was so proud of his degree he couldn’t stop smiling. He greeted every robed and tasseled figure with a hearty hello, a handshake and a congratulations.

While those he greeted likely took four or five years on their UD journey, his took more than 50.

Actor and Daytonian Martin Sheen, 74, received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the University of Dayton under his given name, Ramon Estévez, during undergraduate commencement May 3. Like the other 1,441 graduates being honored, he shook hands with President Daniel J. Curran, received his diploma and smiled for the cameras.

And then he spoke from the heart in a confluence of emotion and memory:

“It’s a pleasure to return from whence I came for such a special occasion. …

“It is the absolute necessity for justice, healing and mercy that really unites us. …

“We are not asked to do great things; we’re asked to do all things with greater care. …”

The day before, Sheen attended a family reunion in Dayton. Estévez siblings, children and grandchildren gathered around to watch a video created by Sheen’s brother John. It featured photos of their parents, Francisco and Mary-Ann Estévez, immigrants from Spain and Ireland respectively, who raised 10 children in a home along Brown Street. That evening, Sheen attended Mass at St. Joseph Catholic Church on Second Street, where his parents were married in 1927.

“I wasn’t prepared for the deep, emotional crack it made in me,” Sheen said after receiving his degree. “This was about my dad. I had to come here. I had to celebrate him. I had to recognize him.”

And so, the night before the commencement, Sheen rewrote his brief remarks into a speech both funny and heartwarming, one that stoked the fires of social justice — to which he has dedicated himself these last 34 years and for which he was being honored the next day — and gave tribute to his father.

“He was my first hero; he was the best man I ever knew, and I’m honored to remember him.
This day with thanksgiving and praise,” Sheen said from the stage.

The graduation ceremony was a fulfillment of Francisco’s dream for Sheen — to be a University of Dayton graduate. The dream started at the moment of Sheen’s birth, Aug. 3, 1940. Doctors used forceps to deliver the baby boy, crushing his left shoulder and leaving Sheen with limited use of his left arm. His father was also crushed.

“He thought I was a cripple,” Sheen said, recounting the story to a group of students after the ceremony. And so Francisco, an NCR factory worker who Sheen says likely made no more than $147 a week during his life, saved enough money for his son to attend UD.

It was not a dream Sheen shared, and he punctuated his desire to be an actor by intentionally failing his UD entrance exam. The men eventually healed their rift, and Francisco gave his son his blessing to move to New York.

Known for the roles of President Josiah Bartlet in television’s *The West Wing*, a serial killer in the film *Badlands* and a troubled soldier during the Vietnam War in *Apocalypse Now*, Sheen said his most nourishing role has been that of social activist. He has spoken out against war, abortion, genocide and capital punishment, said his most nourishing role has been that of justice, human rights, service and peace.

“‘My fondest wish for each and every one of us is that we will find something in our lives worth fighting for because, when we do, we will have found a way to unite the will of the spirit with the work of the flesh, and the world would discover fire for the second time. Then may the light and the heat from that fire confirm our purpose with every thought, every word, every action to help heal a broken world wherever we may find it.’

‘Over the entire history of the human race no one has ever made any real contribution without personal suffering, self-sacrifice and sometimes even death.”

At a post-graduation lunch reception, Sheen greeted family and friends, including sons Ramon and Emilio. He also gathered with other special guests, including UD’s Chaminade Scholars, who were leaving in two days for a pilgrimage to Rome. He shared with the students his role as a pilgrim in The Way, a 2011 movie by Emilio about El Camino de Santiago, “the way of St. James” in the northwest of Spain.

Sheen ended by inviting them to sing with him his favorite hymn, “How Can I Keep From Singing?”

“If you start your day with that, you’re in good shape,” he told them.

It was his interactions with students — both gracious and deeply personal — that revealed the depth of his passion for social justice and the energy he absorbs from the activism of others.

When he sat later in the day with faculty and students from the Human Rights Center in Raymond L. Fitz Hall, Sheen balanced his chin on his right hand, leaning forward to engage the students in conversation.

Sophomore Leena Sabagh talked about her work with Students for Justice in Palestine; Sheen offered her contact with director Ellie Bernstein of *Ghost Town*, *The Hebtron Story*, for which Sheen served as narrator. Sophomore Rosalia Stadler talked about her research in uncovering human trafficking in the consumer supply chain; Sheen shared stories of working with Father Shay Cullen, who has fought trafficking in the Philippines for more than 30 years.

As Sheen learned about the Human Rights Center’s use of evidence-based strategies to help NGOs, he shook his head in amazement that students would volunteer to travel to developing countries and learn from the people about their challenges and dreams.

“I’m very encouraged, and the fact that it’s here, it’s amazing,” Sheen said.

After another round of autographs and selfies, Sheen walked out to his waiting car — two hours later than scheduled — and thanked his UD entourage again for the wonderful day that connected his roots to his personal passions.

In the parking lot, he met new graduate Lori Claricoates. She set down an armload of drawings she had just cleared from her locker in the Department of Art and Design to offer him a handshake and thank-you for his inspiring speech. He countered with a hug and a hearty congratulations, asking questions about her new job, her family and her hometown.

Standing there in the sun, they were simply two forever-Flyers in the process of realizing their dreams.

—Michelle Tedford
Photographs by Briana Snyder ’09
Enrollment success

The University of Dayton expects to continue its strong enrollment momentum this fall, welcoming another large class that is more academically prepared and culturally and geographically diverse.

The University has received about 2,100 deposits, which is about 5 percent over the goal, and has set a new record for applications at 16,700. Average college entrance test scores and high school GPAs, measures of academic preparedness, also increased, indicating the University’s appeal to top students in the nation.

The University was early to act on demographic trends that have increased competition among colleges and universities. With this fall’s class, the University will have enrolled four of the largest classes in school history during the past five years, despite dwindling numbers of high school seniors in Ohio.

Enrollment from Indiana and Missouri was especially strong this year, and international undergraduate and graduate enrollment is expected to equal last year’s mark of more than 1,500.

Jason Reinoehl, interim vice president for enrollment management and marketing, said the signs are already good for the class that will enroll in fall 2016.

“We are seeing an increase in inquiries about the University and especially about our guaranteed four-year tuition plan,” Reinoehl said. “Students and families are hearing good things about it and the peace of mind it gives them.”

The tuition plan promises families scholarships and grants will increase every year to offset any tuition increases. In addition, students pay no fees and can qualify for up to $1,000 annually for textbooks.

Reinoehl said with the end of the plan’s second full year, the University is seeing the continuation of important trends that started with the first year of the tuition plan.

“Retention made a 3 percent jump in one year and hit an all-time high,” he said. “We know that finances are one reason students often don’t continue from their first year to their second. We think the increase in retention is a sign that families knew upfront what second-year costs would be and were better prepared.

“We are also seeing promising indications that fewer of our students are borrowing, and those who borrow are borrowing less.”

Can you hear me now?

A product that protects hearing by allowing users to manually adjust the amount of noise protection depending on the environment has won the 2014-15 University of Dayton Business Plan Competition.

The You Tune Hearing Protection team included Jeremy Smith, an Oakwood audiologist and entrepreneur who created and patented the device; Philip Anloague, chair and associate professor of the University of Dayton’s department of physical therapy; and Jessica Smith ’09.

The company won a $25,000 cash prize, free sales training through UD’s Fiore Talarico Center for Professional Selling, and 15 hours of free legal support from the School of Law’s Entrepreneurship and Intellectual Property Clinic.
Answering questions in this issue is Matt Dunn ’91, executive director of the Montgomery County (Ohio) Arts and Cultural District, whose volunteer work includes serving on the national leadership council for the Marianist laity.

Are lay Marianists a branch of the Marianist brothers and priests?
—JIM VOGT ’68
COVINGTON, KENTUCKY

Lay are not a branch of the religious. Unlike other religious orders that established associate organizations for lay people, Father Chaminade founded the Marianists by first forming small Christian communities known as sodalities. Religious vocations grow out of the sodalities. The branches of the Marianist Family — brothers, sisters and laity — collaborate but remain autonomous.

Has the lay branch of the Marianist family always been as active as it is today?
—STEPHEN MACKELL ’13
DAYTON

The involvement of laity in the Marianist Family has ebbed and flowed. In the last couple decades, a vocation among Marianist laity has grown. In 2006, Marianist Lay Communities, collectively as an international entity, were officially recognized by the Vatican as a private association of faithful, giving the lay branch canonical status in the Church. Marianist laity work in their chosen career fields; some work in Marianist institutions. Some have started ministries, such as the Mission of Mary Farm in Dayton.

The Marianists are known for creating inclusive and hospitable communities of faith. How do you help bring this to life as a lay Marianist?
—BRIAN HALDERMAN ’99
SAN ANTONIO

I’d like to think I am inclusive in all aspects of my life — my friends, workplace relationships, volunteer commitments. Within the Marianist Family, I have worked to make communities more welcoming of LGBT people by participating on the LGBT issue team of the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative. Additionally, through MSJC and through my involvement in national leadership, I have participated in efforts to bridge intergenerational gaps. Within my Marianist Lay Community, we are diverse in composition. Some of us are single, some are married, some have kids, etc.

What do you do as part of the national leadership council for Marianist laity?
—AMY D. LOPEZ-MATTHEWS ’86
DAYTON

The lay branch is led by the volunteer leadership team of the Marianist Lay Network of North America. MLNNA maintains a directory of lay Marianists and Marianist Lay Communities in North America. We hold assemblies that bring people together from across the country. We have a monthly newsletter and use other social media. We help fund ministries such as the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative and the Marianist Lay Formation Initiative. One of my current responsibilities is to lead MLNNA through the process of clarifying how someone becomes a lay Marianist. I also serve on the Marianist Family Council of North America, which consists of representation by all three branches.

Tell us about your experience at the International Marianist Meeting in Peru last summer.
—SISTER LAURA LEMING, EMI ’87
DAYTON

An international Marianist meeting is like a family reunion and like the experience of the Apostles at Pentecost. To be in a place where people don’t speak the same language yet everyone has a common vocabulary is exhilarating and inspiring. The more we are able to gather and share ideas, the more we learn better ways to evangelize, strengthen our small Christian communities and bring Christ to the world.

What’s new from the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative?
—MARY HARVAN GORGETTE ’81
PARIS

Some recent MSJC efforts have been to engage young adults in service projects and immersion experiences in the context of the Marianist charism. MSJC and the Marianist Environmental Education Center (in Dayton) will also have materials and suggested actions for individuals and communities to consider when Pope Francis releases his encyclical on the environment. MSJC also recently published a document, “Addressing LGBT Issues with Youth,” to help Marianist educators create a pastoral, safe and inclusive environment for LGBT students.

What would you like to see develop among Marianist laity?
—JOAN SCHIML ’90
DAYTON

A greater institutional capacity to serve the Marianist Family, Church and world. Without sacrificing diversity and flexibility, we could benefit from a more formalized identity. Additionally, with the decreasing numbers of vowed religious, it will take committed lay people to continue Marianist ministries as well as respond to the signs of the times by starting new ones. It is time for lay people to be bold in their aspirations and to begin initiatives without relying on others to tell us how to do it.

For more about the Marianist Lay Network of North America, see www.mlnna.org.
Softball: perfect game, record season

Dayton softball had its best season ever, finishing 39-14. The Flyers took the regular-season Atlantic 10 title with a 20-2 record. The March 29 10-0 victory over Rhode Island featured a five-inning perfect game by senior Kayla English, who was named A-10 pitcher of the year.

Joining English in a Flyer sweep of the four major A-10 softball awards were senior first baseman Tiffany Ricks (player of the year), freshman pitcher Manda Cash (rookie of the year) and coach Cara LaPlaca (coach of the year). Ricks’ career RBI total of 126 set a new UD record.

Ricks and English were named to the A-10 first team, as were two outfielders, senior Natalie Mariano and sophomore Gabrielle Snyder. Cash was named to the A-10 second team and the all-rookie team; third baseman Kailee Budicin joined her on the all-rookie team.

Men’s lacrosse: national champions

The Concordia University Eagles were undefeated coming into the May 16 Men’s Collegiate Lacrosse Association national championship game. They left defeated. The Dayton Flyers won the championship, scoring seven goals in the third period to win 12-11.

The MCLA is an organization of non-NCAA college lacrosse programs. More than 200 schools compete in two divisions.

Dayton reached the semifinals in their previous season.

This is the Flyers’ first national title.

Wabler: a top AD

Tim Wabler ’74, vice president and director of athletics, is a winner of an Under Armour AD of the Year Award. He is one of four to be honored from the NCAA Football Championship Subdivision.

Flyer teams during the last five years have compiled the best winning percentages in school history; Dayton’s NCAA Graduation Success Rate ties for first place in the A-10 and is 25th in the nation.

Year in Review

It was a great year for Flyer athletics — two A-10 championships, four teams with NCAA appearances, three all-Americans, two coaches of the year and so much more. To relive the highlights, watch this Dayton Flyers video: bit.ly/UDM_Flyers2015.

Accelerated summer

“How can we make aviation a part of Dayton’s future, not just its past?”

This is just one of the questions you’ll find scribbled on a whiteboard in the Collaboratory in downtown Dayton — and UD students are working toward the answers this summer.

Located across from Courthouse Square in the heart of Dayton, the Collaboratory is home to the Collaboration Accelerator, an internship for a team of 12 ambitious and creative students to take on projects that help make downtown a better place.

The team is composed of four students from the School of Engineering, five students from the School of Business Administration, and three students from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Sophomore business student Nick Schlueter says that having diverse majors allows the group to bring different ideas to the table. “But we’re also trying to not put ourselves in the boxes of our majors,” he says.

The team has a number of challenges in its effort to envision a better future for the city and its residents. One is figuring out how to connect more with tourists visiting the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.

“The museum attracts about a million visitors per year,” says junior art education major Rose DeFluri, a Dayton native. “And those visitors are likely to come to the museum and then leave … but we have a lot to offer in Dayton, and we want them to experience it.”

Chief Imagination Officer Peter Benkendorf, who opened the Collaboratory about three years ago, explained the team is looking at the long-term, big picture. “We want to know: What can tourist assets look like in Dayton in 2035?”

You can get a hint earlier than that. At the end of July, the interns will show their work through a multimedia installation in ArtStreet Studio D. In the meantime, follow the team’s summer progress on its blog: daytoncollaboratory.org/coblog.

—Grace Poppe ’16

Another world

Junior English major Joey Ferber is exploring ways indigenous poets use Western forms and ideas to challenge and criticize colonial structures — or in the spirit of writer Audre Lorde, using poetry as a form to “use the master’s tools to take apart the master’s house.”

