1-6-2006

Campus Report, Vol. 33, No. 5

University of Dayton

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RecPlexcellent
Mykytka named Graduate School associate dean

Edward F. Mykytka has been named associate dean of the Graduate School, effective Jan. 1.

Mykytka has chaired the department of engineering management and systems in the School of Engineering since 2001. He joined the University of Dayton faculty in 1998, after a seven-year stint at the Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, where he held the positions of associate professor of operations research, deputy head and head.

Mykytka earned his bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Dayton in 1976. He holds an M.S. in industrial and management engineering from the University of Iowa and a Ph.D. in systems and industrial engineering from the University of Arizona.

Clarence Page to keynote King celebrations

Pulitzer Prize-winning and nationally syndicated Chicago Tribune columnist Clarence Page comes to town Jan. 16-17 to headline two community events.

Page will address “The March to the New Century” at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 16, at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Annual Holiday Celebration and Presidential Banquet at the Mandalay Banquet Center in collaboration with the Dayton Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Council and UD. Tickets are $50. Call 268-0051 for more information.

He will speak on “Keeping the Dream Alive” at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 17, at UD’s annual Martin Luther King Jr. prayer breakfast in Kennedy Union ballroom. Tickets are $8 for students, and $10 for faculty, staff and the public. Tickets are limited. Call Rosemary O’Boyle at 229-2229.

Page, born in Dayton, has worked as a columnist at the Chicago Tribune since 1984. His column is syndicated nationally by Tribune Media Services. He is an essayist and panelist for “The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer” and occasionally a guest panelist on “The McLaughlin Group.”

Page’s presentations are part of the University’s Diversity Lecture Series.

Ethics presentation focuses on peacekeeping

Joan Tronto, author of Moral Boundaries: A Political Argument for an Ethic of Care, will deliver a public lecture titled “Is Peacekeeping Care Work?” at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 19, in Sears Recital Hall.

Tronto is a professor of political science at Hunter College of the City University of New York and chair of the Hunter College Senate. Her presentation is sponsored by the Jacob Program in Professional Ethics.

In Moral Boundaries, published in 1993, Tronto argued, “we need to stop talking about ‘women’s morality’ and start talking instead about a care ethic that includes the values traditionally associated with women. … Because I hope to take moral arguments more seriously, I submit that we have to understand them in a political context.”

Tronto, who served as the founding director of the Hunter College’s Teaching Learning Center, is the co-editor of Women Transforming Politics: An Alternative Reader and serves on the editorial boards of Contemporary Political Theory, Acta Politica and International Feminist Journal of Politics.

Faculty and staff campaign launches Jan. 23

Join your colleagues to kick off the annual faculty and staff campaign for the University of Dayton at 4 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 23, in the Kennedy Union ballroom. The event features free food, drinks and fun. Gifts by UD faculty and staff help support students and programs all across the University.

In addition to dollars, faculty and staff support sends a message to individuals, foundations and others considering large gifts to support UD’s mission.

Feminism in the Heartland author to speak at Women’s Advocacy Dinner

Judith Ezekiel, author of Feminism in the Heartland, a study of the rise of the women’s movement in Dayton, Ohio, will be the keynote speaker at the first annual Women’s Advocacy Dinner on Saturday, March 4, in Kennedy Union.

The dinner, which will focus on the interconnectedness of women at UD and worldwide, will raise funds for a group of UD students who will travel to Lubwe, Zambia, a village where they are working to support a women’s empowerment initiative.

Ezekiel is an associate professor of American Studies at the University of Toulouse-Mirail. In Feminism in the Heartland, published in 2003, she traced the evolution of women’s organizations in the 1960s and ‘70s in Dayton and the life stories of 58 activists.

The author of articles on American and French feminism in journals such as Les Temps Modernes, Nouvelles Questions Feministes and Women’s Studies Quarterly, Ezekiel co-founded Women’s International Studies Europe and the Worldwide Organization of Women’s Studies. She is an associate editor of The European Journal of Women’s Studies.

Tickets for the event, which includes dinner, a cash bar, art display and silent auction, are $35 each and can also be purchased in groups of four and eight. For information or to buy tickets, contact Teresa Winland at winlantk@notes.udayton.edu or at 227-1194.
Sister Dorothy Stang to be awarded posthumous honorary degree

Sister Dorothy Stang, SND, a Dayton native murdered by hired assassins in Brazil where she had spent most of her life serving the poor and protecting the Amazon rainforest, will be honored posthumously on Thursday, Feb. 2, at the University of Dayton. It’s believed to be the first time that the University will confer an honorary degree after someone’s death.

