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Calculated concentration
‘Real Women...Real Stories’ focus of Leadership Conference

“Real Women...Real Stories” is the theme of the fifth annual Annie T. Thornton Women’s Leadership Conference, which will be held on Saturday, March 4, in Kennedy Union.

The event strives to empower and educate women by bringing together an intergenerational group of women to discuss personal and professional challenges.

University of Dayton law professor Vernella Randall, who has written extensively about the issues of women, race and healthcare, will give the keynote address at lunch. Other highlights include Story Hour, when participants will choose to hear City of Dayton Mayor Rhine McLin, Dayton Board of Education President Gail Littlejohn, community leader Doris Ponitz or author and historian Margaret Peters talk about their challenges and successes.

Conference registration is $50 for community members and $10 for students enrolled at any secondary or post-secondary institution. Participants are encouraged to register by Feb. 27. For more information or to register, call 229-3351 or visit www.udayton.edu/~udwlc.

Public lecture set for Feminism in the Heartland author

As part of Women’s History Month events, scholar Judith Ezekiel will speak on “Feminism in the Heartland” at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, March 3, in the Roesch Library lobby. Her book, Feminism in the Heartland (Ohio State, 2002), recounts the history of the second wave of the women’s movement in Dayton.

A native Daytonian, Ezekiel is an associate professor of American studies at the University of Toulouse-le-Mirail in France. She studies social movements in France and the United States as well as the transnational “traffic” in feminism. Among her recent presentation topics is “French Dressing: the Hijab, Race, and Gender in French National Identity.”

A book signing and reception will follow Ezekiel’s address, which is sponsored by the women’s studies program and the Women’s Center. Ezekiel will also give the keynote address at the Women’s Advocacy Dinner on Saturday, March 4, in Kennedy Union. The event is a fundraiser for a group of UD students who are working with a women’s empowerment initiative in Lubwe, Zambia. For information or to buy tickets, contact Teresa Winland at winlantk@notes.udayton.edu or 227-1194.

Free performance slated for ‘Dunbar: Common Ground’

The Dayton Opera will present a free public performance of its original operatic theater piece Paul Laurence Dunbar: Common Ground, composed by Adolphus Hailstork with libretto by Herbert Woodward Martin. The performance takes place at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 5, at St. Margaret’s Episcopal Church at 5301 Free Pike in Dayton.

This 40-minute operatic theater piece, commissioned and premiered by Dayton Opera in 1995, highlights 13 of the poet’s works, set to a wide variety of musical styles from blues and gospel to opera. Tickets are not required.

Vigil to mark execution

A group of University of Dayton students, faculty and staff will travel to Lucasville State Penitentiary on Tuesday, Feb. 7, for a prayer vigil and protest at the execution of Glenn Brenner. This will mark the 20th execution in Ohio since the state reinstalled executions in 1999.

The group will leave by van at 6:30 a.m. and return to campus by 1 p.m. Those interested in participating may contact Mary Niebler in the Center for Social Concern at 229-2012 or mary.niebler@notes.udayton.edu.

Ruhlman Award rewards student literary excellence

Submissions are due Feb. 22 for the Brother Frank Ruhlman Award for Literary Excellence, presented annually to a UD undergraduate for writing that has appeared in University publications. The award includes an engraved plaque and UD bookstore certificate for $250. For submission guidelines see http://library.udayton.edu/awards/ruhlman.
State of the University, plans for future outlined at faculty meeting

University of Dayton administrators discussed budget ramifications and plans for the future, including the beginnings of the next campaign, at a “state of the University” address at the faculty meeting Jan. 27.

President Daniel J. Curran recapped events from the UD board of trustees’ January meeting. He said the board stood behind the University’s commitment to support faculty and students, to invest in innovation in teaching and learning and to continue developing learning and living communities. The trustees, Curran said, understood the need for scholarships and to increase diversity — goals that can’t be achieved with the current amount the University is able to commit to financial aid.