As a Berry Scholar, Ferber jumpstarted his honors thesis during what he calls his academic stride: “I’ve become interested in so much more about the world since learning how to break down meanings.”

Among the mediums of artistic expression, Ferber believes poetry — related closely to music, another of his passions — is a powerful form. With the right tools, a reader like Ferber can analyze a poem down to each intentional detail, and the result can be a moment of freedom from his own world and into another’s, or a newfound understanding of a perspective that is not his own.

Ferber says his thesis and English studies have taught him how to think — and how to become.

—CC Hutten ’15

Ferber onstage at ArtStreet
The last thing marketing senior Sean Ferguson remembers is thinking that he could go to Kennedy Union for dinner or to his house on Trinity Avenue. His decision April 8 to cross the parking lot in front of Kettering Labs, in spite of the rainstorm, changed his life forever. He was struck by lightning. He lay on the pavement, not breathing, no heartbeat, burns over 35 percent of his body and his jaw broken.

Keep up with him on Facebook at Sean Strong.
Michael B. Coleman ’80, the longest-serving incumbent African-American mayor in the United States, keeps photos in his office to remind himself of his journey to City Hall. One is a photo of the great-grandmother he never met.

Margaret Dean holds a place of honor. Her picture overlooks the city seal embedded in the floor and faces a collage of some of Coleman’s key moments as mayor: an election night celebration, a commencement speech at The Ohio State University. The photo placement is deliberate, Coleman says. Born a slave in Virginia in 1839, Dean lived to experience emancipation and decades of life as a free woman in Kentucky. She died in 1941 at 103, 13 years before Coleman was born.

“She was uneducated and never voted in an election,” Coleman says. “To have her see her great-grandson become the mayor of a major city … it’s symbolic.”

Coleman, a University of Dayton School of Law graduate, said he saw his legal degree as a step toward his goal of becoming a public servant. But he wasn’t sure how he would get there.

Another photo in his office shows us how. In it, a young Coleman shakes hands with President Jimmy Carter.

As a law student, Coleman sent a letter to the White House asking the president of the United States for a summer job. Carter, or, more likely, an assistant in charge of opening his mail, wrote the young man back. If he could get to Washington, D.C., for an in-person interview, the note said, that request would be considered.

Coleman was thrilled, but there were obstacles in his way. One was the car itself, a green Ford Pinto — “you know, the kind that blows up” — that had to transport him 7 to 8 hours to the nation’s capital and get him back in one piece.

The Pinto did its job. Coleman secured a position as a summer law clerk in the Carter White House, an experience that cemented his desire to use his legal education to pursue a career in public service.

“I just soaked it up,” Coleman says. “I got a lot of wonderful experiences, although brief, but they lasted a long time, even until this day. I was exposed to national leaders, to great men and women, jurists, judges, politicians, senators, Cabinet members, even the president himself. It was a marvelous experience, and I didn’t want to leave.”

Twenty years later, in 1999, his career reached a pinnacle when he was elected mayor of Columbus. He became the first Democrat elected to the position since 1972 and the first African-American mayor in city history. Observers have praised the economic and population growth that took place during Coleman’s tenure as mayor, helping Columbus emerge relatively unscathed from the late 2000s recession that rocked other Midwestern cities. Columbus frequently appears in newspaper, magazine and other media “best cities” lists as one of the nation’s top places for quality of life, cost of living, education, diversity and business support, among other attributes.

Coleman, 60, says he has enjoyed bipartisan political support for his initiatives throughout the region and the state. He has been praised for his emphasis on building coalitions with community leaders, residents and the business sector to strengthen neighborhoods and downtown as desirable places for citizens to live, work and play.

In 2014, after achieving what his great-grandmother could have never dreamed, Coleman announced he would not seek a fifth term. He’s moving on, packing up his photos and picturing himself in other scenarios.

“After 23 years as an elected official, I feel I can make change without being an elected official,” he says. “I think I’ve grown enough where I can provide the guidance to other people to make change in that way.”
Say hallelujah — this spring, campus got Flyer’d up in a new way.

To showcase the University of Dayton, the Media Production Group partnered with student a cappella group Remedy to produce a parody of the song “Uptown Funk” by Mark Ronson featuring Bruno Mars. The end result was a 3.5-minute video with catchy lyrics and campus scenes.

It was a group effort: Remedy wrote the lyrics, ArtStreet recorded the song, the Media Production Group filmed the video, and the UD community spread the message far and wide. To date, the video has more than 169,000 views, almost 2,400 likes and more than 2,300 shares on Facebook. It was a true collaboration to share the University of Dayton story. Mike Kurtz ’90, director of media productions, his assistant Tyler Back, and two Remedy members share a behind-the-scenes look at how the video came to life.


**1. Pick your theme.** To create a parody, it’s important to consider the message you want to communicate to your audience. Kurtz, Back and Remedy wanted to show off what’s great about UD, and they ensured the message was consistent in every aspect of the video. “When we thought about where we were going to shoot, what we were going to shoot and who would be in the shot, we’re thinking about how we can best showcase the University of Dayton community,” Kurtz said.

**2. Spread the word.** Back utilized a social media plan, complete with research and resources, to get people involved. University and student social media accounts, including Twitter, Snapchat and Instagram, were used for video teasers, promotion and recruitment for students to act as extras in the video. They also approached students on campus to ask if they would like to be involved. “We wanted to get a lot of people excited and rallied around this idea to really drive its execution,” Back said.

**3. Make the music happen.** When Kurtz approached Remedy with the idea, the students were already prepared with a rendition of “Uptown Funk” they’d been practicing for competitions. Junior Hannah Snow took the lead in re-creating the song lyrics with other members. “There’s no preparation when I write parodies; it just kind of comes to me,” she said. For others who want to try their hand at writing, her advice: Have fun, use personal memories and experiences from others, make it rhyme, and most importantly, make it enjoyable for listeners.

**4. Catch it on camera.** Once the song recording was finished, Kurtz and Back assessed how it would look onscreen — a representation of the UD community with the same essence as “Uptown Funk.” “We didn’t want to duplicate it shot for shot, but we wanted to create scenes that evoke the look and feel and style of the original video while still communicating our own message,” they said. They filmed in locations across campus, used a stretch golf cart instead of the limousine, and even created a rig to replicate the 360-degree gyro spin used in the original music video.

**5. Have fun.** Watching UD’s version, you’ll see students enjoying a sunny day on campus — but in reality, the outside temperature hovered at 30 degrees that day. Not to be put off by a late-spring cold snap, the crew forged ahead. Sophomore Holly Gyenes had never performed in a parody video, but said she had a good time despite battling the especially brisk spring air. “For it to be the production you want it to be, you have to take everything up a notch, amp up your performance and make sure your audience is having fun with you.” —Erin Callahan ’15
Tana Hogan Rosehill ’78 writes, “About 20 miles from our home in Hilo, Hawaii, is the recent lava flow. Behind are remnants of a barn that was spared, but the residents’ home was a total loss. Mother Nature — and more specifically, Pele — is a powerful force, one that humbles. I continue to enjoy UD Magazine; it keeps me connected even though I am miles away.”

Kevin Kirkpatrick ’06 writes, “I brought my UD Magazine on a trip to New Zealand. This picture is from a hike my wife and I called the ‘Tongariro Alpine Crossing’ on the North Island.”

Five members of the Class of 1978 met in Palm Beach, Florida in March 2015 for a weekend of basketball and reminiscing. Kim Becker Derise ’78 writes, “We were all huge basketball fans while at school, and the Flyers’ success that weekend was awesome.” Pictured (from left) are Mary Ellen Goetz, Kim Becker Derise, Carol Benitez Cullen, Denise Meaney Robicheaux and Camille Fowler Jumper. Marty Kavalec Hayes (pictured above magazine) couldn’t make it but appeared in every picture.

WHERE ARE YOU READING

Sisters Katie Fowler ’09 and Lizzie Fowler ’12 traveled through France in August 2014. They write, “We each packed our UD Magazine and paused to snap a photo while biking around the beautiful Lac d’Annecy in the Rhône-Alpes region.”


1984 alumni Debbie Stutz Anderson, Rita Schenkel Brown and Terry Brown visited Montapulciano, Italy, in October 2014. Terry writes, “We were joined by Debbie’s husband, Stuart Anderson, to celebrate the Browns’ 30th wedding anniversary. Great memories of UD were relived over a bottle of wine (or two) with lifelong friends.”

Where are you reading University of Dayton Magazine? Send us a photograph — at home or abroad — to magazine@udayton.edu. View more photos on Facebook at facebook.udayton.edu.
Lost and returned department:

Dear University of Dayton,

Thirty-five years ago I was sitting with my friends in the back of Kennedy Union dining hall when we got word that our chemistry class was canceled because it was snowing so heavily. On a whim, we opened the window and threw this tray out into the bushes. After dark, we came back, retrieved the tray and headed for Stuart Hall hill where we piled on for sled riding, one of the most fun evenings of my life. We were frozen clear through, but the joy kept us warm.

We returned to Marycrest around 3am and the tray went under my bed. Moving home in May the tray went to Mom and Dad’s and never made it back to Dayton.

Cleaning out Mom and Dad’s house I found it in the garage and the story was retold to the nieces and nephews with the warning that stealing is bad. So to come clean, I am returning the tray. I’m sorry that I took it, but grateful for the memories.

Go Flyers!

Soaring Flyers

They reached the top without ever leaving the ground. UD students took four of the top prizes at the international IT FLIES USA competition, held on campus in April. Professional test pilots put student designs through the paces in UD’s Merlin flight simulator, the only such simulator in the U.S. and one of 20 in the world.

Alex Watt placed first in the presentation phase of the competition, while Matt Pulfer won the flight-handling phase. Watt finished third in the flight-handling phase. Katelyn Dvorsky placed second in the presentation phase. Said Pulfer, "The simulator and the competition create a type of learning environment that cannot be achieved in the classroom alone."

Shake, rattle and flow

The earthquake in Nepal April 25 moved more than mountains. It also changed the way rivers flow. Umesh Haritashya, an assistant professor of geology, is leading a group reviewing satellite photos of the Nepalese peak section of Manaslu, the world’s eighth-highest mountain, for hazards like landslides and river blockages.

Haritashya said landslides have blocked rivers and formed lakes at many river basins in the mountainous region. With continuous aftershocks such as one on May 12, along with the fast-approaching monsoon season, Haritashya said these lakes are in danger of spilling water into remote villages.

“It is important to understand that no such major threat has been observed at this point, but it is a continuously developing story, and we are keeping an eye on a daily basis,” Haritashya said.

This effort is part of the 50-member international volunteer group formed after the Gorkha quake under the umbrella of the NASA international Global Land Ice Measurements from Space project.

—Shawn Robinson
In the news

- Ramon Estévez, better known as Martin Sheen, received his honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree during the May 3 commencement. At least 50 news outlets carried The Associated Press story. The honorary degree was also featured on NPR’s On Point, which is carried by 290 stations nationwide, and TODAY, where host Matt Lauer congratulated Sheen, who was a guest on the show.
- John Leland, interim vice president for research and director of the UD Research Institute, was quoted in a story picked up by multiple news sources, including Bloomberg Businessweek and The Manufacturer, discussing the commitment of $1.5 million from the state of Ohio to establish the Materials and Manufacturing Aerospace Technology Hub. He said, ‘Aerospace suppliers must meet a rigorous set of criteria to make sure their operations, equipment and products meet strict safety and delivery standards. This funding will allow us to identify and work with Ohio businesses to make them more competitive within the aerospace industry.’
- Bob Brecha, a professor in the renewable and clean energy program, commented on WYSO radio that “it can be a tough sell to talk about global warming after the winter we just went through.” Brecha described the science behind extreme winters, reminding listeners, ‘it’s not just global warming, but truly climate change.’
- America magazine published “Clues to the Encyclical” by Vincent J. Miller, Gurdorf Chair in Catholic Theology and Culture. Miller discussed the forthcoming papal encyclical on the environment and emphasized the importance of keeping Pope Francis’ theological arguments at the forefront instead of letting politics spread a skewed version of his message.
- “Mentally Ill in a High-Stakes Job,” published by The Atlantic, discussed the reluctance of workers to seek treatment for mental illness due to possible professional repercussions and stigma. The article mentioned advice Lori Shaw, professor at the School of Law and former dean of students, wrote for students preparing for the bar: “[T]reatment is viewed as a plus, not a minus. Taking responsibility for your life evidences strength of character.”
- Kevin Poorman, a senior research engineer and group leader for impact physics at UDRI, talked with AiOnline about the importance of black box technology after the Germanwings Flight 9525 crash: “That’s because black boxes have to survive, even if everything else doesn’t survive.”
- Theo Majka, professor of sociology, was quoted in an April 2 Huffington Post article in reference to his work with a 2012 refugees study. ‘In one or two weeks, some refugees find themselves going from a place like a Burundian refugee camp to a Midwestern city like Dayton,’ he said. “The journey from a rural environment in a developing country to a post-modern urban world causes all sorts of crises.’
- The London School of Economics and Political Science published an article by Joshua Ambrosius, assistant professor of political science, on urban identity and the 2016 presidential race. In it, he wrote of the 2012 elections, “It was the politics of identity — not economic performance — that produced an urban landslide for Obama. The Republican Party predicated its election fortunes on its candidates’ supposed economic smarts…rather than direct appeals to identity, a strategy that failed.’
- Richard Stock, director of the Business Research Group, was quoted in the POLITICO article “Hey, Governors: You Didn’t Build That,” discussing how GOP governors are gaining popularity from economic benefits derived from Obama’s policies. He pointed out that more than 10 percent of the labor force — 586,000 people — was unemployed in 2010. ”It is difficult to describe how awful it was,” he said. “There’s no question that the stimulus definitely was extremely important in helping the state recover.”

For more media hits, visit delicious.com/udnews.

Zombie family values

Family matters the most at the end of the day — and the end of the world. Those are the results of a new study by two UD professors who analyzed episodes from the first three seasons of the AMC hit show The Walking Dead, about a group of survivors enduring a zombie apocalypse in the American South.

Joshua Ambrosius, assistant political science professor, and Joseph Valenzano III, communication professor, documented references to four social institutions that appear prominently in the show: science, religion, government and family.

They found, rather than The Walking Dead supporting the traditional “leftist and subversive” critique of capitalism, individualism and Western society, the show displays a shift within the zombie genre that prioritizes family as the central societal institution. The pair discovered the show presents but discredits science, religion and government as sources of salvation — just as the American public today is demonstrating less confidence in scientific, religious and political institutions.