The missionary was shot in the chest and head by two gunmen on a rural road on Feb. 12, 2005, as part of a land dispute over the displacement of peasants. Witnesses say the 73-year-old nun, who had previously received death threats, pulled out her Bible and began reading before she was shot.

On Dec. 10, in Belem, Brazil, Stang’s killers were found guilty and sentenced to prison.

“She was a tireless defender of human rights and the environment,” said Daniel J. Curran, UD president, who suggested her name to the honorary degree committee. “She worked unflaggingly on behalf of the poor and the powerless. As a Catholic, Marianist university, we are called to carry on her mission. She is an extraordinary role model.”

Plans are still shaping up for the ceremony, which is expected to include a 4 p.m. Mass in the Immaculate Conception Chapel before the conferral of the honorary degree of humane letters. Cincinnati Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk and Stang’s family are expected to take part. The ceremony is part of activities during UD’s “Human Rights Week 2006: Building Democracy, Justice and Peace” that runs Jan. 29-Feb. 3.

Stang, a naturalized Brazilian, spent nearly four decades as a missionary in that country. For more than two decades, she lived in primitive conditions in the rainforest, where she taught peasants sustainable farming techniques and fought illegal logging and ranching. She was a member of the Catholic Church’s Pastoral Land Commission, a human rights organization that fights for the rights of rural workers and peasants, and worked with the Association of Ecological Solidarity in the Amazon.

“Sister Dorothy’s ultimate sacrifice has resulted in the preservation of the land that she loved and fought so hard to protect,” said Kerrie Cross, chair of UD’s honorary degree committee and archivist. “The government is no longer ignoring the lawlessness of the region and has sent troops to the area to protect the farmers. The international community has been made aware of the plight of the legitimate farmers and the need to protect their efforts toward sustainable farming techniques and the plight of one of the world’s most important natural resources — the rainforest.”

Stang attended Julienne High School in Dayton, leaving after her junior year to join the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in 1948. As part of the order’s mission, the sisters “take our stand with poor people, especially women and children, in the most abandoned places.”

—Teri Rizvi

Marianist Heritage celebrations get under way this month and continue through February with events planned for faculty, staff and students:

**Tuesday, Jan. 10 — Adèle Celebration**

- Vesper service led by the Daughters of Mary, 4:30 p.m., Immaculate Conception Chapel. A reception will follow in Liberty Hall 8.
- An all-day food drive, in the spirit of founder Adèle de Batz de Trenquèlleon, whose ministry included feeding the hungry, will be held in the Kennedy Union lobby. Nonperishable food items are needed.

**Wednesday, Jan. 18**

- Beyond UD panel supper, 5 p.m., Kennedy Union 310. Learn about service beyond UD and mission opportunities from post-graduate volunteers. RSVP by Jan. 14 to the Center for Social Concern, 229-2524.

**Thursday, Jan. 19**

- “Where in the World is Father Chaminade?” 6-9 p.m., ArtStreet Studio D.

**Monday, Jan. 23 — Chaminade Day**

- Humanities Base Teach-in sponsored by the Humanities Base committee, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Torch Lounge. See schedule of events in the Kennedy Union lobby.
- Student potluck dinner, 6:30 p.m., McGinnis Center. All are welcome; please bring a dish if you are able.

**Tuesday, Jan. 24**

- Living Rosary, 4:30 p.m., Marianist Hall Chapel.

**Wednesday, Jan. 25**


**Thursday, Jan. 26**

- Family FeUD 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Kennedy Union ballroom. Featuring free lunch, drinks, door prizes, Marianist and UD trivia.

**Wednesday, Feb. 15**

- “3-7-12: What’s That All About? The Catholic and Marianist Philosophy of Community Living at UD,” presented by Father Christopher Wittmann, S.M., noon, Kennedy Union 310. Open lunch invitation, seating limited. RSVP required: office of the rector, 229-2409.

**Thursday, Feb. 16**

- Heritage walking tour begins at noon at the statue of Mary on the circle outside St. Mary Hall.

**Thursday, Feb. 23**

- Mary, Faith and Justice program and social, 7-9 p.m., Kennedy Union ballroom. Assistance gifts awarded to Social Concern clubs and Breakout trips. Sponsored by campus ministry and the Marianists.

**Friday, Feb. 24**

- Lackner Award dinner, by invitation only. Recipients are James Farrelly and Roberta Weaver.

For more news, see http://campusreport.udayton.edu

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UD’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute receives $1 million endowment

The Bernard Osher Foundation has awarded the University of Dayton’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute a $1 million endowment to help sustain programming for older adults for the long term.

The University’s institute will join other programs nationwide endowed by the Osher Foundation, which soon will endow four additional institutions.

“The University of Dayton has made a commitment to programming for older adults from the beginning,” said Julie Mitchell, assistant dean for special programs and continuing education. “Yet this resource truly makes us solvent for the long term.”