Additional revenue generated by the 2006-07 tuition increase and other sources is expected to add up to $12.5 million, with about half of that amount to be dedicated to financial aid, said Thomas Burkhardt, vice president for finance and administrative services.

Of the remaining $6.6 million, the University will allot $2.16 million to compensation pools, plus $955,000 for health care benefits and $455,000 for other benefits.

Special salary adjustments for faculty and administrative areas will be added but controlled by the president and provost to address competitive needs, bringing total compensation increases to 4.7 percent (approximately $4.2 million) including benefits — an increase over last year’s 4.3 percent.

The University will start this year to develop a campus master plan that will guide all land use from Interstate 75, through the new property and the existing campus. Seven firms have submitted proposals; three or four will be selected to come to campus for interviews; and one will be chosen by late February.

A number of University offices are being considered for relocation to the College Park Center building. In addition to the newly approved doctorate of physical therapy program, possible occupants include public safety and parking services, central receiving, residential properties, facilities management and printing and design. University storage and extra library storage are also expected to be housed there.

Facilities projects under review include the Phase 3 of renovation in Kettering Labs, improving the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system in St. Joseph Hall, renovation of the Kennedy Union food service and food court and improvements to College Park Center. A joint venture to bring new facilities for apartments and retail stores at the corner of Brown and Stewart streets is also under discussion.

As for enrollment, UD is on pace to enroll its target class of 1,750 incoming first-year students. Applications, acceptances and campus visits have all increased over last year.

Deposits, however, are down by 30 percent. “Enrollment management and our consultants remain optimistic,” Pestello said. Deposits are expected to stay down until late April, and Pestello said he would be working with deans and encouraging faculty “to get involved throughout campus in converting acceptances to deposits.”

Cost of attendance to rise 6.4% for returning students

The University of Dayton’s board of trustees in January approved a tuition plan that will provide more financial aid to returning undergraduate students while allowing UD to hire more faculty, begin a multi-phase $16 million renovation of Marycrest residence hall, invest in academic programs and offer more competitive salaries to faculty and staff.

Starting in August 2006:

- Undergraduate annual tuition and fees will increase from $22,046 to $23,970. Returning students will receive a $500 scholarship on top of their existing financial aid packages.
- The annual meal plan will rise $110, from $2,780 to $2,890.
- Average annual housing costs will increase $300, from $4,000 to $4,300.
- Annual tuition in the School of Law will rise 4 percent, from $24,990 to $25,990.
- Graduate rates, which vary according to the program, will increase 6 percent.

More than nine out of 10 UD students receive some form of financial aid. The University of Dayton’s current tuition and fees nearly mirror the national average for private universities, which charged an average $21,235 last fall, according to the College Board’s annual cost survey.

Nikki Giovanni performance to ‘Celebrate Dunbar!’

As part of Celebrate Dunbar! — a series of community events honoring the life and work of Paul Laurence Dunbar 100 years after his death — author and poet Nikki Giovanni will read Dunbar’s works as well as her own poetry at 8 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 17, at the Victoria Theatre.

Giovanni has written more than two dozen books, including volumes of poetry, children’s books and three collections of essays. Her most recent volumes of poetry include Love Poems, Blues: For All the Changes and Quilting the Black-Eyed Pea. Since 1987, she has taught writing and literature at Virginia Tech, where she is a university distinguished professor.

The evening will also feature a Dunbar selection performed by Herbert Woodward Martin, UD poet-in-residence, and Willie L. Morris III, saxophonist and UD associate professor of music.

Beginning at 7:30 p.m., there will be a pre-show reception in the Victoria Theatre lobby, featuring music, poetry and spoken-word presentations.

Giovanni’s appearance is co-sponsored by UD’s English department and Diversity Lecture Series and the Victoria Theatre. Tickets are $18 and $12 and can be purchased by calling 228-3630 or by visiting http://www.ticketcenterstage.com.

For more news, see http://campusreport.udayton.edu
The future of the city of Dayton and the future of the University of Dayton are inextricably linked.

While the University is growing, Dayton is not.