The researchers also found The Walking Dead embraces alternative definitions of family other than the traditional nuclear family.

"Despite some Americans today trying to live as a ‘family of one,’ this option becomes increasingly difficult after the apocalypse. Characters who lose loved ones quickly learn they must find a new family or risk the fate of the ‘walkers,’” they write in their study, “People in Hell Want Slurpees,” published in Communication Monographs.

—Shawn Robinson
The U.S. left Vietnam 40 years ago. John Terzano was among the first to return. He brought home a Nobel Peace Prize.
Why did the four of you go back to Vietnam in 1981?
When we went, we went for ourselves. We went there to get information about Agent Orange to help the guys back home. We met with the leading scientist on the issue, Dr. Tong That Tung, who happened to be Ho Chi Minh’s physician, but he had also done a lot of research on the effects of dioxin. We wanted information that would be helpful to our advocacy work back here in the States because the government’s position was that dioxin doesn’t cause any problems.

After the first day or so, we realized there was a whole other side to the war. I wouldn’t even describe Hanoi in 1981 as a Third World city. The Vietnamese people were suffering from the U.S. government’s embargo and the legacy of Agent Orange and landmines. It changed our lives.

How did the locals react to your visit?
They learned that four American GIs were visiting Hanoi from radio broadcasts. We were visiting near Christmas, and they were commemorating what was then the ninth anniversary of the Christmas bombings when the U.S. dropped more bombs on Hanoi than Germany did on England throughout the entire Second World War. We didn’t know what to expect. We were walking around the city, and people would come up to us and say, “Are you the American veterans?” And we’d say yes, and they’d say, “Welcome to Vietnam.” Their openness, their friendliness, their ability to put the war behind them was extraordinary. Certainly in 1981 it was something America had not done, and some would argue we haven’t dealt with it yet.

Did the visit help your advocacy work?
It did help, but it took a while. It took a year or two to get legislation to open the door for treatment of some of the effects but much longer than that for actual compensation. But that’s typical when dealing with issues of advocacy. VVAF was an organization devoted to addressing the causes, conduct and consequences of the war. One of the things veterans were complaining about was a skin condition known as chloracne. We advocated to the Veterans Administration to grant compensation for this skin disease. They refused. The reality is if they would have done that, it would have taken the wind out of our sails. By them refusing to do it, it gave us the voice to say the government is not doing anything.

Why did you start a clinic in Cambodia in 1991?
We had yet to get the embargo lifted with Vietnam — that happened in 1994, and we opened our first clinic there in 1995 — and we were trying to figure out how to become politically relevant again. We were coming off the first Gulf War, and no one wanted to hear from the last generation to go to war. We thought, Americans re-
late to humanitarian programs, so if we run humanitarian programs that can get us back to the table.

We started a clinic in Phnom Penh as a way to be involved in the region, and we did so somewhat naively. We had no expertise in doing this stuff other than Bobby [Muller] being a paraplegic and a couple individuals that were working for us, Ed Miles and Dave Evans, who were double amputees from the war. We had been traveling to Cambodia since the early 1980s, so we met with Prime Minister Hun Sen and asked if we could start a prosthetics clinic. Our first patients were veteran troublemakers that the government rounded up and sent to our clinic. Pissed-off veterans — that we had experience with, with or without a language barrier. After that, the people who started coming to our clinic were civilians affected by landmines. So we said maybe we can do something about this, develop a campaign.

Who did the VVAF work with on landmine issues?

A German organization, Medico International, had been working in Cambodia, and our groups hooked up with a couple other organizations. Then we met with U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) and his staff, primarily Tim Rieser. Sen. Leahy said it would take a lot of years to do something, but he said he would start with a moratorium on the United States’ export and manufacture of landmines. Within a year, the resolution passed the Senate on a 100-to-nothing vote. It was pretty amazing. Long story short, we started the campaign in 1991, and in six short years we had an international treaty led by Sen. Leahy and Lloyd Axworthy [then the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada] and signed by 122 countries — and a Nobel Peace Prize.

How did Diana, Princess of Wales, help the campaign?

In 1997, she traveled to Angola with the Mines Advisory Group, one of the campaign’s partners. Princess Di visited a minefield and was pictured in the British press wearing all the protective gear. She was very critical of British policy, and the British government criticized her, saying she had no business talking about military issues. They misjudged the love of the British people for the princess, and there was such an outcry that the British government changed its policy. So when she died Aug. 31, 1997, there was a lot of press around her work on landmines. It was a convergence.

How did you hear VVAF’s efforts won a Nobel?

Bobby [Muller] got woken up in his apartment from the Nobel committee saying that we got the award. I heard it on the news. I was in law school, and I remember being in class and some of my classmates coming up and saying congratulations. This good friend...
The war in Vietnam officially ended 40 years ago on April 30, 1975, but for many Vietnamese-Americans, the trauma lives on. Beginning with that day which some call “Black April,” our wounds have reopened in battles over the war’s remembrance.

It happened to me one spring afternoon more than a decade ago. My high school history teacher was asking for students who’d had family serve in the military to participate in a memorial ceremony for an alumnus who died in Vietnam.

My father had been an officer in the South Vietnamese army before a bullet shredded his thigh and left him with a permanent limp. I knew what it meant to honor the memories of those who died in war, so I raised my hand. The teacher shook his head. “No, we want American military,” he said, before moving on to other students.

I was stunned. My family’s pain and loss of loved ones, the endless days at sea after fleeing Saigon, the years working menial jobs while going to night classes and study-

who was sitting next to me said, “Why are they congratulating you?” And I said, “Oh, we got the Nobel Peace Prize today.” “What are you doing here?” she asked. “I’ve got class, and we’ve got a test next week, I’ll deal with that later.” And I didn’t go to Oslo [Norway] for the Nobel lecture. It was around finals time — priorities. Ha. I should tell that to my students: I went to finals and blew off the Nobel Peace Prize presentation.

Your Nobel is hanging on your office wall. How many others from your organization have one?

They didn’t make very many. There were well over 100 who deserved the prize, and at least they were all recognized. When the Nobel committee awarded it, they didn’t understand that there wasn’t an organization per se. We ran the international campaign. We funded it; we managed it; we staffed it. When I say we, it was primarily VVAF who took the lead and worked with other organizations to develop campaigns around the world.

Why did you return to Vietnam for the 40th anniversary of the fall of Saigon?

Vietnam is part of who I am, what I am. I’ve been back many times since 1981, and the government invited me to its celebration. I was happy to see old friends and colleagues and to see our 20-year-old program still doing extraordinary work on issues of the environment, landmines, education and mental health. VVAF closed up shop, but our programs still operate under The International Center, an American NGO. While I was there, we broke ground on a new Vietnamese Mine Action Center. This is a testament to the country’s commitment to working on this issue, but it also reflects Vietnam’s leadership in the world: it has its own extraordinary difficulties but has the resources and expertise to help other nations.
You obviously hold great respect for Vietnam. What’s your hope for the country?

A lot has changed, but I still think a large segment of our society thinks about Vietnam as a war, not a country of over 70 million people, the majority of whom have been born since the war was over. It’s a country with its own hopes, its own dreams, its own culture. For the day when we as a people can view it as that, that’s what I wish for.

How have your thoughts about advocacy around issues of war changed?

For so many years, Vietnam veterans bore the burden of all the negativity around the war: we were the baby killers, the village burners. The veterans bore it all, not the government policies. Now it’s different: If you criticize our policy in Afghanistan or Iraq, people jump all over you as if you’re criticizing what our service members had done. There are lessons from Vietnam we haven’t learned and need to discuss, things as basic as when do you go to war, how do you go about doing it, who serves, who doesn’t serve and what do we do in society? We don’t have the larger discussions about what it means, the sacrifices that are going to be asked of everyone, not just some small segment of

our society that serves and their families that we rip apart.

What are you most proud of?

I have spent my professional life working on issues that mean a lot to me, and I’m still doing work in a country where I served so many years ago. Seeing a smile on a little child’s face when she gets a new limb is more gratifying than all the accolades from governments or institutions.

Learn more about the programs of the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation: www.ic-vvaf.org
The days begin early at Annunciation House. The four women here rouse themselves from sleep and pad their way to the chapel for the 6:25 morning prayer and then Mass. Twice a day they gather for prayer, and several times a week they share meals together.

In between, it’s household chores and jobs out in the community, jamming hymns on guitars and, yes, sitting around talking and eating ice cream.

For people exploring a religious vocation, Annunciation House in Kettering, Ohio, a few miles from UD’s campus, offers a temporary home to see for themselves what it might mean to live a consecrated life — a life of religious community devoted to Jesus Christ, each person publicly professing the vows of poverty, chastity, obedience and stability.

In today’s Western world, they are not easy vows, but ones Pope Francis has called attention to during this Year of Consecrated Life. He asks us all to be aware of the gift of the lives and work of consecrated people in our communities. He also challenges these religious “to wake up the world,” “step out more courageously” and discover “perfect joy.”

Again, not easy. But at a time when the number of vowed religious is falling, it is this call to a joyful life in community young people may well find attractive — young people who will ultimately be the future of the Church.

It’s a year of celebration — of vowed religious living and serving in community. Young Flyers share why they’re attracted to a path so important for the future of the Church.

Step joyfully
It is not enough to simply create attractive recruitment programs, says Pope Francis: “The consecrated life will not flourish as a result of brilliant vocation programs but because the young people we meet find us attractive, because they see us as men and women who are happy!”

Gabby Bibeau ‘11 sure does. The 26-year-old has lived at Annunciation House since December 2014. “The individual brothers and sisters here [at UD] are very Christ-like. Meeting them and knowing them has made me want to be like them,” she says.

“Living here is a good path to holiness.”

Religious community and continuous discernment shepherd everyone who’s on the path. Their journey is called formation, several years of living the spirit of the vows with the freedom to step out at any point and choose another direction.

It all begins with inquiry, which includes gathering information, going on retreats and working in ministries. Bibeau did that before reaching aspirancy, when she became a pre-novice, or postulant, by committing to a year at Annunciation House and

SISTER NICOLE TRAHAN, F.M.I., at Chaminade Julienne High School. She is a Marianist vocation director.

Photo by PETER COE
GABBY BIEBAU
'11 (standing) serves a meal at Annunciation House: “Living here is a good path to holiness.”

Photo by LARRY BURGESS

CRAIG IRWIN, n.O.S.F.S. '07, in a Detroit-area food kitchen: “I like the idea of helping the everyday person.”

Photo by JOE KATARKSY
BROTHER BRANDON PALUCH, S.M. ‘06, in his UD office: “I love better when I love broadly, with prayer to God at the center.”

Photo by LARRY BURGESS

TRACEY HORAN ‘10, with sisters in their Lectio Divina prayer group: “I feel like this life is where I fit the best.”

Photo by PAUL BEEL
doing full-time ministry in religious education as a pastoral associate at a nearby parish.

Next comes life as a novice, which 30-year-old Craig Irwin, n.O.S.F.S. ’07, will have been for a year, learning about the foundation of the order with other Oblates of Saint Francis de Sales novices in Brooklyn, Michigan. Community living and strictly scheduled prayer are preparing him for the step of temporary profession. That’s when, depending on the order, those in formation further their university education or return to full-time ministry work. Thirty-one-year-old Brandon Paluch, S.M. ’06, is doing the latter until he’s ready to take final vows, when he would devote himself to a consecrated life — for the rest of his life.

These University of Dayton alumni are on their journey during the Year of Consecrated Life, which began the first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 30, 2014, and ends on the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, Feb. 2, 2016. It marks the 50th anniversary of Perfectae Caritatis, a decree on religious life, and Lumen Gentium, the Second Vatican Council’s Dogmatic Constitution on the Church.

During this time, the pope is urging everyone to “look to the past with gratitude,” “live the present with passion” and “embrace the future with hope.”

Those considering a consecrated life examine where they’ve been, where they are and where they might be going. In Dayton, they can turn to Sister Nicole Trahan, F.M.I., for guidance. As the Dayton-based vocation coordinator for the Marianist sisters and brothers, she helps mostly young men and women determine whether religious life is right for them. If the person thinks so, she “walks” with him or her through the process to enter the first stage of inquiry. “We talk and email a lot,” says Trahan, 40. She often invites people to Annunciation House for prayer and supper.

During suppers and discernment retreats, questions come up, “Is God calling me to this life?” asks an undergrad who has yet to declare her major. The young man who grew up an only child wants to know, “What does it mean to be a Marianist sister or brother?” “Will my family understand this?” asks another student who lives with his parents. “How does one live the vows?” questions anyone who wonders, “Can I do this?”

Trahan says the path to perpetual vows is full of questions. “Everyone answers in a different way. There’s also, ‘What if?’ ‘Am I sure,’ ‘Am I lying to myself?’ There are always going to be some doubts. We do our best to trust that God won’t let us down.”

Fewer Catholics worldwide are answering the call to a consecrated life. Internationally, since 1970 the number of religious priests, sisters and brothers has dropped 27 percent. In the U.S., the number is down 66 percent to 66,211 in 2014, according to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, or CARA. In the U.S., there are approximately 300 vowed religious in the Society of Mary and Daughters of Mary Immaculate, identified by S.M. for priests and brothers and F.M.I. for sisters.

Many things can attract a person to a religious life. For some young people, service opportunities give a glimpse of a life devoted to Christ.

Paluch’s journey began during UD Break-Outs, when he served in Haiti, India and the Appalachia region of the U.S. “These experiences were so enriching and only added to what I was learning in the classroom,” he says. Take the one he had in Haiti, spring 2003, working with Mother Teresa’s Missionaries of Charity at a home for the dying. “While I was massaging a man on his deathbed to relieve some of his pain, I remembered what someone told us as we were preparing to leave for Haiti: ‘Jesus hangs out there a lot.’ For me, this man was the suffering Jesus.”

In Paluch’s encounters with the brothers and priests he met on his travels, “the golden, common thread was they were loving and selfless,” he says. “The consecrated life was somewhat strange, but I admired these people, and that slowly opened me to seeing it as an opportunity for myself.”

During his third and last inquiry retreat, in December 2008, while a graduate student at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, Paluch seriously considered aspirancy. “A life totally dedicated to God and to serving others, holy and filled with God’s love, was very attractive to me,” he says. “But I was going back and forth with, ‘Is this my call?’