Funds generated by the endowment will be used to establish a formal scholarship program and for capital improvements, such as facility renovations and equipment upgrades.

Each year, the institute serves about 1,500 older adults in greater Dayton. Since the number of people retiring each year is soon expected to double as baby boomers age, the institute also needs a long-term, permanent home. That issue will be addressed in UD’s next campus master plan, slated to be developed during the next two years. Most seminars currently are held in the McGinnis Center in the south student neighborhood.

“This gives us the opportunity to continue current programming and make improvements to our offerings while not having to pass along all the expenses to our members, most of whom are on fixed incomes,” Mitchell said.

The Bernard Osher Foundation has awarded UD’s institute two $100,000 grants for direct support. Following the first grant award in 2004, it was designated an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, joining a national network of learning programs for older adults on 73 college and university campuses.

Funds from the two grants have been used for a shuttle program that allows participants to park at UD Arena and ride to their classes, as well as for a marketing campaign that helped increase the institute’s membership by 200 members. Grant money also has helped the institute strengthen its curriculum by adding a service learning seminar, in which participants worked with Dayton Public Schools students, and travel abroad programs to such locales as Italy and Spain. The latest grant, awarded this fall, will fund a market research study, part of a long-term strategic planning process.

Institute for Pastoral Initiatives launches online faith formation courses in Spanish

UD’s Institute for Pastoral Initiatives has launched a program that has been four years in the making — online faith formation classes taught in Spanish.

The program, which is the first of its kind in the United States, “comes at the request of dioceses,” said Sister Angela Ann Zukowski, M.H.S.H., director of the institute. “We did our research and are on the cutting edge of a very important contribution to the Catholic Church in the U.S.”

The online courses aim to meet the needs of the rapidly growing Hispanic Catholic population in the United States.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, there are 35.3 million Hispanics in the United States, or 12.5 percent of the total population. Since 1990, the nation’s Hispanic population has increased 58 percent, up from 22.4 million in 1990 and is projected to reach 52.7 million by 2020.

A 2002 survey commissioned by The Latino Coalition and conducted by McLaughlin & Associates’ Opiniones Latinas found that 72.6 percent of Hispanics living in the United States — close to 26 million — are Catholic.

“The rapid growth demands that the Catholic Church be present in every possible form to support Hispanics’ faith formation,” Zukowski said. “And that’s what we are trying to do.”

Four online courses in Spanish — Creencias Católicas, Jesús, María de Galilea and Sacramentos — and a Web page in Spanish to access them were added to the institute’s existing Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation program, which offers more than 30 courses in 390-plus sections to more than 1,500 students a year. (See http://vlc.udayton.edu/). The first session of the Spanish courses begins Jan. 15 and runs for five weeks.

Zukowski expects the Spanish courses to appeal to primarily two groups: catechists who teach in Spanish and people searching for adult faith formation in their own language. “This creates another portal for people to grow and understand spiritual things,” she said.

Instructors from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, UD’s partner in the project, will teach the first sessions, but if the demand matches expectations, the institute will soon employ Catholic Hispanic instructors from across the United States.

The institute’s Hispanic Catholic Advisory Board, which includes national leaders in the catechetical field, will monitor the Spanish program closely and make decisions about future course content, teaching methodology and marketing strategies.

In January, the Institute for Pastoral Initiatives will host its annual meeting for all its partnering dioceses. Twenty-six dioceses are already part of the program, including two from the Samoan Islands. Five dioceses are in the process of becoming partners.

“This is like our board of trustees meeting,” Zukowski said.

On this year’s agenda for discussion are three new courses being offered in connection with the U.S. Catholic Bishops’ National Directory for Catechesis that was recently approved by the Vatican.

Another development is the Institute for Pastoral Initiative’s work with the Federation of Asian Bishops to create future courses in Asian languages. Zukowski plans to travel to Singapore in May to discuss advancing the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation in Asia with Catholic leaders from several Asian countries.

—Jessica Gibson-James

“The University of Dayton’s lifelong learning program was selected for operational and endowment support by the Bernard Osher Foundation because of the steady development and expansion of the program over the past 10 years,” said Mary Bitterman, foundation president. She added that UD’s institute also was selected because of “the strong commitment of the University to community service and to providing essential facilities for the continuing education of seasoned adults, the active engagement of its volunteer governance group, and the high quality of the University leadership in supporting the program.”

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, designed for adults 50 and older who have a continued interest in learning, celebrated its 10th anniversary in September 2004.

—Kristen Wicker
Student-managed portfolio earns results, trust and $2 million more to invest for UD

Finance majors at the University of Dayton believe high energy prices and the threat of a colder-than-normal winter will affect consumer spending on big-ticket items such as cars, appliances and furniture.