According to John Heitmann, Alumni Chair in the Humanities, as a city, Dayton is facing financial difficulties with an outflow of population resulting in 10,000 abandoned homes.

“Here we are as an institution with an interdependent relationship with the city,” he said. “It’s time to pay attention from an interdisciplinary perspective and voice certain issues and concerns.”

During Heitmann’s four-year term as alumni chair he plans to explore urban problems from various humanities’ perspectives through the annual humanities symposium.

“We can use the humanities to shed light on one of the most important issues of the day: the nature of the city — its past, present and future,” he said.

The theme of the 13th Annual Humanities Symposium is “Humanities: The City and the University.”

At 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 13, in Sears Recital Hall, Kenneth Jackson will speak about “Exurban Sprawl in the United States: The Past and Future of Dayton.”

Jackson, who once lived in Dayton as an officer at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and faculty member at Antioch and Wittenberg universities, will address issues specific to Dayton, including concerns about the city center.

At 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 14, in Sears Recital Hall, Ira Harkavy will present “Universities and Community Engagement as a Means to Realize the Historic Promise of the American University in the 21st Century.”

Harkavy is the associate vice president and founding director of the Center for Community Partnerships at the University of Pennsylvania. A long-time leader in the field of service learning, Harkavy’s books include Integrating a Commitment to the Public Good into the Institutional Fabric, written with Lee Benson and Matthew Hartley.

At 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 14, Harkavy will lead a workshop on service learning and engaging colleagues and students in community projects. All faculty interested in learning how UD students and the community of Dayton can benefit from service learning are invited to attend. Call Carolyn Ludwig at 229-3490 for details.

—Jessica Gibson-James

**Journalist to explore looming global health crisis**

Bird flu. SARS. Ebola virus.

If you’re concerned about the potential of a global health care crisis, you’ll want to hear Laurie Garrett’s Distinguished Speakers Series address at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 21, in the Kennedy Union ballroom.


In Betrayal of Trust, she examines health catastrophes simultaneously taking place around the world and looks at the state of hospital and community health safety in the United States. She considers factors such as the predominance of food-related diseases, the growing incidence of bacterial diseases resistant to antibiotics, and the role of the global economy and international travel in increasing the spread of disease. She also discusses biological terrorism and explains how smallpox, for example, is being cultivated as a weapon of destruction.

Garrett’s address is free and open to the public.
Two award-winning poets to take on ‘Politics and Poetry’ at LitFest

Two of the pioneering voices of the black arts and Africana studies movements will come to the University of Dayton during UD’s annual LitFest.

Poet, teacher and community activist Askia Touré will speak on "Poetry and Black Liberation: Freedom's Furious Passions" at 6 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 17, in Sears Recital Hall. The presentation is free and open to the public.

Touré, who graduated from Dayton’s Roosevelt High School in 1956, is an internationally published poet and the author of five books, including From the Pyramids to the Projects, which won the 1989 American Book Award for Literature. In 1996, Touré was awarded the Gwendolyn Brooks Lifetime Achievement award from the Gwendolyn Brooks Institute in Chicago. His most recent collection of poetry, Dawnsong! (2000), was awarded the Stephen Henderson Poetry Award from the African-American Literature and Culture Society.

Everett Hoagland, poet and professor emeritus at the University of Massachusetts, will read his poetry at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 18, at ArtStreet. The reading is free and open to the public.

Hoagland has been the recipient of the Gwendolyn Brooks Award for fiction and two Massachusetts Council Fellowships for Poetry. From 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. on Saturday at ArtStreet, English faculty and graduate students from universities across the nation will offer academic and creative workshops on subjects related to the conference’s theme, “Politics and Poetry: Words and Movement.”

Also, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at ArtStreet, area poets and professors will lead concurrent workshops on teaching and writing poetry. Later that day, the Dayton Poetry Slam will be held at 9 p.m. in the Kennedy Union Pub. The slam costs $5 at the door.

To register for the workshops, which are free and open to the public, or to obtain a detailed LitFest schedule, go to http://academic.udayton.edu/english/LitFest/.