“Then I had a conversation with a very wise Marianist priest, Father Paul Landolfi, who was in his 80s then, and he told me, ‘I would encourage you to make a decision, because I think it will free you.’ If I didn’t try the life, I thought the idea of it would have followed me. So in 2009, I decided to join the Marianists.”

What attracted Paluch then, and still does, he says, is, “Mary’s warmth of welcome to God and others. She gathers under her mantle people from all walks of life: rich and poor, from different cultures and with different ideas. She brings us together so we might be closer to each other and to her son. This is the deep meaning and root of UD community.”

Paluch is now in his third year of temporary profession. Coordinator of community outreach at UD’s Center for Social Concern, he connects students to social justice volunteer opportunities such as serving soup-kitchen meals and assisting people with disabilities. The students give of themselves “from a faith-based perspective,” he says, “answering the question of why they’re engaged in the work at all — because that’s what Jesus asks of us. Then, through self-reflection and conversations with me, they explore how their experiences connect with the ones they have at church and with the Scriptures.”

Paluch also counsels people during what he calls very tender parts of their journeys in life, whether it’s facing an uncertain future or the illness or death of a loved one. “Together in this community of faith, I hope to point out that God is alive and right here for them,” he says.

It’s community that provides the support for considering and committing oneself to living a consecrated life, says Tracey Horan ’10, a postulant with the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana. “I’m choosing to
make our mission and community central to each decision that I make.”

The 27-year-old learned a lot about religious community life while at UD. The summer between her junior and senior years, in 2009, she and four other students flew to Nairobi, Kenya, and lived with a men’s Marianist community for five weeks. Every day, they went to one of the largest slums in the country, Mukuru, and tutored youngsters eager to pass an eighth-grade test that would win them scholarships, allowing an escape from the slump.

“Having that consistent, common ministry and then talking about it during mealtimes, I saw the value of living together, rooted in Gospel values, and I drew strength from that,” she says.

After earning her bachelor’s at UD in middle childhood education and Spanish, Horan lived with the Sisters of Charity in El Paso, Texas, for two years. “You can visit communities and learn from books, but to sit down at the table with women called by the Gospel, dedicated to a common religious life, and see the passion, joy and struggles they experience together, and their perseverance, was very influential for me,” she says.

Irwin’s initial inspiration came from the nameake of his order, St. Francis de Sales, a bishop and famous author in the early 1600s. “He taught that everyone can be holy, that no matter who you are or what you do, you can live a holy life for God,” Irwin says. “I was attracted to this charisma also because it doesn’t require a heavy intellectual understanding of Christian life. The Oblates are very down-to-earth, and they work with the ‘common man’ to be holy. I don’t come from a wealthy background, so I like the idea of helping the everyday person.”

In his ministry at Crossroads of Michigan, a Detroit social service agency that offers emergency assistance, food, clothing and counseling, he says, “I give myself fully and completely to the needs of humanity and the Church. This gives me a sense of accountability. I’m vowing to God, consecrating myself to God, answering to God.”

While ministries take Irwin and others who are on this path out into the world, the world doesn’t always understand the life they’ve chosen.

“A lot of Catholics, especially older ones, remember the nuns in school as angry old women,” Irwin says. “Nowadays, I haven’t met a single ‘angry old woman.’ I’m trying to change that assumption, helping people see the truth, through conversations with them, and also through our actions, by the way we live and love people.”

The consecrated life also isn’t supported by mainstream culture, says Trahan: “It’s difficult to live the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience in our society today, one that’s so materialistic, focusing on individualism and the accumulation of things, and somewhat oversexualized.” What helps the most, she says, is prayer — and community.

But sharing space with others isn’t always easy, especially when it comes to obedience, says Bibeau.

“I cannot make some decisions without seeing how they could affect others in the community,” she says. “This requires me to compromise. Before I was in formation, I could take a weekend to visit my family or go on vacation with a friend. Now if I want to do those things, I need to ask other people and see if it works with everybody’s schedules, because maybe I’m needed for some ministry.”

Sometimes, Horan says, the test comes from within.

“During formation, you’re asked to look at yourself, your strengths, downfalls and struggles, and why you struggle. For me, it’s my stubbornness and my resistance to compromise even on small things like parts of the daily routine. It makes you feel very vulnerable,” she says. “It’s tough to dig through parts of my past that have made me who I am and recognize how this impacts my own discernment and ability to be present in community life. It’s very humbling. I’m learning to ask for support from others, but it’s not easy.”

For Irwin, living in community requires learning to love each other, in spite of the differences, Paluch agrees. He says, “Jesus taught us to love everybody, even our enemies. It’s a tall order to love like Jesus loves, to be merciful and accepting and compassionate. It’s something we can only do with God’s grace.”

With an eye toward a consecrated life, Horan says she feels part of something bigger than herself.

“That’s motivating, and it propels me to know that we have this common mission and call to follow the Gospel and be present to others in a way that shows radical love,” she says. “I feel like this life is where I fit the best, where I can most be my authentic self, and as a result, the gifts I have are magnified. Whatever I do give becomes more because I’m part of this life. I think I have a strong, prophetic voice in that I’m not easily satisfied when people’s needs are not being met or when there are injustices and people’s voices are not being heard. I have a gift for calling that out, and asking ourselves to be more of a society as people of God and to live up to the Gospel. And that means everyone is included and valued.”

Horan aspires to be more present in the moment: “I want to be more open to learning, open to others’ perspectives,” she says.

“And I hope to have the courage to respond when a ministry comes up, or some other opportunity, where my gifts would really fit.”

She sees herself in an advocacy role or as a community or labor organizer.

Irwin says parishes and dioceses should take on new roles, especially as more support is becoming available to those who need it most.

“For example, the poor now have greater access to health care,” he says, “So what can we make happen there that hasn’t been thought of yet? I don’t know the answer to that, but the pope is a good example of someone who’s open to new ways of thinking and doing things.”

Who doesn’t want to make the world a better place? For Bibeau, that world includes herself.

“I want to remain open to growth and learning and become more comfortable about what it means to be a religious sister and more trusting of God and how God is working in my life,” she says. The earliest she could take temporary vows is in about two years. After that, “I don’t know. It depends on what your gifts are, and that’s something you discern with the community.”

Here’s something Bibeau does know: She’s honoring religious community, as Pope Francis asks the world’s Catholics to do, by observing the Year of Consecrated Life. It’s the people who choose that life who pulled her to the path to begin with. In their holiness, she saw the happiness the pope says young people like herself will attain, helping the consecrated life thrive.

Each day brings Bibeau closer to living it and being like the people who already do. Meanwhile, together in community, cooking meals and doing chores, talking and eating ice cream — “and especially praying,” she says — “I feel like I’m a better version of myself.”

Claire Sykes is a freelance writer based in Portland, Oregon.
To get into the NCAA Tournament, a team needs skill. To compete with the best team in the nation requires an additional something special.

This year, the Flyer women had both.
The clamor of pep bands still echoed around the emptying arena where 7,686 fans had cheered on a game that showcased the best of women’s basketball, including lightning passes and sprints across the centerline that had even the mascots in a sweat.

But outside, it was quiet on the Flyers’ idling bus. Six-foot-4-inch center Jodie Cornelie-Sigmundova shuffled down the aisle carrying a 3-foot poster board of her head. Screaming fans had waved it an hour ago. Now, in the dim light of the bus, it was an anachronism.

Players sat alone, faces in cell phones, waiting for

By MICHELLE TEDFORD
Photos by LEON CHUCK
Believe.

the long trip home after the team’s largest loss of the season.

Whether it was from exhaustion or dejection, coach Jim Jabir wasn’t having it.

Listen up, he said. You need to hear three things:

“Coach [Geno] Auriemma just told the whole world and me that we’re the best team he’s played in the last five years.

“UConn assistant coach Chris Dailey came running back to me and said, ‘I don’t know what you do, but every one of your kids looked us in the eye when we shook hands. That’s special.’

“And a member of the ESPN crew went out of his way to tell me that, in his 35 years, he’s never enjoyed being around a group as much as my team.”

Two weeks later, Jabir sat in his Cronin Center office reflecting on his team’s historic run to the Elite Eight, including its first-half lead against top-ranked and eventual national champion Connecticut, something no other team accomplished this season. He was so proud.

“I think we ask a lot of them, “ Jabir said of his players, “and when they get it right, they need to hear it.”

The women’s basketball team got a lot right this season. The regular season saw the Flyers go 28-7 overall and win the Atlantic 10 regular-season title with a record of 14-2. The team’s four-year seniors topped 100 career wins during their fourth — and the program’s sixth — consecutive NCAA Tournament appearance.

And then there was the NCAA Tournament run and the game that impressed UConn’s coaches and the rest of the basketball world.

The season was defined by teamwork and hard work, locker-room dances and goofy jokes, skill and perseverance. Most of all, the team believed it could win, so it did, over and over, along the way becoming one of the eight best women’s programs in the nation.

WHEN THE CHEERLEADERS JUMPED IN unison, it made your stomach do a little flip. Several hundred fans packed into the Time Warner Cable Flight Deck with the pep band and cheerleaders for the 2015 NCAA Division I Women’s Basketball Selection Show March 16. At every syllable of D-A-Y-T-O-N, the cheerleaders bounced, and the floor suspended above the UD Arena swayed just a bit.

That feeling of having your feet not firmly planted under you — whether from excitement or uncertainty — was familiar to Flyer fans this season. At the selection show it was butterflies of anticipation, just as it was at the very start of the season. Returning were seniors Ally Malott, Andrea Hoover and Tiffany Johnson among a talented cast that included Jenna Burdette, a freshman point guard who would help direct the team’s winning offense.

But the season started with trips west that had the Flyers losing three of their first four games. Inexperienced players fouled and sent opponents to the line. Slow rotations left the opposing players with wide-open shots. UD’s bigs got beat on the inside.

Making mistakes — and learning from them — was what the Flyers were there to do, Jabir said after a 90-83 loss to Iowa at Carver-Hawkeye Arena.

And learn they did. After a 77-33 win at home Jan. 21 over the Rhode Island Rams, Hoover told the Dayton Daily News that depth and consistency had become hallmarks of this year’s team.

“You can’t focus on just one player,” she said of her opponents’ strategy playing the Flyers. “If you do, the other four on the floor can hurt you. We got away from that a little at the beginning this year, but we’re getting back to it now, and it’s making us a better team.”

Losing, it turned out, made them more motivated.

Three times this season, the Flyers met George Washington on the court. Dayton played — and lost — both home and away, and then faced the Colonials again in the Atlantic 10 tournament final.

The Flyers adjusted their game to contain 6-4 forward Jonquel Jones — but instead of succeeding, they broke everything they had built. They didn’t get beat by just Jones, Hoover said; the Flyers got beat by the entire Colonials team. Final score: 75-62.

“A lot of people doubted us because, how can you guys lose to the same team three times?” Hoover said, noting she heard rumblings that the Flyers didn’t belong in the NCAA Tournament. “It made us kind of angry.”

Anger can be a strong motivator. So can

Head coach Jim Jabir: ‘I don’t know what it is — maturity? — but when we’ve been in the huddle in the last two or three games, there’s a different look on their faces, a different look in their eyes, and they really, really believe that we’re going to get this done.’
feeling slighted, like when the team received a lower-than-expected No. 7 seed on Selection Monday.

First up for the Flyers in the round of 64 was 16th-seed Iowa State, a game played in Lexington, Kentucky. Another slight came from President Barack Obama, who filled out his NCAA bracket and picked the Flyers to lose to these sharpshooters. The Flyers beat Iowa State, 78-66.

“We busted his bracket,” Hoover said.

Next up for the Flyers in the round of 32 was No. 2-seed Kentucky on March 22. Media coverage before the game all but ordained an eventual Elite Eight meeting between Kentucky and UConn.

But being discounted didn’t dampen the Flyers’ conviction. In fact, players said it was this second-round game — played on Kentucky’s home court in front of 3,300 fans in blue surrounding a small section of red — that solidified the Flyers’ belief in themselves.

The game was a scorcher, with nine lead changes and nine ties. Going into a timeout, the Flyers were down 10 but never felt out of the hunt.

“I was never scared, even though it was so close,” said Malott, who ended the game with a team-high 28 points and 13 rebounds. “In games in the past, I could feel it slipping away — you try to do something about it, but you can’t.”

This time, she said, everyone stepped up.

Eight Flyers played, necessitated by five fouls that sat Hoover on the bench for nearly half the game. Cornelie-Sigmundova and Burdette also fouled out.

Jabir said that every time someone was needed, she stepped up. Sophomore Saicha Grant-Allen came in for Cornelie-Sigmundova and scored six. Junior Amber Deane added 23 points in 28 minutes played, including a 3 with 24 seconds left that put the Flyers up by four. Senior Tiffany Johnson sunk all four of her shots from the free-throw line late in the game. Junior Kelley Austria scored 17, including a 3 that gave the Flyers the lead for good.

In the second half, Dayton made 64 percent of its shots and five of its eight 3-point attempts. For the game, the Flyers were 28 of 31 from the free-throw line.

Final score: Flyers 99, Wildcats 94, and UD’s first ticket to the Sweet 16.

In the locker room, freshman JaVonna Layfield danced. Cornelie-Sigmundova jumped from floor to bench, head thrown back in a victorious cry. Sophomores Christy Macioce and Andrijana Cvitkovic hugged teammates. When Jabir entered the locker room, Malott believed, but she credits the coaching staff for believing first. It’s easy to tell you to believe — we want you to believe … “And we believe.”

That belief is what carried the program to its first Sweet 16, in Albany, New York, March 28. The opponent, No. 3-seed Louisville, had experience — five other Sweet 16 appearances since 2008. This would be Dayton’s first — big game, national stage, and focused media attention on the players, the coach and the Sweet 16 tattoo he promised he’d get to commemorate the big day.

The game’s first half was plagued by lead changes and turnovers, including two Flyer passes to the red Louisville Cardinal mascot instead of a red-jerseyed teammate. Dayton led by only a point at halftime, but the second half couldn’t have been choreographed any better. A 3-pointer from Deane capped an 11-2 run. The Flyers made 21 of 25 free throws. At one point, Hoover dribbled and drove to the basket, pirouetted past a defender, and stopped a and popped in a 2.

This is why they call it dancing.

The final score over Louisville was 82-66, with the Flyers winning a spot in the NCAA Elite Eight, another first for Dayton’s program.

DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE
Sunday before the Elite Eight game, Jabir had an answer to the question everyone was asking: Does your team have a chance against No. 1 UConn?

Well, he said, it would be really dumb if we didn’t believe we did.