That’s why these students are overweighting stocks in the consumer staples, energy and health care sectors when investing their multimillion dollar portfolio.

Their picks are usually on the mark. During the past year, the equity portion of their portfolio outperformed the S&P 500 by 3.55 percent. They’ve posted an annualized 12.5 percent gain during the past three years — averaging 3.2 percent per year higher than their benchmark.

Consumer confidence may be lagging nationwide, but there’s no lack of confidence in these student investors. In October, the UD board of trustees voted to allocate an additional $2 million to their portfolio — $1 million in November and another $1 million in March 2006. In all, they’ll be managing approximately $6 million of the University of Dayton’s endowment. It’s one of the largest undergraduate-managed funds in the country.

“They’re doing a spectacular job, and we trust them,” said Dick Davis, a University of Dayton trustee who chairs the board’s investment committee. “Their client gave them more money because they’re doing so well. They’re aggressively focused. In fact, they are one of the best-performing money managers employed by the University of Dayton, according to their performance against the benchmark. These students are the real winners because they are gaining real-world money-management experience while still in college.”

The infusion of another $2 million shows “the trustees’ commitment to our innovative, successful, applied-investment program,” said David Sauer, associate professor of finance and director of UD’s Davis Center for Portfolio Management. “About 75 percent of money managers don’t realize benchmark returns, but our students have consistently beaten their benchmark by 3 percent every year for the last five years in both an up and down market.”

The Davis Center for Portfolio Management simulates Wall Street with the same analytical software and database subscription services used by financial institutions globally. Dick Davis, a retired investment professional, and his wife, Susan, gave the University of Dayton $1 million to endow the center.

As part of the students’ final semester presentation in December, they offered investors their outlook on the market and the economy in 2006. Some of their views:

- The Federal Reserve will increase interest rates to between 4.25 to 4.5 percent, they predicted the day before the central bank raised the rate to 4.25 percent.
- Inflation will slowly rise to higher levels, ranging from 3.9 to 4.2 percent.
- The damage inflicted by Hurricane Katrina on oil facilities will cause oil prices to remain historically high at approximately $60 to $65 a barrel.
- Consumer confidence will slip — except among those with high disposable incomes.
- The threat of terrorism will not significantly impact markets around the world.

“Our stance on terrorism is different from years past,” said Vince Nasserbakht, a senior finance and economics major from Chicago. “We believe the financial markets have already priced in concerns about terrorism, which occur at random times. For instance, the attack on London’s mass transit system in July did not significantly affect markets around the world.”

Nasserbakht, who’s already been offered a job as an analyst for Merrill Lynch Investment Managers’ Quantitative Investments Team in New York upon graduation in May, said the experience of successfully managing a multimillion dollar portfolio helped him land the Wall Street job.

“Professional money managers have told us that we are gaining the equivalent of two to three years of professional experience by working in the Davis Center,” he said. “This is the forefront of investment education.”

Matt Farrell, a senior finance and economics major from Beavercreek, Ohio, said he’s not surprised that the trustees are willing to entrust millions more of the University’s money in students’ hands. “We’ve been successful,” said Farrell, noting that teams of students prepare a 30- to 50-page evaluation report on each stock examined. “For each security we bring to the table, two-thirds of the class has to approve the purchase.”

What about the pressure of handling such a large portfolio? “Sure, there’s pressure,” Farrell said, “but we know we’re equipped and prepared by the education we’ve received.”

—Teri Rizvi

Hotel construction begins

Construction has begun on the city of Dayton’s first new hotel since the early 1980s. The four-story Courtyard by Marriott, University of Dayton, with 101 rooms is being built adjacent to the Great Miami River across Edwin Moses Boulevard from the University of Dayton Arena. Concord Hospitality, a Raleigh, N.C., hotel development and management company, is building and will manage the hotel of which UD is a part owner. A Ruby Tuesday restaurant is planned for the site adjacent to the hotel. Development of the Arena Sports Complex began in 2002 with a $13 million remodeling of the UD Arena and also includes a new running track, the Jerry Von Mohr Football Practice Field, Time Warner Cable Stadium for baseball and a softball stadium.
The $25.3 million Fitness and Recreation Complex, dubbed the RecPlex, opened Jan. 4, after a construction process that began in April 2004. At 125,500 square feet and three stories high, it’s more than twice the size of the Physical Activities Center it replaces.