—Jessica Gibson-James

Is this a great place to work, or what?

If you think UD is one of the best places to work in Dayton, then vote. The University of Dayton has been nominated for the Dayton Business Journal’s Best Places to Work award.

To be considered for the award, at least 315 UD employees must rate the University through an online survey by Feb. 8. To take the survey, go to http://www.qmtrinc.com/bestplaces. Then enter the organizational code: SQRQ71395.

The 15 highest-scoring companies will receive the award and will be featured in a March 17 publication.
Faculty to spend spring break in Shanghai, preparing engineering students to transfer to Dayton

This summer for the first time, engineering students from Shanghai Normal University will be coming to UD’s campus to complete their final year of a four-year program that allows them to study for three years in Shanghai and one year at UD and receive a UD degree.

In 2003, UD’s department of engineering technology began the “three-plus-one” partnership with the Chinese university, which offers undergraduate, master’s and doctoral degrees and enrolls 43,000 students, including 2,000 full-time engineering students.

To help prepare these transfer students for the experience, three UD faculty members, Marybeth Carlson (history), Marilyn Fischer (history) and Mark Patterson (engineering), will be traveling 14 hours one way to Shanghai during midterm break in March to teach two weeks of classes to SNU students.

Scott Segalewitz, chair of the engineering technology program and coordinator of the partnership, asked for volunteer professors to go to comply with a request from China’s ministry of education, which wanted the students to have more contact with UD professors before coming here.

“This is a temporary measure,” he said.

To address the ministry’s concerns in the future, Segalewitz plans to offer the students distance learning through video conferencing.

Also, in the summer 2006, UD students and faculty will travel to Shanghai with the Interdepartmental Summer Study Abroad Program, giving SNU students the chance to sit in on classes taught by UD faculty and interact with UD students.

Visiting professors observe UD teaching and learning styles

The biggest surprise for Ning Li and Qianqian Shangguan, two visiting professors from Shanghai Normal University, the University of Dayton’s partner in the “three-plus-one” program, is how similar the two countries are.

“We thought there’d be big differences,” Shangguan said. “But there aren’t.”

Li and Shangguan, who returned to China at the end of January, came to UD in October to spend time in UD classrooms observing professors who teach courses similar to theirs so they can better prepare their students for the partnership’s required year at UD.

Li worked with Scott Segalewitz, chair of the engineering technology department, who coordinated UD’s partnership with SNU.

“He teaches his classes clearly,” she said. “He gives his students simple examples that allow them to use their brains to solve problems, not just books.”

Shangguan worked with Sean Falkowski, assistant professor of engineering technology.

SNU also regularly sends faculty to UD to observe in engineering classrooms so that they can adapt their teaching styles to better prepare students for the educational style at UD.

Carlson, who went on last summer’s ISSAP trip, has worked with some of the SNU students who will be coming in the fall and knows that addressing the differences in educational style is important.

“The entire system of pedagogy is different,” she said. “We [at UD] encourage individualism more. We want our students to think critically and not necessarily agree with us. Our goal is to give them the tools to disagree successfully, which is not something the Chinese students will be familiar with.”

Carlson and Fischer will team teach a general education course tracing the influence China and the West have had on each other throughout history.

“We plan to devote half the time we’ll have with them to discussion,” Carlson said. “We want to get them used to it gradually so we will start with small groups.”

The students will also have to write short essays in English in response to critical-thinking questions.

Patterson will be a guest lecturer in a technical course the students have already been taking.

Patterson is studying Mandarin to prepare for the trip. But the language barrier isn’t the only one he and his Chinese students will face. The lab equipment will also be different so Patterson is working with new equipment now so he can be comfortable with it as well.

“He communicates a lot with the students. The students are active: speaking, talking, discussing,” she said.

“I will change my way of teaching, because if I make my teaching closer to professors here, it will be easier for our students to study here,” she added.

Li and Shangguan think several factors will make the transition difficult for their students. The first is the language difference. Though the students have studied English for many years, taking professional courses with specialized vocabulary will be challenging.