“I think lots of people thought we were going to Kentucky and lose, and I think a lot of people thought we were going to come here yesterday and lose” to Louisville, he said. “And our kids didn’t. I don’t know what it is — maturity? — but when we’ve been in the huddle in the last two or three games, there’s a different look on their faces, a different look in their eyes, and they really, really believe that we’re going to get this done.

“So who am I to tell them that they’re not?” Malott believed, but she credits the coaching staff for believing first. It’s easy to tell
WOMEN’S BASKETBALL
overall record: 28-7
A-10 record: 14-2

2015 NCAA Tournament

No. 7 seed

NCAA First Round
78
win over
No. 10
Iowa State
66

NCAA Second Round
94
win over
No. 2
Kentucky
66

NCAA Sweet 16
82
win over
No. 3
Louisville
66

NCAA Elite Eight
91
loss to
No. 1
Connecticut
70

when a coach is just saying something to get you to work hard, she said. That wasn’t what was happening here.

The night before the UConn game, Malott stood with her teammates waiting for a table at Delmonico’s Italian Steakhouse. Life-sized caricatures of Frank Sinatra, Al Pacino and Madonna beckoned from the walls behind them, but the players focused on the television in front of them. No. 1 seed Duke was beating No. 2 seed Gonzaga in the last men’s Elite Eight game of the season. Earlier that day, No. 7 seed Michigan State won a Final Four spot; it would be the only low seed to compete.

“If they win,” Malott said of Duke, “it will be like the women’s Final Four: one-seed, one-seed, one-seed, seven-seed.”

If No. 7 seed Dayton beat UConn.

It was a big “if,” by all accounts. The Huskies were 35-1 going into the Elite Eight, beating their opponents by an average of more than 44 points. Nine-time NCAA national champions since 1995, the Huskies were coming in on a roll, having won championships in both 2013 and 2014.

Being the No. 1-ranked team in the nation for so many seasons lends a certain mystique, one that usually intimidates opponents and puts the Huskies up by an easy 20 early.

No one on Dayton’s team was going to let that happen. As they took the court, Dayton controlled the pace, with freshman Burdette sinking the first field goal of the game. The first half was fast-paced, with an average of 15 seconds ticking off the clock between shots. The lead changed 15 times and was tied 10 times, one score balanced by another at the other end. Austria had 11 points in the first, including a zig-zag-zig around UConn defenders for a 2.

And then the halftime buzzer rang, and the audience exhaled for the first time in 20 minutes of play. Dayton was up by a point, 44-43. It was the first time UConn had trailed at the half this season — and the first time an opponent had scored so many points against UConn in a first half since March 1, 2008.

“I wanted to run right past the locker room and get on the bus, go home,” said Jabir, his characteristic crooked smile revealing the truth in his wisecrack. “I did, I don’t know if we could have played better, and I knew [UConn was] going to make adjustments. But in those 20 minutes, it was ideal.

“We were fearless; we were not intimidated — the whole NCAA Tournament, we were never intimidated; we were never fearful. We didn’t have to get them mentally prepared for the inevitable. [Our players] thought they were going to win every game they played — that was so cool. Then to catch and shoot and drive, and it was so — including Connecticut — it was so pretty just running up and down, such freedom and flow. It was a beautiful thing to watch.”

In the locker room at halftime, the Flyers went about their normal routine: while the coaching staff discussed strategy in another room, the players analyzed their own performance. They gathered around a whiteboard with Malott as scribe and ticked off what they needed to improve:

- Rebound
- One-on-one defense
- Keep attacking
- Get on (Kaleena) Mosqueda-Lewis — stop her

“He puts a lot of the decision-making on us,” Malott said. The point guard is expected to survey the court and call the plays; the players analyze their performance and anticipate their opponents’ next moves.

Coaches and players finished the halftime with this certainty: UConn would adjust to regain control. That’s how the Huskies came to be No. 1 — skill, intensity, adaptability and killer 3-pointers from senior Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis. The Flyers’ goal: maintain pace and keep UConn from going on a run.

It worked for the first 10 minutes, but then a one-point gain fell to an eight-point deficit that grew through the half. Mosqueda-Lewis kept her footing from beyond the arc, setting an NCAA career 3-point record with 395 baskets made.

The Flyers never regained the lead.

And they never gave up. Buried in the final score of 91-70 is a first half for the record books — and memory books.

“This is something I’ll remember for the rest of my life,” Malott said, “and it’s the way to go out.”

MALOTT’S MEMORY MAY BE LONG, BUT BASKETBALL’S is not, despite the Flyers receiving much media attention during the weeks around its NCAA Tournament run.

“The cynic in me understands that this is temporary,” Jabir said. “If we have a losing record next year, no one will remember who I was. So you try to do the best you can now to gain as much from it and enjoy it, understanding that you never stay the same; you either get better or you get worse. My whole point of being right now is to get better.”

That includes answering calls from recruits who this winter never bothered calling him back. It means vetting 12 potential transfers, all interested in playing for that team they saw on TV. His coaching staff watched hours of video, talked to coaches who played against the prospects, met the women to get a feel for their personal and professional goals. Would they be a good fit with the Flyer basketball family? Would they be part of the UD community? Or were the players simply shopping for a shinier jersey with a more successful school?

“I rely on my gut a lot,” he said. “Is the kid being sincere? Sometimes your judgment is right, and sometimes it’s wrong. You try your best.”

One of those Jabir added to the roster was junior Madeline Blais of Marist College, who will bring both
shooting and league tournament experience to the team. As a transfer, she’ll sit out until the 2016-17 season.

While it’s all about making the program better, he’s also a pragmatist and understands the limits of what he can do. You can teach good players to play the game well, he said. But that small pool of really great players? They’re still all headed to UConn. And Stanford. And Notre Dame. And Tennessee.

“It’s difficult to do what we did this year—it’s very difficult,” Jabir said. “… I don’t know if, in the real world, Dayton should aspire to be more than a first- or second-round team—I don’t know.”

The success of recent years was enough to make Tim Wabler ’74 smile as he sat in Albany after the Sweet 16 game. The vice president and director of athletics said the University made a conscious decision to commit resources to both women’s and men’s basketball programs, and it’s paying off for the school, the players and the fans. Case in point: the growing attendance at the women’s games and the good show fans see at UD Arena.

He’s also excited to see both the women’s and men’s teams playing so far into March each year.

“The success of recent years was enough to make Tim Wabler ’74 smile as he sat in Albany after the Sweet 16 game. The vice president and director of athletics said the University made a conscious decision to commit resources to both women’s and men’s basketball programs, and it’s paying off for the school, the players and the fans. Case in point: the growing attendance at the women’s games and the good show fans see at UD Arena.

“He made this test just to make sure that when I made my decision, if for some crazy reason I ended up not playing basketball, I’d want to still go to that university,” said Hoover, a Bellbrook, Ohio, native who started for the Flyers all four years and set a UD career record for made 3-point baskets at 239.

“She checked boxes for “big school” or “small school,” whether she’d play right away or sit on the bench. There were also boxes about the academics and the culture of the schools.

Flyers, he and his coaching staff have moved the team from a 3-25 season to the NCAA Elite Eight, including six consecutive NCAA Tournament bids.

They’ve elevated the program, sometimes one player at a time. Jabir ticks off the list of those on whose shoulders this year’s team stands: Kendel Ross ’10, Kristin Daugherty ’11, Patrice Lalor ’12, Justine Raterman ’12. Each brought exceptional individual skill, he said, but they also inspired and elevated those around them.

You could call it good coaching strategy. Jabir instead calls it luck.

He’s seen recruits choose the shiniest, biggest schools for the names on their jerseys; but Ally Malott ’15 picked Dayton over Notre Dame. Daughterty, Raterman and Lalor, also Ohioans, were more interested in staying close to home than chasing big spotlights.

Andrea Hoover ’15 didn’t want the pressure of a recruiting process. Instead, she sat at home with a sheet of paper handed to her by her dad.

“He made this test just to make sure that when I made my decision, if for some crazy reason I ended up not playing basketball, I’d want to still go to that university,” said Hoover, a Bellbrook, Ohio, native who started for the Flyers all four years and set a UD career record for made 3-point baskets at 239.

“They were also boxes about the academics and the culture of the schools. You have to like the people, like the community, the school, the teachers.”

Jabir said his younger self tried to impress recruits, selling them on the program, the school, even himself as a coach.

“I don’t sell anymore,” he said. “Now I just say, ‘This is who we are, this is what we can do, this is what you can do for us. And if you are interested …’”

Family is a big part of that. At a winning game, the person giving him a congratulatory hug is as likely to be his daughter, Lauren, as it is one of his players. At the NCAA Tournament games in Albany, New York, Jabir’s mother, Rose, sat beside his assistant coach from Marquette. His sons Shane and Jackson cheered alongside the parents of current players. His family joined team dinners. After the loss to UConn, Raterman texted him from her apartment in Beavercreek, Ohio, to say how proud she was to be a Flyer.

“You could say it’s important for Jabir to have the personal and professional parts of his life interact in such a fluid way, but he’d tell you he has no choice.

“I want the team to know [the family], and the family to know them,” he said. “That’s who I am.”

We are family

For Flyer head coach Jim Jabir, the success of this season started back with what he calls his “decisive failure” at Providence College in Rhode Island. He had come off phenomenal success at Marquette, where, as head coach, he led the Golden Eagles to their first Great Midwest Tournament championship and NCAA Tournament bid.

But he was a boy who grew up in Brooklyn, so he left success in the Midwest to coach for Providence in the Big East.

There, fortunes changed. From 1996 to 2002, he amassed six losing seasons.

Jabir said that at Providence, he wanted to recruit players driven by the same values that propel him — determination, honesty, a strong work ethic. He also wanted players with skill to perform on the court.

Jabir said it was hard to compete against other schools that often snapped up his top recruits.

“I took some kids I really didn’t like because they were OK players, and that was a disaster,” Jabir said.

He lost a lot of games but, in the process, he found his compass. In 2002, Jabir left Providence with a year left on his contract.

“I promised myself that if I was ever a head coach again, I would develop a value-based culture with good kids with those qualities,” he said.

Jabir got that chance in 2003 at Dayton. In his 12 seasons with the
History, chapter by chapter

Historic. Unprecedented. The women’s basketball team’s 2015 run to the Elite Eight earned those descriptors and more as the Flyers advanced farther in the NCAA Tournament than any other squad in school history.

The 2014-15 team set a new standard for success at UD in the NCAA era, but the athletes who ruled the court in the late 1970s and early 1980s were the first to establish the school’s reputation as a women’s basketball stronghold.

And they did it in style. In 1980, two years before the NCAA began sponsoring a women's basketball tournament, the Flyers won the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women Division II national championship, going 36-2 on their way to an 83-53 victory over College of Charleston in the championship game. A year earlier, the 1978-79 team rolled to a 33-3 record and a runner-up finish in the AIAW Division II title game, falling to South Carolina State, 73-68, in Fargo, North Dakota.

“It was a great experience, but it was also expected,” said Ann Meyers ’80, the school’s all-time leading scorer for men’s and women’s basketball with 2,672 points, and leading rebounder for women’s basketball with 1,293 boards. “All of the key players from the 1979 team returned as juniors and seniors in 1980, and the expectation was that we would win it all.”

In addition to Meyers, who also won national honors at UD in volleyball, the team included UD Athletics Hall of Fame members Beverly Crusoe ’80, Carol Lammers ’81 and Tammy Stritenberger ’81. All finished their collegiate careers with more than 1,300 points, and two had more than 1,000 rebounds. Stritenberger collected 593 assists, still a UD record.

Most of the key players were Dayton-area natives who had some familiarity with one another, having taken the court as opponents in high school. Playing together for their hometown university made their success all the more special, Stritenberger said, as well as having their families in the stands to cheer them on.

Before the NCAA decided at its annual convention in 1981 to serve as the governing body for women’s college sports, the AIAW was the organizational umbrella for female college athletes and intercollegiate competition. It grew from 280 member schools when it started in 1971, a year before the passage of Title IX, to 971 member schools, 41 national championships in 19 sports, and a four-year television contract with NBC in 1980. The AIAW would remain in existence until June 1982, and, for a short period, both bodies hosted women’s championships.

Although UD competed in the AIAW’s Small College division tournament, the Flyers proved their mettle against much larger programs. During the 1980 championship season, UD played teams such as Indiana, Illinois, Purdue, Michigan, Ohio State, Cincinnati, Louisville, DePaul, West Virginia and Northwestern, falling only to Northwestern by three points. A 70-68 loss to Edinboro State (Pennsylvania) was the only other blemish on UD’s record that year, and, on their way to the title, the Flyers put together winning streaks of 16 and 18 games.

Meyers said the team had strong support from UD and the greater Dayton community, including the local media. Women’s basketball games at UD Arena were often played as the first of a doubleheader with a men's game, and because of the women’s team’s success, “it wasn’t uncommon for season ticket holders to come to the men’s games a little earlier and catch the end of ours,” she said.

By the time the crowds arrived, the women were often up by 15 or 20 points. The entire lower arena was full for the 1980 AIAW tournament games, which UD hosted, with an appreciative crowd cheering the team as it captured the title.

After winning the championship, University President Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., ensured that all team members, coaches and trainers received rings honoring their accomplishment. Less than a decade after the passage of Title IX, the federal act that mandated equal opportunities for women in education, including athletics, UD had given its full support to female athletes on campus.

“There were so many people behind the scenes who did so many things to support us,” Stritenberger said. “Members of the athletics department took it upon themselves to have us play before the men so we could have some fans in the stands. There was a vision there to support women’s athletics. It was very insightful.”

The community’s embrace, team chemistry, and leadership from junior and senior players were among the consistent factors Meyers noticed about the experiences of the 1980 and 2015 teams, the latter of which now holds its own place in UD athletics history.

“They were just so fun to watch,” Meyers said. “The team was outstanding, and the program just continues to get better.”

—Shannon Shelton Miller
"The kids are resilient," Anybody who followed the 2014-15 men’s Flyer basketball team saw that.

Athletic trainer Mike Mulcahey saw it up close as he worked seven days a week to keep the Flyers on the floor.

“We had, “ he said, “a lot of overuse injuries. “

The Flyers were down to six scholarship players (senior Jordan Sibert; junior Dyshawn Pierre; sophomores Kyle Davis, Kendall Pollard and Scoochie Smith; and freshman Darrell Davis) until junior walk-on Bobby Wehrli was given a scholarship. None are over 6’6”.