A dedication and blessing ceremony will be held at 2 p.m. today in the lobby. Participants can tour the building after the ceremony and take in some of the RecPlex’s amenities including:

- Courts for basketball, volleyball, racquetball, floor lacrosse, tennis and squash
- A climbing wall
- An aquatic center with an eight-lane natatorium and whirlpool
- An elevated indoor track
- Studios for aerobics, yoga, martial arts and spinning
- A fitness center with more than 80 pieces of cardio equipment and a line of Cybex Eagle strength equipment
- A lounge with wireless Internet access
- The Chill, a juice and snack bar run by Flyer Enterprises
- Classrooms for health and sport science majors, meeting space and administrative offices
- Locker rooms, including some designated for family use
- An equipment desk where you can check out boxing gloves, Frisbees, etc.

You can also meet the campus recreation staff (from left): Teresa Galvin, Terese Schurger, Clare Glaser, Dave Gruber, Katie Miligan, Mark Hoying, Billy Mayo, Donn Shade and Cal Layton. Not pictured: Dave Ostrander.

The annual membership rate for full-time faculty, staff, retirees and graduate students is $150. For additional information, see http://alumni.udayton.edu/campusreport/morenews.asp?storyID=2324.
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Patricia Hart knows that when professors set high expectations and provide opportunities, students rise to the challenge. As the new director of the University Honors and Berry Scholars programs, Hart plans to collaborate across the University to promote academic excellence.

An assistant dean in the School of Education and Allied Professions and former chair of the teacher education department, Hart is the first UD alumna to direct the Honors and Berry Scholars programs, begun in 1979. The co-recipient of two national research awards from the Association of Teacher Educators, she is currently the principal investigator of “The Novice Teacher Study,” part of the Teacher Quality Partnership research study involving all 50 teacher education institutions in Ohio.

Hart will work closely with physics professor Bob Brecha, the programs’ associate director. Brecha’s background in the College of Arts and Sciences and Hart’s professional school experience “should provide a strong foundation for a program that is responsive to students, faculty and staff across the University community,” she said. Among their goals is to leverage the Honors program to promote academic excellence campuswide.

About 300 students in each year’s class from disciplines throughout the University are designated University Honors students. Like the Berry Scholars, they have the opportunity to complete an honors thesis and earn an honors-designated degree. But few students have taken advantage of the option, said Brecha, who would like to see the number of students completing honors theses increase to 50 a year. Independent and focused learning and relationships with faculty mentors who can pave the way for graduate school and post-baccalaureate fellowships are among the benefits. “There should also be ways of tailoring the requirements for theses and honors-designated degrees for the professional schools,” he said.

In the School of Education and Allied Professions, Hart has piloted a yearlong first-year experience course for Honors students. Last year, two of her first-year students completed studies — one on technology and student satisfaction, the other on recruiting and retaining high-achieving teacher education students — that they presented at the poster session of the Stander Symposium.

“I was very pleased that when I provided an opportunity, they ran with it, and the quality of their work was impressive,” Hart said.

“If we give students the freedom to run with a project, they often do more than we expect,” said Brecha. From doing research abroad, to spending summers on National Science Foundation research projects, to leading efforts to initiate an institute for river stewardship, he has seen what Berry and Honors students can achieve. “They really look to push themselves.”

Both Brecha and Hart see the Stander Symposium, which last year became a Universitywide event spanning two days, as an opportunity to draw more students to research and to inspire younger students, who see juniors and seniors presenting theses, to consider and plan for that option.

Hart, who would like to form an advisory group of faculty and alumni of the programs, also plans to listen and respond to students’ voices, working with advisory groups of Honors students and Berry Scholars.

“T would hope that when students graduate, they say they have been challenged,” she said. “On a personal level, I would hope people say, ‘She was a real advocate for students.’”

A reception for Patricia Hart will be held 4:30 p.m. today in the Hangar in Kennedy Union.

**Annual Honors Art Exhibition opens today**

“Italy in Black and White,” a photograph by first-year student Addison Hoover, is on display in the sixth annual Honors Art Exhibition, which opens with a reception from 3 to 4:30 p.m. today in Alumni Hall 125. The juried exhibition, open to all students in the University Honors and Berry Scholars programs, drew 32 entries, with 18 chosen for the exhibit. Glen Cebulash, Wright State University faculty member, was this year’s juror.

Winners receive a $100 gift card to the UD Bookstore; the “Best of Show” recipient, to be announced at the reception, will be awarded a $1,000 scholarship credited to his or her University account.

The students whose work was chosen include majors in chemical engineering, leadership, international studies, religious studies, biology, biochemistry, middle childhood education, and Spanish along with studio art, visual communication design and art education.

The show will run until November 2006.
Jaci Jackson

In Biloxi, Katrina volunteer deepens commitment to service

Hurricane Katrina changed Jaci Jackson’s life.

After spending 10 days in December volunteering with the Red Cross in Biloxi, Miss., Jackson came to really understand the meaning of service.