UD is addressing this concern by offering the students two months of English courses during the summer.

Another challenge the students will face is the dramatic difference in pedagogical
was especially helpful for the SNU students planning to attend UD this fall.

The trip also provides opportunities for service learning. Last year, the group stopped at a school to spend an hour with the students doing nothing more than speaking English. The hour turned into an afternoon.

“Our students wanted to stay. They realized they were the experts,” Carlson said.

“One student said, ‘I speak English very well. I do it almost every day.’”

Because of this experience, the trip’s coordinators are now seeking ways to let interested students extend their stay in China to live with local families while teaching English in areas where the population is too poor to pay the required fees.

The deadline for students to sign up for this year’s study abroad program in Shanghai is Feb. 17. Contact the Center for International Programs for more information at 229-3514.

Left: Linggu Temple in Nanjing

Top: Suki Kwon (facing camera), UD assistant professor of visual arts, and UD students Valere Blum, Don Leach and Jena Altenburger take tea in Nanjing. Bottom: UD students Katie Durham (middle) and Jena Altenburger seeing the sights in Shanghai.

Student to student

Close relationships with Shanghai peers enhance UD’s study abroad program

Relationships with students from Shanghai Normal University make UD’s study abroad program in Shanghai a unique experience, according to Marybeth Carlson, associate professor of history, who went last summer and is going again this year. Becky Blust, associate professor of engineering, and Suki Kwon, assistant professor of visual arts, are the other faculty sponsors.

Last year 12 students, six from engineering and six from arts and sciences, and three faculty members spent four weeks studying Asian history, culture and business practices while also building relationships with Chinese students.

“Our students spent more time with students their age than on other ISSAP trips,” Carlson said. “We were helpless when it came to ordering food or haggling in the market. Having the SNU students was an enormous help.”

“This is an intense opportunity for our students to become acquainted with Chinese lifestyles and beliefs,” Carlson said. “This is an opportunity to give UD students better understanding of a nation that is increasingly influential — economically and culturally.”

The relationships were beneficial to the SNU students as well who, for the most part, had never spoken English to Americans. The English practice and exposure to UD students and professors was especially helpful for the SNU students planning to attend UD this fall.

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"Faculty meetings always turned into a dinner party someplace," English professor James Farrelly recently said of his early days of teaching at the University of Dayton.

"Unfortunately, maybe we older faculty aren’t as welcoming."

Further reflection by the 2006 Lackner Award winner revealed that older faculty today may be substantially older than what passed for “old” in the late 1960s and 1970s and perhaps younger faculty have other things to do on a Friday evening.

But, if in the tradition of Champlain, “new times call for new methods,” the goal of those old methods remains important for the mission of the University of Dayton.

Of people from his early days at UD — such as his first department chair, B.J. Bedard; the legendary philosophy department chair Richard Baker; Margaret Mary Holland, the student development vice president who lived in Campus South; Ellie Kurtz (the longtime Kennedy Union director “who got me to do anything and everything that occurred to her” except chaperoning Turnabout or Homecoming dances) — Farrelly said, “These people gave their lives. It became contagious. You develop an affiliation with the institution to the point where it becomes part of your self — the place where everything comes together.”

Farrelly believes that it’s important that people here today understand the Marianist dynamics. “What we found here,” he said, “were lay people joining with the Marianists and their practical sense to solve problems.”

For example, he recalls “a really testy” meeting in 1979 about general education. Some faculty members were saying there Growing up, David Prier can remember his mother and grandmother constantly reminding him that, “To those whom many blessings are given, much is expected.”

“I have been so blessed all my life,” Prier said. “I feel as if I have an obligation to give back to my community.”

Prier, as this year’s Maureen E. O’Rourke Marianist Award recipient, is honored for doing just that. The award honors a UD senior, who, in his or her time at UD has not only lived out but worked to increase an understanding and practice of the five aspects of the Marianist charism. These include Mary, community, inclusivity, faith and mission.