They may have been down to seven in numbers, but they were not down in spirit. “They had mantras: ‘next play’ or ‘next game,’” Mulcahey said. “They would just show up and go to work. “

Showing up meant at least an hour and a half in the training room before each practice — and an hour after. “And some kids would be there in the morning, “ Mulcahey said.

Sundays were days off from basketball. “But I did do treatments, “ Mulcahey said, “before and after study tables. “

Overused knees developed a constant tendinitis. Rotator cuffs were strained. “Everything hurt, “ Mulcahey said. “And, traveling a lot, they were good at getting bronchitis and colds. Dental issues — the usual cavities and teeth knocked out. “

Road trips were a particular challenge. Managers and walk-ons helped carry Mulcahey’s equipment: portable training tables, a muscle stimulation machine, compression recovery boots, “game ready” (a device to apply cold and compression at the same time), a portable massage machine.

“From the bus to the hotel room, “ Mulcahey said, “took at least two trips. “

Each night on the road, players received two hours of treatment.

Two trips were especially stressful. Dayton played St. Bonaventure (in the mountains of New York, not the most accessible of places) on a Thursday and Fordham on a Saturday. After beating the Bonnies, 78-61, the Flyers — with only one day to mend their bodies — beat Fordham, 76-58.

The game at Duquesne presented an even quicker turnaround. Playing in Dayton on Thursday night, the Flyers had a five-hour bus trip to Pittsburgh for the Saturday afternoon game. “Recovery was
just not there,” Mulcahey said. “I asked, ‘What will I do in Brooklyn (site of the A-10 tournament)?’”

When Dayton’s regular-season record earned a first-round bye in the tournament, “I may have been the happiest fellow in the world,” Mulcahey said. “We had an extra full day of rest.”

Immediately after the A-10 title game, the team went to a restaurant to watch the NCAA selection show. The first round was to be at home, and soon. “We had a lot of nagging injuries,” Mulcahey said. “We worked on trying to keep them from getting worse.”

They were resilient enough to beat Boise State in the NCAA First Four. After the game, the team was on a bus to Columbus. “We arrived at 2 a.m.,” Mulcahey said. “I treated guys until 4 a.m.”

And then another victory.

For details of the Flyers’ 27-9 season, see daytonflyers.com. Jordan Sibert graduated May 3. The rest of the team returns next year — with reinforcements.
Making people laugh

ROBERT MONTGOMERY ’55

If you spent any time in the Louisville area in the past 50 years, there’s a good chance you’ve been invited by Bob Montgomery ’55 to visit his dealership on “wide, wide Dixie Highway.”

The proud owner of Bob Montgomery Chevrolet for nearly 55 years is famous in the Louisville area for his commercials. They featured him adopting various personas and performing — along with a stunt double — some wacky antics. From “Skydivin’ Bob” and “Bungee Bob” to “Daredevil Bob” and “Brakin’ Bob,” which featured Montgomery breakdancing. Montgomery always hoped to make people laugh.

“We always wanted to have fun with those commercials and feature some kind of craze that was popular at the time, like the X-Games or something like that,” he says. “We wanted to be different than the other dealerships that just yell about deals, so we tried to make people laugh. And people still recognize me from those commercials to this day.”

Entering the automotive industry was a no-brainer for Montgomery. He began working at his father’s dealership in 1958 after spending two years in the Army following his years at UD. After some time in the business, he added Bob Montgomery Dixie Honda to his responsibilities. Montgomery cherished his time spent in the industry and the impact he was able to have on the lives of others.

“It really was the American dream,” Montgomery says. “I was lucky enough to employ around 100 people at my dealerships for all those years, and I was grateful to be able to provide opportunities for so many people. I really enjoyed being able to serve, build relationships with customers and make things happen for people, and I looked forward to going to work every single day.”

Even after selling his final dealership in the summer of 2014, Montgomery says he is “by no means retired.” He keeps busy with pursuits that include The First Montgomery Co., a real estate firm started by his father in 1923, and First Kentucky Trust, a real estate and wealth management firm where he serves on the board of directors.

Montgomery is just one in a long lineage of UD graduates. He is one of eight children — six of whom attended UD, including Roy ’50, Schu ’51, Rich ’53, Suzanne ’58 and Adolph ’58.

“So did my daughter Madge Montgomery Roshkowski ’85 as well as my granddaughter Mallory Roshkowski ’15. It definitely runs in our family” — and from the Dixie Highway all the way to UD.

—Tom Corcoran ’13

Golden Flyers

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It took him nearly 10 years — and quite a few bus rides — but George Sherer Jr. finally got his college degree.

Following his honorable discharge from the U.S. Army in 1947, Sherer — a Dayton native who enlisted in the military after graduating from Roosevelt High School — returned home and enrolled at UD on a part-time basis, taking classes at night.

“When I started, it was $3 or $6 per credit hour,” he said. “The first few years, I didn’t have an automobile, so I had to take the bus.”

Taking the slow-and-steady route allowed for some unique experiences, however. Sherer recalled seeing Flyer basketball star Bill Uhl Sr. ‘56 on campus (“You couldn’t miss him, he was 7-feet tall.”) and learning economics from professor and future Congressman Charles Whalen ‘42. (“He often gave me passes to travel to Washington, D.C., to visit the Capitol.”)

“I met a lot of good people,” said Sherer, who went on to work as a financial manager in the Systems Project Office of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Another common campus sighting in his early UD years: his wife, Ethel Stevens Sherer ‘49. The couple met in high school and celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary in April. One of the first African-American women to attend the University, Ethel was active in a number of campus groups, her husband reports.

“She was on the basketball team — in those days, women played half-court basketball. She was also on the field hockey and rifle teams and sang in the mixed chorus.”

Both Sherers continued their education long after graduation. Ethel taught elementary school for 31 years, and George recently signed up for computer classes at Sinclair Community College. He puts his new skills to use by creating pamphlets and brochures for the Ancient Square Lodge, where he’s a member.

“I know all about Microsoft Office now,” he laughs. “There’s always something left to learn.”
—Ryan Wilker ’16
Life’s a test

JEANNE BENE NORDLOF ’65

Hailing from a blue-collar, inner-city Catholic neighborhood in Cleveland, Jeanne Bene Nordlof felt there was a bigger world waiting outside her hometown.

“We were trying to find our way in the world and we didn’t want our parents’ way,” she says. “I knew there was more.”

The first step was her decision to attend UD, where she met instructors who introduced her to the growing field of medical technology.

“I have a real passion for science. I don’t know how to explain it,” she says. “And we needed to go out and have an experience in order to grow.”

So that’s what Nordlof did. She entered the medical testing industry with the front-runners in automation in California in 1965, when tests were manual and gruesome. Nordlof was in the forefront of the development of new technology and studies that helped physicians make better decisions about patient care.

After raising a family, traveling in a fast-paced industry, and earning master’s degrees in medical technology and education, it was time for another change. She visited a friend’s farm in Oregon during the 1990s and decided to move.

“The farm was so peaceful, so wonderful,” she says. “We decided the time was right.”

She quickly got a job at Peace Health, a reference lab started by nuns who wanted to provide health care to remote areas. Now retired from her full-time job as a senior chemist for high-end testing industry with the front-runners in automation in California in 1965, when tests were manual and gruesome. Nordlof was in the forefront of the development of new technology and studies that helped physicians make better decisions about patient care.

Through all of her transitions, Nordlof has always embraced the idea that humans are physical, spiritual, creative and intellectual.

“I’m always reading, always learning,” she says. “You have to feed all parts of you. Some people hope their job does all of it, but you have to find balance.”

—CC Hutten ’15
Mystery of life

ELAINE ORR ‘73

As an author, Elaine Orr finds inspiration in deep oceans, long road trips, fresh soil and everything in between. A career that took her overseas, family trips to Maryland and digging in her garden have all served as foundations for her mystery books.

Orr used her political science degree as director of international liaison at the Government Accountability Office and as an analyst at the National Academy of Public Administration. She ended a public service career with five years as a congressional staffer. Although the work kept her busy, she still found time to pursue another passion: writing.

Orr took some English classes at UD and studied writing at the University of Maryland, Georgetown University’s School of Continuing Education and the Iowa Summer Writing Festival.

“I was always interested in reading and writing,” Orr said. “I write mysteries because that’s what my mom read. She thought that anything could be turned into a mystery.”

Pragmatism and an eye for a story have helped Orr find storylines in life experiences. While traveling, she found the perfect setting for her Jolie Gentil mystery series: The Jersey Shore. It reminds her of the Maryland beaches she visited as a child, and she made the main character a real estate appraiser, with “a schedule flexible enough to get into trouble and a profession that appeals to male and female readers.”

The series now has eight books and a prequel. Orr is also working on a new series about a newspaper reporter-turned-gardener who makes an unpleasant discovery her first day on the job.

“I can write almost every day, or give myself permission to not write for a while, but when I’m not doing it, I’m thinking about it,” she said.

Orr has written several other fiction and nonfiction books and leads classes for those interested in learning how to self-publish books electronically. In between books and lectures, she finds time to stop by campus for occasional visits.

“UD meant more to me than any other period of my life,” Orr said.

—Erin Callahan ’15

1972

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The 101 Woodland Warriors

of the early 1970s always stay true to their traditions.

“Our house was known as the coolest house,” said Phil “Opie” Opinante ’74. “None of us were crazy party animals, we just had a lot of fun. We’re still very tight… lifelong friends that came out of the University of Dayton.”

In September 1973, six soon-to-be lifelong friends signed a lease as the first tenants to live in 101 Woodland under a private owner. Danny “Do-It-All” Brabender, “Pistol” Pete Certo, Rick “Blue Eyes” Suminski, Tom “the General” Witkowski, Steve “Motts” Sarsfield and Opinante began their senior year of epic traditions, ranging from rough rugby games to 3 a.m. breakfasts.

Opinante said he and his roommates were quite involved on campus; they played on the rugby club team and were members of Chi Sigma Alpha.

“Whenever we had an away game, we would be dying to get back into the car because we never wanted to miss a night at UD,” Opinante said. “In all four years, we never missed a party.”

Other traditions included special nights designated for themed shenanigans that the 101 Woodland Warriors would make sure to celebrate at least once a semester for three years. At pajama parties, they would invite anyone over to hang out for the night, but with a strict no-normal-clothes rule. On Viking Night, friends would make a huge meal, spread it out on a long table, and eat without silverware, drinking out of coconut halves.

Now, they almost never miss a reunion weekend, always revisiting Woodland Cemetery (to get a good view of the city) and finding time for a nice dinner at The Pine Club.

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“My Old House 1974

101 Woodland

It’s my life,” Opinante said. “That’s why we keep coming back. That’s why I come back. A lot of traditions, a lot of community.”

—CC Hutten ’15
JOE LIPINSKI ‘75 (EDS) and CYNTHIA “CINDY” DUVALL LIPINSKI ‘92 (EDS) live in Springboro, Ohio. Joe writes, "I was proud to sing the National Anthem at the Dec. 30, 2014, men’s basketball game as the Knights of Columbus presented the colors. I am part of the UD mentor program, a member of Varsity D, a former intercollegiate athletics equipment manager and a recipient of UD’s Father Adrian McCarthy Award for teaching of freshman composition."

A five-varsity-letter recipient while at UD, Lipinski served as equipment manager for every sport except basketball, sending him to the Stagg Bowl twice. He still frequented UD Arena in the early-to-mid-1990s as videographer for the Flyerettes dance team, cheerleaders and UD Fly Girls, and today, he volunteers there as an usher. “I ended up with a Panasonic video camera — I still have it — and UD didn’t need a videographer for football or basketball, so on a lark I proposed videoing the other groups, and it turned into a six-year job,” he explained.

—Audrey Starr
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Good call
JEFF SZINK ’82
By weekday, Jeff Szink engineers children’s playthings; come the weekend, he’s calling a different kind of play.
An industrial engineer with the assembly team at Little Tikes Toy Co. in Hudson, Ohio, he has a much different profession on Sat-

1990
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The path Kathleen Duffy Bruder took to the Pennsylvania governor’s office started in a small Bronx apartment.

In January, Bruder, a UD School of Law graduate, returned to private practice with a Pennsylvania firm after finishing a four-year term as deputy chief of staff for former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett. She worked primarily as the governor’s liaison with the departments of transportation, community and economic development, and labor and industry.

During her tenure, she was instrumental in the passing of Act 89, Pennsylvania’s transportation bill that will invest more than $2.3 billion in infrastructure during the plan’s first five years.

“It was an amazing opportunity to work as part of a team, toward bipartisanship, to get things accomplished and to help contribute to making good things happen for the state of Pennsylvania,” Bruder said.

Before joining the Corbett team, Bruder worked in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, as in-house counsel practicing employment law for an insurance company, and as a partner in private practice litigating and specializing in employment and labor relations. Corbett’s campaign contacted her in 2010 to help with research, and her part-time role morphed into a full-time position after he took office.

It was a long journey from her first job as a legal secretary in the New York City metro area, a position she obtained through a temp agency in the midst of a recession, but she credits the lessons she learned at UD and from her parents for her career’s upward trajectory.

“I give so much credit to my parents for showing me the value of hard work and giving me the confidence to follow my dreams and seize opportunities,” Bruder said.

“From a one-bedroom apartment in the Bronx, all the way to sitting next to and advising the governor of Pennsylvania, the values they instilled guided me every step of the way.”
—Tom Corcoran ’13
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DANIEL ORI '07

Are you an agricultural applicator who needs assistance with the proper tank mixing sequence of crop protection products? There’s an app for that, made by marketing graduate Daniel Ori. “The only experience I had was driving through the corn fields from Chicago to Dayton,” he said. “I had to learn a lot about the agriculture business in a short amount of time.”

Ori began work on his Mix Tank app at Precision Laboratories after graduation; it was soon awarded AgProfessional magazine’s Readers’ Choice Top Product of the Year for 2011. Traditionally, the award is granted to companies that produce physical products, such as pesticide, Ori noted.

“The ag industry has trailed the consumer industry for years,” Ori said. “The editors found out how valuable the app is for the industry and demanded it be included in the awards.”

Ori said he was humbled by the award — then got back to work. Soon, he was working on Version 2.0.

“This brought a huge profile to the company. We wanted to bring awareness to the app, and that is just what we did,” Ori said. “For our small organization, this led to new partnerships with multibillion-dollar companies.”

He hasn’t worked on the Mix Tank app in more than two years, but that experience helped him move on to a more prolific marketing career. Currently, he manages search marketing for clients such as Sprint.

“It’s definitely a different atmosphere from my first job, but it’s been an incredible experience,” Ori said. “Working for such a major brand, in the advertising world, has been non-stop crazy.”