“I thought that I understood the University’s commitment to community service,” said Jackson, assistant chief information officer for customer relations and director of technology support services for UDIT. “I do work with my church and have always participated in community-related activities. But nothing had prepared me for my experience in Biloxi. This has been a significant life event for me.”

Jackson completed a Red Cross training program in October, learning about such tasks as driving trucks equipped with food to feed disaster victims, providing emergency shelter and counseling, and disaster recovery. However, when the Red Cross called on her to head South, it was to take advantage of Jackson’s expertise with computers.

She left Dec. 8 to help the organization with logistics and procurement. Working from the Red Cross’ area headquarters in Biloxi, Jackson got supplies into the hands of area residents by distributing goods to groups and businesses.

“I went shopping every day,” Jackson said. “I had to drive four hours to get network cables. … Not a lot of stores are open, and the ones that are don’t have lots of merchandise.”

In addition, the University donated some surplus computer equipment. After Jackson discovered the local Red Cross chapter needed some technical help, she called her UDIT colleagues, who sent two Cisco switches to help the chapter get its network up and running.

Yet Jackson learned those in the Gulf Coast need so much more.

“You’ll ride down the street and every house is just a pile of wood,” she said. “There’s a tent city, which goes on for miles and miles, where people are staying in tents, and the temperature drops to the 30s and 40s in the evenings and mornings. You have to wait in line for two or three hours for dinner every night.”

“People keep talking about the devastation, but I don’t think they really understand it,” she added. “I just felt like I should be doing more than I was doing.”

That’s where her lesson about service hit home.

Jackson was talking to an older man, telling him she felt too idle and wanted to hit the streets and help hurricane victims.

“He explained that the beauty was me just being there to serve,” Jackson said. “If anybody needed anything, if somebody asked me to do something, I was there to do it.”

“My understanding of community service has expanded beyond what I could ever imagine and made life clearer than I have ever seen.”

Jackson plans to return to the Gulf Coast, although she still hopes to directly work with area residents next time around. In the meantime, she’ll encourage folks here in Dayton to continue to give to hurricane relief efforts.

“They need help down there,” she said. “People are getting tired. I wonder, how many days can you ride down a street and say, ‘That was so-and-so’s house,’ and now it’s just all this debris? How can people continue to live amongst all of this devastation four months after the hurricane?”

Yet even with this grim backdrop, Jackson said the people of Biloxi are still trying to celebrate Christmas.

“You’d see someone’s roof gable lying on the ground, and they’d have that decorated and run the lights off a generator,” she said. “You’d see a house that was almost falling over and they’d have lights. I don’t know where the electricity was coming from, but they had lights.

“We’ve always been told where there’s a will, there’s a way. Their determination to show Christmas spirit has shown me that while the way may be long and hard, the Gulf Coast residents definitely have the will to go on.”

—Kristen Wicker
In the Constitution and in symphonies, interpretation’s key

How is the Constitution like a symphony? Students in Jason Pierce’s constitutional law course learned about the parallels between interpreting the law and musical scores from an expert source.

Pierce, assistant professor of political science, asked his students, who were studying how U.S. Supreme Court justices interpret the Constitution, to search for similarities between the musical and legal worlds.

Last semester the class attended a Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra performance, and Neal Gittleman, the orchestra’s musical director, visited the class and talked about how he interprets a piece of music.

“Both a constitution and, say, a symphonic score are composed documents: They reflect the intentions of those who created them and instruct performers on who should play what (political or musical) notes and when,” Pierce said.

“Both conductors and judges are asked to engage in some sort of interpretation. There are rules and guidelines that will factor into their interpretations, but within those boundaries there’s room for discretion.”

Gittleman added another analogy to the list. “The conductor is like the composer’s lawyer — to make sure what the composer wanted is true in the music when it’s performed,” he said. “The conductor is trying to execute the composer’s wishes.”

Gittleman explained how he goes about interpreting music, from determining a piece’s tempo to the volumes at which it is played. Students asked questions about the importance of a background story to interpreting music (it depends on the piece), whether soloists use their interpretations of the music or the conductor’s (the soloists do their own interpreting) and if Gittleman ever changes the notes in music (hardly ever).

The conductor described himself as a “strict constructionist,” which Pierce likened to the judicial philosophies of Supreme Court Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas.

While the comparison made Gittleman cringe a bit, he said as a conductor, that philosophy means, “I would never say, ‘Well the composer says play it slow, let’s do it fast and see what happens.’”

Gittleman also pointed out an important difference between interpreting music and interpreting the law.

“Unlike in law, which can affect the lives of many people, music is not a life or death situation,” he said. “No one is going to die or suffer horrible. And you can change the way you play it next time.”