As a founding member of the Marianist...
was no way they were going to add new courses for such an endeavor. But UD came up with a solution, parts of which are models of interdisciplinary cooperation. Farrelly said he believes some of UD’s success is because the Marianists don’t see the intellect or intellectual pursuits in isolation but rather in the context of education. “So,” he said, “to learn is added ‘lead’ and ‘serve.’”

In his own classes, Farrelly said, he “looks for ways to make education a total thing. I encourage students to take what they learn and apply it.”

That some might take that too literally in courses he teaches on the occult and Stephen King has spurred an occasional letter from a parent to a provost. When Father James Heft, S.M., was provost, Farrelly said, “he’d reply, ‘You’d benefit from talking directly to professor Farrelly. If I get any complaints now, I say, ‘Maybe you’d better talk to Father Heft.’”

As for student reaction, Farrelly said, “If anything, they complain because I use the position of the church.”

As he prepares for his Lackner speech, he has been cautioned by his wife, Barbara, against using too many personal and family reminisces. But

Among the ways to understand exactly what students can possibly mean when they tell each other “You’ve been Weaverized” is to picture one of the thousands of classroom moments in the life and career of 2006 Lackner Award winner Roberta Weaver.

A second-grader with difficulty reading was forced by his teacher to stand alongside his desk and read a text aloud. The stuttering and humiliated boy was obviously suffering, so Weaver whispered the right words to him. When the offended teacher asked if she preferred to teach the class, Weaver said fine and took over. She was a second-grader herself.

That keen sense of injustice and the willingness to confront it have not left Weaver, a national leader in the field of special education and a member of the faculty of the School of Education and Allied Professions for nearly three decades.

Weaver’s generation of special educators returning to the faculty for good in 1978. She has served as department chair in teacher education and is now in her fourth year as associate dean for community outreach. In recent years she has turned her attention to

“We created a pamphlet full of Marianist information our sophomore year and have really pushed to have more Marianist art in all of the University’s rooms,” Prier said.

Prier, who hopes to one day be a math professor, loves to facilitate that “aha” moment in others. “Whether it’s with math or with our Marianist charism, I love to see someone really comprehend what is going on,” Prier said. “I love bringing people to a realization of the spirit we are emerged in.”

Prier takes an active role in teaching about the Marianists and leads others by example.

As both a Neighborhood Fellow and vice president of Reach, a student organization devoted to mental health awareness on campus, Prier lives out his understanding of the Marianist spirit.

Through his experiences at Chaminade Julienne, a Marianist high school in Dayton, and UD, Prier has come to understand the Marianist charism as “an active living out of faith in all you do,” whether it is flying kites, going to class, playing Frisbee, going on hikes or just being with another person.

“For me, serving others around me has really come to mean walking with people as they move through life,” Prier said. “It is about saying ‘let me be with you, in this moment, as a fellow human being.’”

Prier, who will graduate in May, challenges those students still here to “jump into the community, but use this time to find out who you are.

“Enjoy your time here in this community. It has been one of my greatest blessings.”

—Amanda J. Hargadon
Real-world ethics

Business leaders work with students to ‘walk the talk’

Over lunch, students and Dayton-area professionals decide whom to fire, what marketing plan to initiate and how to deal with a challenging boss.

They are participating in one of the semester’s six “Walk the Talk” sessions designed to heighten awareness of ethical issues in the business world through discussion.

“This exposes the students to people who are dealing with these issues every day,” said Brother Victor Forlani, S.M., who created “Walk the Talk” six years ago. “These people are trying to do good as they do well.”

Forlani said the discussion is meant to introduce issues affecting the business world, aside from strictly performance. He hopes the students learn positive and negative consequences of decisions.

The groups of eight, usually two professionals paired with six students, discuss questions and present their main points to the larger group. The 75-minute session is typically a lunch break for the professionals.

In the past, the program used ethical studies taken from a textbook, which Forlani felt lacked real-world edge and didn’t always fit the students’ curriculum. Now, Forlani encourages local professionals and faculty to write the cases.