He even gets to rub elbows with some fellow Flyers.

“I work with a number of UD alumni,” Ori said. “It’s a big world out there, but our community makes it a lot smaller.”

―Michelle Friman ’18
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2009

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classnotes@udayton.edu.
Can you UDentify us?

“Future radio stars learn to work with the equipment and practice technique” read the caption for this photo from the 1995 Daytonian. Anyone here become a radio star? Anyone remember radio? Tune in to your station full of memories and identify these students; email magazine@udayton.edu. And see more archival images at ecommons.udayton.edu.

From our spring issue

In our last issue, the photo from commencement 1984 brought back memories for many.

Brad Gauder ’84 of Hilliard, Ohio, pulled out his 1984 Daytonian yearbook to confirm the identities of two faces familiar to him, Julie Dalpiaz (left) and Carol Van Houten (middle). He writes, “Thanks for more than 30 years of connections to a place that will always have a warm and big space in my heart. … [UD Magazine] content kindles fond memories.” Suzie Dunn Ziegenfuss ’85 helped fill in the missing piece, identifying Kathy Heidkamp (right).

Confirmation came from the graduates themselves. “I feel weird that I’m in your archives now,” wrote Van Houten, an associate dean for College Libraries at Hudson County Community College in Jersey City, New Jersey. “We were housemates senior year. Thanks for giving me a big surprise and a laugh today!” Julie Dalpiaz Herman, co-owner of Flushing Pheasant Digital Video in Mahomet, Illinois, also saw her younger self on the page pushing her cap onto her head: “I’d like to think we all have improved since that photo was taken.”

Class notes are in print editions only. Email class notes to classnotes@udayton.edu.

It’s never been easier to share your news with Flyers afar.

Whether you chisel, scribble or tweet the diary of your life, take a moment to send a class note.

From first job to retirement, graduation to graduate degree, babies to grandchildren, if it’s important to you, it’s important to us.

Send rocks and paper to:
Class Notes, 300 College Park, Dayton, OH 45469-1303

Emails to:
classnotes@udayton.edu

Tweets to:
@daymag

Pictures (and sculptures) always welcome.

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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 it 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. All notes are edited for style and content.

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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 udayton.edu/alumni.
Often called “the crossroads of America,” Dayton, Ohio, has another important intersection — and it’s not just at Brown and Stewart streets.

Mentorship has become the new crossroads between undergraduate students and alumni with the 2012 launch of the new Alumni Mentoring Program, facilitated by Career Services and alumni relations. It connects current students with alumni who serve as mentors in guiding students in their professional career development.

The program defines mentoring in three ways: a learning partnership where both the mentor and student create a shared vision of mentoring defined by respect, openness and understanding; a professional partnership where mentors pass on their knowledge and skills to guide students in their career exploration; and a development partnership where students take an active role in professional growth through questioning and reflection.

The program began as a leadership class project for former Career Services graduate assistant Angie Lucas ’13 and was continued by current graduate assistant Ellis Wasserman. Ashley Kessler ’07, associate director of alumni services, lends a helping hand to alumni mentors.

As of spring 2015, 100 pairs of mentors and students were participating in the program, comprising alumni of at least one year and a collection of first-year to senior students. Mentoring pairs are matched each September through a program called MentorcliQ, an online platform that matches pairs based on career interests and personality traits.

Mentors and students are encouraged to meet in-person or via phone or video at least once a month from October to April each year. During these meetings, mentor pairs discuss everything from internships and interviews to résumés and networking while building a personal and professional relationship.

Kessler and Wasserman predict the program will continue to grow — their goal is 300 to 500 participants by next year — with the potential to become a foundation of the University of Dayton experience.

“If I’m dreaming big, I could see admission being able to tell any prospective student and their family, ‘Your child will have the opportunity to be mentored by an alumnus,’” Kessler said. “I think that’s comforting for a lot of parents because they feel like their child has another source of support here. For alumni, it’s a way to give back and understand their own UD experiences in a new way.”

An alumni-to-alumni mentoring program — one that is city-based and focused on alumni needs — is also a possibility for next year, Kessler said.

At the program’s annual spring reception Feb. 11, Interim Provost Paul Benson spoke about its high value. Kessler sees this as a positive sign.

“I think that speaks to the level of commitment the University will continue to give this program as it grows and becomes more successful.”

—Erin Callahan ’15

Perfect pairs
In Case You Missed It

Bond of brothers
Fifty years after a group of eight students founded Epsilon Sigma Phi, the fraternity brothers will reunite Oct. 23-25, 2015, to celebrate their milestone year and the hundreds of brothers who have since joined. According to Joe DeGennaro ’67, one of Epsilon Sigma Phi’s founding fathers, many of these members were originally from the New York/New Jersey area, which helped form long-lasting friendships. “Because of the East Coast connection, friendships have lasted for more than 50 years,” DeGennaro said. For reunion details, contact DeGennaro at 212-876-1730 or jdegennaro45@gmail.com.

Warm hearts, covered heads
UD’s Love Your Melon crew is keeping noggins warm, year-round. Love Your Melon, a nonprofit founded in 2012 at the University of St. Thomas, is a buy-one, give-one program that donates hats to children battling cancer. “It’s not helping with the medical side, but it’s giving them something to take their minds off the treatments or how much time they spend in a hospital,” explained junior Kait Schoenbauer, UD’s Love Your Melon crew team leader. So far, the team has sold 44 items, including hats, shirts and scarves. “Our goal is 100. Once we get to 100, we’ll be able to go to Dayton Children’s Hospital and hand out hats to kids,” Schoenbauer said. For more, visit loveyourmelon.com/pages/universityofdayton.

Teammates and tourists
Flyer footballers Pat Dowd ’14 and Zach Elias ’15 have suited up for the Kirchdorf Wildcats, a pro team in Kirchdorf am Inn, Germany, a small town near the Austrian border. Neither Dowd nor Elias had traveled to Europe before, so when presented with the opportunity to play for the same team, they couldn’t pass it up. “I had my final season at UD cut short due to an injury, so I was itching to get back on the field,” Dowd said. “I also couldn’t wait to travel and explore Europe.” Elias agreed, noting that Florence, Paris, Madrid — and maybe Amsterdam — are on his must-visit list. Viel glück!

For more Flyer news from campus and afar, see udquickly.udayton.edu.
The University of Dayton didn’t have to find its dancing shoes for March Madness the past two years; it just needed to dust them off. UD has been dancing since 1954, the year the Flyerettes dance line formed. This academic year marked the group’s 60th anniversary.

Patterned after Texas’ Kilgore College Rangerettes, the Flyerettes were organized in spring 1954 as a feature attraction of UD’s fall homecoming festivities. This “exclusive new dance and military drill group of 25-30 women” was to be professionally trained for both “fancy military drill formation work and stage dancing,” according to a 1954 Flyer News article.

Bob Wood ’54, homecoming parade committee co-chair, was the first drill and routine master, and Rita Hoefer, a local dance instructor and former member of New York’s Radio City Corps de Ballet, was hired to teach precision dance routines. Pat Falke Miller ’55 and Rita Kinsella Bardo ’55 served as the first Flyerettes co-chairs, with Joyce Ely Smith ’55 the first captain. Jean Rush, wife of then-freshman football coach Clive Rush, was choreographer, succeeded by Betty Kirchner, then Sonja Marsh.

Another UD dance team — christened the Coeds — had been born a few years earlier by marching band director Maurice Reichard ’35, who was searching for a socially acceptable way to include women in the band (women weren’t allowed to march with musical instruments until 1961). The two groups merged in the 1970s, retaining the Flyerettes’ name and becoming the featured dance line for the Pride of Dayton marching band.

In their early days, the Flyerettes did more than perform for home sports crowds. A highlight for Rosemarie MacMillan Meyer ’59 was dancing during halftime at the 1956 and 1958 National Invitation Tournaments at Madison Square Garden in New York City. Headlines like “The famous Flyerettes” and “Dayton sends its Rockettes” graced newspaper covers in both New York and Ohio.

Janet Leff ’63 had a similar experience.

"Long before I was a student at UD, I watched my older sister, Joan Leff Hamilton ’57, and her friends organize the Flyerettes and their costumes in our basement rec room. I still remember the beginning steps of ‘UD Our Hearts Ring True,’” she said. "What a joy it was to practice and perform with so many wonderful fellow students."

The Flyerettes didn’t just bring school spirit; they brought something others hadn’t seen before.

Former Flyerettes cite Kirchner’s “Around the World in 80 Days” dance as “groundbreaking,” with each of 32 flags representing a different country. Performed in recognition of the 1956 film by the same name, it became a way to honor its late producer, Michael Todd, who passed away shortly after the film’s release. The morning of the performance, Meyer — who served as Flyerette captain at the time — was questioned by local media about the appropriateness of televising such a dance so close to Todd’s death.

She responded, “I can’t think of a better memorial to him, can you?”

Several-days-a-week practices and strict beginning-of-the-year workouts made for a tight-knit team, former Flyerettes said.

"There was a community between us that I’ve never forgotten,” Janice Wojtyna Nowak ’60 said.

Brenda Yarwick Skakun ’90 noted, “I didn’t need to ‘go Greek’; the Flyerettes was my sorority. I had my sisters: We lived together, ate together, studied together, traveled together and rehearsed together, all year long. The friends I made were some of the best.”

While the group experienced several leadership and structural transitions over the years, that spirit didn’t fade, alumnae say.

“Learning to dance in unison taught me to be constantly aware of where 28 other people were and how I lined up with them,” Susan Veihdeffer Vogt ’69 remembered. “Being aware of other people’s presence, working as a community and being on time are skills that have transferred to other parts of my life.”

Joe Lipinski ’75, former Flyerettes videographer, called the Flyerettes of the 1990s “outstanding, positive representatives of the University of Dayton. The ladies were fun-loving, hardworking and truly beautiful in so many ways. My association with the squad is one of many great experiences I had at UD.”

Keep the music going; UD will keep dancing.

—Caroline McCormack ’16
ATLANTA

Frankly, my dear, they’ll always be Flyers

Yes, Atlanta is the Georgia state capital. But it also boasts another significant — albeit unofficial — title, according to its residents.

“A lot of people here refer to Atlanta as the ‘Capital of the South,’ and I think that rings true and attracts people to move here,” says Kevin Miskewicz ’09, current leader of the Atlanta Alumni Community.

Home to nearly 1,300 UD alumni, it’s not just the warm weather and Southern charm that attract these former Flyers to migrate south.

“The weather here is great — you still see all four seasons, but the winter is a lot milder,” Miskewicz says. “I think the tremendous growth that the city has experienced in the past decade is really what draws alumni here. There are a ton of opportunities.”

According to Miskewicz, there are a few striking similarities between Atlanta residents and its UD alumni community.

“The Southern hospitality that you experience here is very similar to the community feel on UD’s campus,” Miskewicz says. “People are very friendly and open. You find yourself talking to the grocery store cashier like you’d talk to your grandma.

“Also, so many residents of Atlanta — like so many members of our alumni community — are transplants. It’s pretty rare to meet a resident who was born and raised in Atlanta. Which means you’re exposed to a wide variety of cultures and ethnicities, which offers a pretty cool living experience.”

Bringing people together is a hallmark of the Atlanta Alumni Community. Each year, the community plans an outing to an Atlanta Braves game and participates in Christmas off Campus, among other activities. In 2014, for the third straight year, the group participated in Holidays around the World at the Franklin Road Community Association, helping children decorate more than 250 Christmas cookies.

The community also recently teamed up with alumni associations from several other Ohio colleges — including Miami University, Bowling Green State University and the University of Toledo — to host a networking event and minor league baseball gamewatch.

“Meeting up with other Ohio college alumni was a great success because it allowed us to pool our resources and bring more people together who have a lot in common,” Miskewicz says.

Through his involvement with the alumni community, Miskewicz is constantly reminded that there is no school like UD.

“Not every school tries as hard to stay connected with its alumni like UD,” he says. “We’re lucky that UD puts forth the effort to keep us connected to campus and is constantly engaging us and reminding us of all the fun we had while we were there.”

—Tom Corcoran ’13

WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE EXAMPLE OF ATLANTA’S SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY?

“INTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD FESTIVALS; pick one. The Inman Park Festival, Summerfest in Virginia Highlands, Summer Shade in Grant Park or the East Atlanta Village Strut are all great. They run from April through June and then pick back up in September. To be fair, suburban towns have them, too. But we like to party.” —Marc Takacs ’99

“When she first moved to Atlanta, my wife, Shelley, began NEIGHBORHOOD WALKS with her friend, Madeline. Her friend would always say hello and have conversations with other walkers and joggers. Shelley thought Madeline had known these people for years — but learned she’d never met any of those people before. In the South, you make solid eye contact and say hello. That’s how we do things down here.” —Joe Hammell ’83

“The PEOPLE are my favorite. They are always friendly, helpful, outgoing — and smiling. But, you can’t help but smile when the sun is almost always out.” —Pat Kraska Barnard ’71
GOOD WORKS

We can write, too

When charged with pitching a big idea, what would a group of writers come up with? A small conference that brings laughter, tears, learning and friendship—and lasts for 15-plus years.

Developed in 2000, the Erma Bombeck Writers’ Workshop began as a challenge from the University’s Alumni Association, said Teri Rizvi ’91, executive director of strategic communications.

“Ours was not the huge idea they were envisioning, but it has lasted,” Rizvi said. “Originally, it was going to be a one-time workshop to coincide with the Bombeck family’s gift of Erma’s papers to the University. The second time we hosted it, we laughed for three days and knew we would do it again.”

Started in 2004 with a $100,000 gift from the cousin of Marianist Brother Tom Price—the English professor and 1911 alumnus who told Bombeck those three magic words, “You can write”—the workshop’s endowment has recently picked up steam, garnering $33,000 from a spring fundraiser featuring nationally known author and performer Mary Lou Quinlan and two anonymous gifts totaling $50,000.

“Until recently, we’ve hid the light under the bushel, so to speak, about the workshop, which is crazy because it’s national in scope,” Rizvi said. “More and more, I’m seeing the potential for its long-term sustainability and growth.”

The endowment serves a two-fold purpose. First, it helps keep the workshop affordable for writers, many of whom pay their own way and whose experience runs the gamut from weekly newspaper columns and blogs to traditionally published books. Second, it ensures the long-term sustainability of a conference that supports writers—and provides an invaluable learning opportunity for students. Over the years, the workshop has attracted such household names as Dave Barry, Garrison Keillor, Phil Donahue, Nancy Cartwright, Gail Collins, Alan Zweibel, Lisa Scottoline and others.