—Kristen Wicker

Cross-campus conversations on engineering and Catholic education yield collaboration

Peggy DesAutels knew the right questions to ask when launching a study of the climate for women in UD’s School of Engineering.

The associate professor of philosophy holds a master’s degree in computer science and engineering, specializes in feminist philosophy and has taught engineering ethics. Her project is one of several to emerge from the seminar Engineering and a Catholic University, facilitated by Father James Heft, S.M., University professor of faith and culture.

During the 2005 winter semester, 12 faculty members from across the University explored the intersections of Catholic higher education, engineering and Catholic intellectual traditions.

DesAutels was joined by colleagues from religious studies, history, physics and math. But she found her greatest connection — and research collaborator — in civil engineer Danny Farhey. Together, Farhey and DesAutels are looking at the experience of women engineers at UD, ultimately comparing their results with those from secular and other Catholic institutions.

Among the questions raised in the seminar were “Is UD different?” and “Should UD be different?” Heft said the intention is not to develop a Catholic insight into thermodynamics or a Marianist take on hydraulics. Instead, the seminar acknowledged a student’s need to be equipped with the moral, religious and technical literacy to address complex societal issues.

“We are in a position to offer a truly unique educational experience.”

The seminar discussed gender issues, history, accreditation requirements and the ethics of research.

Among the projects to result from the seminar is a new multidisciplinary design course to be co-taught by Drew Murray (mechanical and aerospace engineering) and Brad Kallenberg (religious studies). They will teach the design process employed in mechanical design and ethical reasoning by focusing on the wider implications and social questions of a project.

Wiebke Diestelkamp (mathematics) will do statistical work for The Foodbank in Dayton. Brad Hume (history) developed a new course in life and technology. Bob Wilkens (chemical and materials engineering) is conducting a literature survey investigating college-level engineering courses for non-engineers.

Brad Duncan (computer and electrical engineering and electro-optics) is conducting a survey to assess the current Catholic-Marianist nature of the School of Engineering. “We are in a position to offer a truly unique educational experience to our students if we accept the challenge to embrace our heritage and traditions fully,” Duncan said. “Responding to these challenges will assist us with reputation building by helping us develop genuine distinctiveness in our policies, procedures, processes and maybe even curricula by virtue of our Catholic and Marianist heritage.”

—Michelle Tedford
NCA self-study enters ‘working papers’ phase

Subcommittees focus on five criteria for reaccreditation

The University’s self-study process for North Central Association reaccreditation has entered a new phase, with subcommittees developing working papers that demonstrate how UD is fulfilling five NCA criteria. UD is preparing for review by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges and a campus visit by an NCA accreditation team in fall 2007.

The subcommittees, each chaired by a member of the assessment and accreditation committee, are meeting every two weeks from January through May 1. The working papers they develop will be the basis for chapters of the self-study to be written in fall 2006.

“These subcommittees have been formed with the objective of having campuswide representation,” said Provost Fred Pestello. “Our goal is to produce a coherent and concise self-study that conveys that we are an institution with a clear, communicated, and understood mission, that we successfully fulfill that mission and that we consistently evaluate and plan, positioning ourselves for continual improvements and for changes in our environment.”

Pestello noted that subcommittees will be reaching beyond their members for insights and participation. “It’s important that all members of the University community are involved in helping to achieve our goal.”

Subcommittee members and the criteria they are addressing are:

**Criterion One: Mission and Integrity**

“The organization operates with integrity to ensure the fulfillment of its mission through structures and processes that involve the board, administration, faculty, staff, and students.”

Fred Jenkins (Chair)
Janet Greenlee
Joe Untener
Jim Farrelly
Joe Owens
Kathy Browning
Father Paul Marshall, S.M.
Tricia Penno
Joel Buckner

**Criterion Two: Preparing for the Future**

“The organization’s allocation of resources and its processes for evaluation and planning demonstrate its capacity to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its education, and respond to future challenges and opportunities.”

Jay Prasad (Chair)
Kel Dickinson
John Huart
Andy Fulton
Jim Olive
Troy Washington
Elise Bernal
Joe Untener
Angie Buechle
Beth Keyes
Brian Balser
Terri Matthews

**Criterion Three: Student Learning and Effective Teaching**

“The organization provides evidence of student learning and teaching effectiveness that demonstrates it is fulfilling its educational mission.”

Paul Vanderburgh (Chair)
Paul Sweeney
Paul Alakkad
Kim Trick
Erica Coe

Daria Graham
Sister Mary Louise Foley, FMI
Greg Hayes
Janice Glynn
Paul Benson
Sawyer Hunley
Julie Steinke

**Criterion Four: Acquisition, Discovery, and Application of Knowledge**

“The organization promotes a life of learning for its faculty, administration, staff, and students by fostering and supporting inquiry, creativity, practice, and social responsibility in ways consistent with its mission.”