One local professional and longtime contributor to UD, Alan Pippenger, president of Requarth Lumber in Dayton, wrote the case “A New Blockbuster Product for a New Marketing VP.” Based on a true story, the case is of

Student’s outreach to Haiti earns award from Milwaukee Archdiocese

Beth Lownik has gotten a lot of mileage out of a research project she did while an eighth grader at St. Mary Parish School in Milwaukee.

She became interested in Haiti after her grandparents visited the Caribbean nation, which led to the project — but that was not all. Lownik wrote to her parish priest asking if St. Mary’s could join the Parish Twinning Program of the Americas, which connects Catholic parishes in the Third World and those in North America. About a year later, St. Mary’s was paired with Notre-Dame du Perpetuel Secours, or Our Lady of Perpetual Help, in Latiboliere, Haiti.

Since then, Haiti has become like a second home to Lownik. She and her mother, Pam, recently received a “service to missions” Vatican II award from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee for their outreach work in Haiti.

“If I fell in love with Haiti the first time I went, and I’ve been back many times since,” said Lownik, who was 15 during that initial visit. “I was definitely struck by the poverty; I wasn’t really ready to see the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. But mostly I was surprised. I ended up having a really good time with the people I met and came back all gung-ho to learn Creole.”

Lownik now speaks Creole fluently. She’s had plenty of opportunities to practice the language, as she’s spent the past three summers and various holiday breaks in Haiti. She was there during New Year’s and plans to travel there again in late February, when she hopes she’ll be able to do some work related to the Haitian elections.

Much of Lownik’s work in Haiti has been in public health. She received a Learn, Lead and Serve grant last year, as well as an internship through the Haitian Health Foundation, that allowed her to spend last summer working on a study aimed at discovering how some poor Haitian women are able to keep their children healthy in a country where dehydration is the leading cause of death for children ages 5 and younger. Lownik spent weeks walking from village to village, finding healthy children and interviewing their mothers about such behaviors as breastfeeding. That information was used to design “hearth sessions,” a two-month series of classes in which one woman was trained to teach other women in the village about nutrition, child care and other such topics.

“I went on my first medical mission my senior year in high school, and that was my first time experiencing the medical aspect of the situation in Haiti,” Lownik said. “I had no interest in medicine up until this point, but now I think it’s so important. People need health care, and they don’t have it.”

Lownik — a junior studying pre-med, human rights, anthropology and political science — now plans to pursue a career in development and public health.

Her experiences in Haiti are giving her a jump-start in the field. She’s met such people as a man who almost died from malaria, which he contracted after breaking his leg from falling out of a coconut tree, and a woman who thought her daughter was mentally retarded, when the daughter actually was blind. She’s spent time handing out vitamins, giving HIV tests and teaching classes on breastfeeding.

“I really love it in Haiti because the people are so friendly,” she said. “You’ll be so far out in the middle of nowhere on a horse in the mountains with people you don’t know at all, and all of a sudden you’re best friends. I’d interview people whose houses and crops had been destroyed by a hurricane, and they will still want to feed you and are so welcoming.

“I am so full in Haiti all the time because people all want to feed me.”

—Kristen Wicker
urban education issues, helping launch UD's Urban Teacher Academy, a program designed to draw talented teachers to careers in local urban schools, and is instrumental in the development of the Dayton Early College Academy, among other projects.

“If you can’t do any better than this, then consider another profession,” she once wrote on a student’s essay. The year was 1977, and the student was Shauna Adams, now associate professor in the department of teacher education. It made Adams mad, but she had nowhere to hide: Weaver taught all of UD’s special education classes at the time. Not only did Adams have her in six more classes, but Weaver oversaw three of Adams’ four student-teaching experiences. Adams said the comment inspired her to put forth the kind of effort that got her where she is today.

“She forces students to go beyond the cuteness that many are attracted to in education, many of them kicking and screaming,” said Adams. “She challenges groups that are not used to being challenged,” and her students “don’t see things at face value. They always question ‘Why?’”

When that approach becomes a habit and then a disposition, that’s when students have been Weaverized, said Adams.