“The Alumni Association continues to be a terrific supporter of the workshop,” Rizvi said. “Each session, they underwrite scholarships for students, allowing about 30 of them to attend for free. It’s a phenomenal gift, and it emphasizes the belief they have in the message of the workshop.”

Vicki Edwards Giambrone ’81, who served as Alumni Association president when the workshop originated and continued as a workshop volunteer and donor, said Bombeck’s influence played a crucial role.

“This project has been a labor of love for me and the UD Alumni Association since the beginning because of what Erma means to all of us,” she explained. “Erma often told the story of finding her calling at UD, so when the National Alumni Association was given the opportunity to work with the Bombeck family and create the workshop, it was a perfect match and a unique opportunity to honor someone who brought us all so much pride, laughter and joy.”

—Audrey Starr

A full life

In theory, it was a tough sell: weeknight showtimes, March Madness competition—and Garrison Keillor appearing live down the street. But the late-spring performance of Mary Lou Quinlan’s The God Box, A Daughter’s Story at the University of Dayton’s Boll Theatre defied those odds, selling out the first night and nearly selling out the next.

A 2014 Erma Bombeck Writers’ Workshop keynoter, Quinlan didn’t pause when asked to perform her inspirational one-act play on campus to support the workshop’s endowment. The two evening shows—which also featured book signings, a “talk back” session with local writers and a question-and-answer with Erma’s daughter, Betsy—gained $33,000 for the endowment, making it the most Quinlan’s performance has raised at a single venue.

“Mary Lou’s story is about the power of faith, of letting something that you’re worried about go and giving it over to a higher power,” said Teri Rizvi, who helped found the workshop in 2000. “It connects with people, particularly women, by asking: What’s important in life? How can you live your life to the fullest?”

In an interview with the Dayton City Paper, Quinlan compared her own mother to Bombeck: “[She] was a hero to women: warm, compassionate, your next-door neighbor. She loved Erma’s writing. When I spoke at UD last year, I found that same energy there, and I jumped to support the workshop.”
Sheets a keepsake of sign-age

One sure sign you’re on a college campus is an array of white sheets blazoned with bold letters, numbers — and maybe thumbprints — hanging from porches, trees or windows.

The thumbprints are on a map of the United States on a sign made specially for the Class of 2015’s senior picnic. If this map had a legend, it would note that each thumbprint shows where a new grad is headed.

“It’s kind of neat that they decided to do a map with thumbprints because then you know where the UD family is going to end up,” said Nikky Gupta ’15. “I now know four people who will be going to Wisconsin after graduation.”

Even though the new grads are now (mostly) gone from campus, the Class of ’15 sheet will likely return in 2016 and 2020.

That’s when they’ll have a chance to show it off — and maybe locate some more classmates across the country — at the Reunion Weekends featuring their first and fifth reunions. “There’s a sheet every year for each class celebrating a reunion,” said Anita Brothers, director of alumni relations.

Over the years, that’s a lot of sheets. Alumni Relations stores many of them in a couple boxes in the storeroom in its office on River Campus. From time to time the reunion committee may ask someone in an anniversary reunion class to make a new one.

If you want to find alumni loyal to both UD and the sheet tradition, check out the Class of 1974. They may have started the tradition of using sheets as reunion guest books.

“Some time ago, I think it was our 10th reunion, we got a couple of bed sheets and had everybody sign them,” said Tony Lupia, longtime Class of ’74 reunion chair and keeper of their sheets.

With each succeeding reunion, first-time attendees get the chance to sign and leave a note. So Lupia is now storing five carefully folded sheets in a special plastic container at his Kettering home.

“Our goal when we started this was to get 500 names by our 50th reunion,” Lupia said. They’re at 380 now.

Hey, Class of ’74: only 120 more of you need to show up to help fulfill that dream.
I retired, at 23

By Colleen Williams ’13

For 19 years I was in love— a passionate, beautiful love for which I sacrificed everything. I knew it had to end sometime.

When I was 23, it did.

I fell in love with soccer when I was 4. My love allowed me to travel to 40 states, flew me to Europe twice, paid 95 percent of my college tuition and introduced me to the girls I’ll one day call bridesmaids. To those who never played a sport, it may seem pathetic that my love was not a “who” but a “what.”

To them, soccer may just be 22 people chasing a ball to kick into a net.

To me, it was life. Soccer defined me. It taught me life lessons. It was my therapy, my outlet, my religion. It was my coping mechanism for a failed test, a fight with a boyfriend or an argument with my sister. It taught me to be strong and confident. I dreamed of becoming a professional soccer player before it was even necessary for me to wear a sports bra.

The dream came true, but it was short-lived.

Rookie season. Torn ACL, MCL and meniscus. But I had a new dream: the best comeback a rookie ever had.

Come back to what? Women do not play professional soccer for the benefits of being a “professional” athlete. We play because we’re addicted. There’s no million-dollar signing bonuses. No showy cars, fancy jewelry nor huge mansions. We live with host families. We take buses on eight-hour trips.

Yet I couldn’t give it up. I’d get a second job. I’d live in somebody’s basement. I’d sleep on the bus.

For 10 months I focused. No drinking or dessert. A diet of grilled chicken, peanut butter and vegetables. Grueling workouts. Walking away would have been like losing. I’m too competitive to lose.

Then — twist, turn, buckle and pop — the same knee: ACL, MCL and meniscus torn. It was over.

It had to end, I know.

Knowing that didn’t make it any less painful. My old teammates are still playing the game I love. I am envious when I read their tweets about swimming in the seas surrounding Cyprus, celebrating Oktoberfest in Germany or stopping for a kangaroo crossing a street in Australia.

I tear up when I pass a park where teenage girls play pick-up under the lights. They still have years of innocent, pure joy in the game. This love affair had me miss high school proms, college parties, family vacations, days of school and multiple weddings. Soccer was my No. 1 priority, always. It was my drug.

I’d be willing to do almost anything to be able to go back to an NCAA tournament match under the lights with hundreds of fans and the pressure on my back. Or to be that 13-year-old girl again wearing the “If there’s no soccer in heaven, I’m not going” T-shirt to practice with her hair tied up in a ponytail, dripping with sweat.

We move on, but we’re lucky to have had those days, to have played such a beautiful sport.

Resolving to not feel sorry for myself, I started a new path.

I hung up my cleats, saved my cash and bought a one-way ticket to Honolulu. Homeless, friendless and jobless, I began my new adventure. I have fallen in love with this island, I now have my home, my friends and my job. Brian Jankowski, a UD coach, refers to this as “geographical recovery.” He thinks I moved because I needed time and space to heal from soccer leaving my life.

He’s right.

My knee gives out occasion-

‘Red to Yellow Spill’

—Jean Alexander Frater ’94

www.alexanderfrater.com
ally. I get sore after running a few miles. I’m still too timid to play beach volleyball or to surf. But I didn’t lose my legs like Marine friends of my brother did. I’ll be able to walk my children around the neighborhood in a stroller.

I loved soccer. I loved absolutely every second of it. I miss it still.

So, thank you to soccer. Thank you for 19 years of joy. For showing me that passion exists.

That addiction is powerful. That I am powerful. Thank you for giving me confidence, joy and love.

Colleen Williams ’73 was a Dayton Flyer All-American before being drafted in the fourth round of the 2013 NWSL draft by the Washington Spirit. She plans to complete later this year a master’s in communication at Hawai‘i Pacific University. A longer version of the above appeared in TopDrawerSoccer.com. Read it at bit.ly/UDM_Williams_retired.

Making the rounds

By Bob Baker ’09

I had less time there than most, so the job was mine — I had charge of our small compound for Christmas Eve 1971 in Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam.

I knew what was going to happen. Everyone would drink too much; if the Viet Cong hit, few could be counted on to offer serious resistance.

The MACV (Military Assistance Command, Vietnam) and CIA compounds weren’t far away. If the Viet Cong did do something, help would come from MACV, not the CIA. You wouldn’t know the CIA really existed — but for their silver Huey helicopter, their Bushmaster aircraft and the locals who would readily tell you where their compound was.

After chow, I began to make the rounds. We had two Vietnamese guards — one at the complex’s only entry and one on the roof. Neither seemed to know what I said; he didn’t speak English well, but no one knew for sure.

A game of “combat basketball” had already begun. It had no rules; I hoped that no one would be seriously hurt.

Overhearing talk of home, girlfriends, wives and kids, it didn’t take long to figure out how this night was going to be.

A game of “combat basketball” had already begun. It had no rules; I hoped that no one would be seriously hurt.

Overhearing talk of home, girlfriends, wives and kids, it didn’t take long to figure out how this night was going to be.

I continued my rounds, stopping at the roof. The guard nodded. I did the same. The view was better than nothing — you could just make out the water of the bay.

After almost four months in Vietnam, little seemed to change for me except the degree of fear. You became wary of everyone but Americans. Even kids were feared because some were used to deliver grenades, and babies were booby-trapped.

It was peaceful on the roof. But it was time to go. A nod to the guard, down I went, my M-16 over my shoulder. I stopped at our CONEX container — which held the teletype, the crypto gear and an Army operator — so whoever had duty inside the CONEX would know who had duty for everything else.

My typewriter beckoned: “All posts checked. All secure.”

I read for a half-hour. Darkness fell, halting the basketball game. Now almost everyone was in the bar. I typed in the log, checked the radio and was about to restart my book when one of the guys poked his head in and asked if I intended to go to midnight Mass. He said he’d find someone sober to fill in for me for an hour or so.

I made a comm check. I knew what was going to happen — nothing. Trying to contact our headquarters in Saigon and the CIA compound down the street had always been unsuccessful.

About 20 minutes before Mass, my friend and I — with our M-16s — jumped in the Jeep and flew down the road. At the MACV compound, we made a quick right to the little chapel. Outside the entrance stood a rifle rack for weapons; inside, a bunch of plastic rosaries.

The chapel retained a fog of incense. The words were majestic, succinct and clear.

Then it was done. Not over, just done, for it remained imprinted in memory. Returning, I thanked the sergeant who had subbed for me. He wished us merry Christmas.

I walked my rounds once again. Things weren’t as rowdy as I thought they might be, but no one could have passed a Breathalyzer test. So I yelled, “Last call.”

I continued the long walk around. On the roof, I could see tracers in the distance. They arched up from the ground; somewhere some celebrating was still going on. I wished the guard a merry Christmas. I expected no response. But he seemed to know what I said; he greeted me in Vietnamese. I shook his hand and left to finish my rounds.

I made the last comm check, this time wishing them a merry Christmas. Not a peep in return. The log typed, I sat back and wondered at the sadness of those far from home. The night was still. I wasn’t yet tired. I went on another round. No changes, though quieter.

Making the roof, acknowledging the guard, I sat, thinking about nothing. Putting my hand in my shirt pocket, I felt the rosary I had taken while at Mass.

Fingering it, I began whispering the rosary. My voice must have grown louder as the guard, whom I had wished merry Christmas, began to recite the rosary in Vietnamese, I became aware of it and started reciting slowly, so the guard and I could stay in sync with each other.

As we neared the end of a decade of the rosary, a flare lit the sky many miles away. I thought of the star the Three Wise Men followed.

I said a prayer that we all would find peace.

A longer version of this essay appeared in Remnant. Read it at bit.ly/UDM_Baker_ChristmasEve.
Reserved

You can’t reserve the gazebo. How often, when logging onto the University’s system to schedule a meeting room, have I paused to wonder why “library lawn” or “low wall by the fountain” is not a location for me to choose, as is “LTC Forum” or “KU 310”?

Granted, I can — without reservation — walk out the door of Albert Emanuel Hall, step up onto the sidewalk and shuffle through the grass to the gazebo on the library lawn. I can personally invite my colleagues who would have clicked their nails on Formica conference tables to instead settle in the metal park benches whose rails have supported more than a century of students.

But there are ants. And wind. Sometimes it’s too warm or too cool. Anyone carrying a snack is dead-eyed by a muscle-bound sparrow nicknamed “Knuckles.”

When the magazine staff does trek out as a group, we rarely find an empty park bench awaiting us. Instead, students inhabit the beautiful spaces on campus. It is a truly beautiful campus, be it spring with mountains of jewel-headed tulips or fall with raucous color clinging everywhere. Students always snag the best spots, sharing quiet conversation or an 11th-hour cram. It would be rude for us to interrupt with talk of the zombie apocalypse and hot cafeteria trays (see stories, Pages 19 and 20).

Often, I prefer to be the one sitting quietly while the students talk or study or walk. In our reader surveys, alumni tell us what they want most is to connect with the student experience today. You say you want to know how their dreams are the same as yours; how what they’re studying is different from what you found in your 20-pound paper textbooks; how the words used to describe their neighborhood have transformed or remained. It is only by observing, listening and asking that we uncover gems like our summer Collaboratory interns (see Page 14).

The outdoors have more to offer than a meeting or observing space. When I proofread these magazine pages, I prefer to read under natural light, the sun filtered through the linden leaves outside Albert Emanuel Hall. When I’m writing a complicated piece, it helps me to look up and trace the branches on a tree, my dendritic guide to the natural order of both growing and writing. Even the bickering squirrels instruct me in the value of mounting tension and conflict when telling a story.

I am a better editor when I see the world and am surrounded by all campus has to offer. If you can’t find me at my desk, look next to the gazebo. Who knows? While eating lunch in the sunlight, I just might get an idea for an editor’s column.

—Michelle Tedford ’94
Editor, University of Dayton Magazine
Learn. Lead. Serve. Love the mission? Live it. Join the Alumni Mentoring Program and help young Flyers find success. You can make a real impact. Why? You’ve already made the tough decisions and learned the lessons to successfully balance your life and career. A minimal amount of your time and guidance can make a big difference in the life of a current student or recent graduate. That’s why more than 100 new participants joined the program last year.

The mentor program is flexible, and you can participate from any location. To learn more, visit [your.udayton.edu/mentors](http://your.udayton.edu/mentors) or contact Ashley Kessler ’07 at akessler1@udayton.edu or 937-229-3252.

As I look back, I see how valuable having a mentor in my area of interest would have been. I’m so glad that UD has initiated this program!”  
Stephanie Donauer ’04, 2014-15 mentor

“Considering the benefits, it really doesn’t take much time, and it brings back great memories of being a Flyer during your days at UD.”  
Tony Lupia ’74, 2012-15 mentor
In 1869, the lazy days of summer included a canal boat ride for the students of St. Mary's School for Boys.