Ed Mykytka (Chair)
Paul Sweeney
Fran Conte
Guru Subramanyam
Mike Duricy
Craig Schmitt
Father Jack McGrath, S.M.
Jim Olive
John LeComte

Leno Pedrotti
Phil Taylor
Shauna Adams

**Criterion Five: Engagement and Service**

“As called for by its mission, the organization identifies its constituencies and serves them in ways both value.”

John Weber (Chair)
Jim Farrelly
Scott Markland
Father Tom Thompson, S.M.
Dick Ferguson
Julie Mitchell
Tom Columbus
Crystal Sullivan
Kim Trick
Willie Morris
Bob Smith
Susan Elliott

More information about the self-study process, including information on how to become involved, is available online at http://nca2007.udayton.edu.

Courting partnerships

At the Flyers vs. Florida A&M men’s basketball game, Li Guangbu (left), dean of the Mechanical and Electronic Engineering School at Shanghai Normal University, joined UD President Daniel J. Curran and other UD administrators. Li was on campus Dec. 19-20 as part of a group from Shanghai Normal that also included Hua Hua, director of that university’s office for international exchange, Shen Yilu, assistant for foreign affairs of the Mechanical and Electronic Engineering School, Xiang Jianxiang, vice president, and Zhang Chunli, vice dean. This past term Li Ning and Shangguan Qianqian of Shanghai Normal were visiting faculty members in UD’s department of engineering technology.

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Friday, Jan. 6  
Blessing and dedication  
2 p.m., RecPlex Complex  
Self-guided tours and light refreshments. Enter the building at the main lobby entrance on Evanston.

Sunday, Jan. 8  
Concert: “Splendor in the Brass”  
3 p.m., Sears Recital Hall  
Free and open to the public.

Dayton Christian Jewish Dialogue  
7:30 p.m., Alumni Hall 101  
“The History and Development of the Jewish Prayer for Israel,” presented by Shulamit Adler, M.D. Free and open to the public. Call 229-3694 for more information.

Monday, Jan. 16  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
University offices closed; no day classes. Monday-only classes that meet at 4:30 p.m. and after will be held.

Tuesday, Jan. 17  
Martin Luther King Jr. prayer breakfast  
7:30 a.m., Kennedy Union ballroom  
“Keeping the Dream Alive” presented by syndicated columnist Clarence Page. For tickets ($8 for students, $10 for faculty and staff), call Rosemary O’Boyle at 229-2229.

Friday, Jan. 20  
Translations  
8 p.m., Boll Theatre  
Opening night of the play by Brian Friel, presented by the UD theater department. Set in 1833 Ireland, it tells of the British army’s campaign to replace the native Gaelic with English. Directed by Kay Bosse. Additional performances Jan. 21, 22, 26, 27 and 28. The Sunday performance starts at 7 p.m. Tickets for faculty, staff and students are $8 and are available at the Kennedy Union box office. Call 229-2545.

Friday, Jan. 27  
Faculty meeting  
3 p.m., Kennedy Union east ballroom

Thursday, Feb. 2  
Huun Huur Tu (Throat Singers of Tuva)  
8 p.m., Boll Theatre  
Four musicians from a small region between Siberia and Mongolia, Huun Huur Tu creates music that has been described as “jaw-dropping.” The concert is part of the World Rhythms Series presented in collaboration with CITYFOLK. Tickets ($18 for the public, $16 for senior citizens and $9 for students) are available at the Kennedy Union box office. Call 229-2545.

Tuesday, Jan. 31  
“Go Red for Women”  
Noon, Kennedy Union (location to be announced)  
Brown bag session sponsored by the American Heart Association to increase awareness about women’s vulnerability to heart disease. The campaign, which begins Jan. 24 with informational tables in the Kennedy Union lobby, concludes with Go Red for Women day on Friday, Feb. 3, when everyone is encouraged to wear red.

at the galleries

“Hidden Charms,” the second annual faculty and staff art exhibition, is on display in the ArtStreet Studio D Gallery through Jan. 27. An opening reception will be held from 4:30 to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 10.

“Re: place/Be: Longing,” an exhibit curated by Jeffrey Cortland Jones, is on display through Feb. 2 in the Rike Center Gallery. An opening reception will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 12.

“Facing Prejudice,” a traveling exhibition created by 28 seniors at the University of Cincinnati College of Design Architecture, Art and Planning, makes its first appearance outside Cincinnati in the Roesch Library through Jan. 31. The larger-than-life kiosks are displayed in the library lobby and downstairs in the Ryan C. Harris Learning Teaching Center.