Call Weaver’s discontent fruitful. Call her conflict constructive. Call her challenge to seek change when change is necessary and just rather than merely comfortable perfectly Marianist.

—Matthew Dewald

a new hire, Doug, learning his company will begin marketing a performance-enhancing, caffeine drink to children ages 3 to 10. The drink contains some chemicals banned by the NCAA and has known negative side effects in adults. A marketing employee, Andy, explains the drink will target parents, coaches and young athletes looking for an “extra edge.” Andy then begins to question the product and lays out reasons he feels it is unethical. Following the meeting, the owner of the company asks Doug to fire Andy.

“You don’t necessarily come out of these things with agreement,” Forlani said. “But we should be considering these dimensions of our business practices.”

—Kailyn Derck

those who have influenced him are not just former faculty and staff.

“My mother,” he recalled of his childhood, “would, speaking in a brogue, talk of Ireland. But it took my going as an adult with her to Ireland to fully understand her growing up. So, in a sense I see two mothers. One I experienced as I grew up. The other one I learned about — one who left school in the third grade to work in the fields.”

He speaks of his mother and his early mentors as “giants. They carry you on their shoulders until you get your own footing.” And he believes that enough people at UD have sufficiently gained their footing “to keep the Marianist spirit alive.”

—Thomas M. Columbus

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Sunday, Feb. 5
Ebony Heritage Singers and Dayton Jazz Ensemble
3 p.m., Boll Theatre
Conducted by Donna Cox and Willie L. Morris III.

Friday, Feb. 10
Academic senate meeting
3 p.m., Kennedy Union west ballroom

Saturday, Feb. 11
Dayton Contemporary Dance Company II
9 p.m., Boll Theatre
Arts Series presentation. Tickets are $5 for students; $8 for UD faculty, staff and alumni; and $14 for the public and can be purchased at the Kennedy Union box office.

Sunday, Feb. 12
Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Concert Band
3 p.m., Boll Theatre
Conducted by Patrick Reynolds and Eric Wiltshire.

Dayton Christian Jewish Dialog
7:30 p.m., Alumni Hall 101

Monday-Thursday, Feb. 13-16
13th Annual Humanities Symposium
This year’s theme: “The Humanities: The City and the University.” See story, Page 4.

Thursday, Feb. 16
Career Fair
11 a.m. to 3 p.m., College Park Center
All students and alumni welcome. For participating companies, see http://careers.udayton.edu.

Friday, Feb. 17
LitFest
6 p.m., Sears Recital Hall
Opening lecture by poet Askia Touré.
For more events, see story, Page 5.

Nikki Giovanni
8 p.m., Victoria Theatre
Author and poet Nikki Giovanni will read works by Paul Laurence Dunbar and her own poetry as part of Celebrate Dunbar! Sponsored by the UD English department, the Diversity Lecture Series and Victoria Theatre. Tickets are $18 and $12. For more information, call 228-3630.

Sunday, Feb. 19
University Jazz Band and University Combos
3 p.m., Kennedy Union ballroom
Conducted by Eric Wiltshire.

Tuesday, Feb. 21
Distinguished Speakers Series
8 p.m., Kennedy Union ballroom
Laurie Garrett, New York Newsday medical and science writer, discusses public health issues and their effects on foreign policy and national security.

Friday, Feb. 24
Baby
8 p.m., Boll Theatre
The UD theater department presents this work based on the book by Sybille Pearson, with music by David Shire, lyrics by Richard Maltby Jr., and directed by Linda Dunlevy. Baby tells the story of three couples on a university campus as they deal with consequences of impending parenthood. Additional performances at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 25, and at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 26. Tickets are $8 for students, faculty and staff and $10 for the public and are available at the Kennedy Union box office. Call 229-2545.

Monday, Feb. 20
Works by Adam Alonzo connect the human eye’s perception of images to the permanence of a photograph. Opening reception will be Feb. 23 at 7:30 p.m. The exhibit runs through March 20.

Above: “Woodland Cemetery, November 2005,” by Adam Alonzo