CampusReport
UD establishes $3.2 million laser radar institute

The University of Dayton, U.S. Air Force and regional businesses are launching a $3.2 million institute Monday that they hope will hasten the development of a technology used to search for terrorists.

The Ladar and Optical Communications Institute in UD’s College Park Center establishes a curriculum dedicated to ladar technology and consolidates the brain power of the region’s researchers to put ladar on a faster track to the battlefield and business.

“This technology is still in its infancy, and a center devoted to ladar will be a catalyst for rapid progress in the United States,” said Joe Haus, UD electro-optics graduate program chair and LOCI director. “We hope more input from business means quicker use for ladar.”

Twenty-two instructors from UD and the Air Force Institute of Technology will teach in what is believed to be the nation’s first laser radar curriculum.

Ladar, or laser detection and ranging, is similar to radar, except it typically uses infrared lasers rather than radio waves to detect targets. Multiple reflections from buildings in cities, tree canopies and other camouflage, which provide potential terrorist hiding places, can be eliminated with ladar, according to Haus. It also produces clearer images.

“Ladar images taken from the air can show details that are less than a foot in size on the ground. You won’t be able to identify faces, but you can tell if people are there,” Haus said.

Ladar has fewer false positives due to ground interference, can generate 3-D maps and can detect biological agents, according to the funding proposal.

Non-military applications include alerting drivers to obstacles, land development and searches after disasters, Haus said.

Lasers used in ladar are not harmful and are not like the green lasers that reportedly caused problems for pilots a few years ago, according to Haus.

The students, many of whom will be enrolled in UD’s School of Engineering, will have opportunities to perform research on campus and at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base with government researchers.

A governing board comprising representatives from the Air Force Research Lab, Air Force Institute of Technology, NASA’s Jet Propulsion Lab and UD, as well as a technical advisory group represented by the institute’s constituencies, will guide LOCI’s planning.

ITT, L3 Cincinnati Electronics, Northrup-Grumman, Srico and Textron Systems are LOCI partners.

UD business school named one of the nation’s best

The academic reputation of the University of Dayton’s School of Business Administration continues to grow, thanks to a new national ranking.

The Princeton Review has named it one of the Best 282 Business Schools in the nation. It’s one of 45 new schools listed in the 2007 edition of the book, published this week by Random House and The Princeton Review.

The quality of the MBA program, flagship programs in entrepreneurship and finance and UD’s “perfect balance of being an extremely social campus while upholding academic excellence” propelled the School of Business Administration onto the list.

Students surveyed for the book praised the MBA program’s “exceptional integrated core curriculum,” “excellent faculty” and “a marvelous Marianist-centered campus life.” According to the University of Dayton’s two-page profile in the book, “Students here assure us that their School of Business Administration offers ‘one of the best-kept secrets in the world of MBA programs.””

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Artist Henry Sugimoto knew what it feels like to be the unwanted ingredient in America’s melting pot.

The Japanese native arrived in the United States at age 19, but when he was 42 — and World War II was raging — he, his wife and daughter were among the 110,000 Japanese-Americans confined to internment camps.

Sugimoto spent three and a half years at internment camps in Arkansas, and “the experience irreversibly affected how he viewed himself, his art and the Japanese-American experience,” according to the Japanese American National Museum.

He created paintings depicting life in the camps and later turned the paintings into woodcut prints — 29 of which are on display now through Dec. 15 at the McGinnis Center Gallery. The gallery is open 9 a.m. to midnight daily.

The Smithsonian Institution, in Washington, D.C., and the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles have displayed Sugimoto’s work. His poignant images capture such scenes as a family standing below a large sign reading “No Japs Wanted Anymore.” Many are haunting, such as “Bewilderment,” in which a Japanese girl holding a suitcase looks up, a tear falling from her eye. “Innocent Babies” depicts a group of cheerful youngsters — one of them waving a small American flag — playing beneath a sign reading “Jerome Relocation Camp” as an American military policeman walks by the nearby barbed-wire fence.

Many of the images portray Japanese families sending off, coping without or mourning their sons and husbands as the families are forced to reside in the camps. For example, in “Thoughts of Him,” a mother sits nursing a baby next to a table on which sits a picture of a man in a military uniform and a postcard. “My Son — Hurt in Action” shows a soldier’s father reading a letter as the mother looks on, distressed.

The University will host several events in conjunction with the exhibit. Sugimoto’s daughter, Madelaine, will discuss the time in the camp and her late father’s art. A reception for Madelaine Sugimoto begins at 6:30 p.m. that evening. The reception and lecture are free and open to the public.

Artwork by former prisoner in Japanese-American internment camp on exhibit

Erin Holscher, a UD printmaking professor, and Jon Swindler, a Wright State University professor, will conduct a hands-on relief printmaking workshop utilizing Sugimoto’s techniques. The workshop is free to UD students and $10 for the public and includes materials.

7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 18, in the McGinnis Center:

The national chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League will offer “What it Means to be an American,” a teacher training workshop that addresses issues of “tolerance and the responsibility each of us has to ensure that constitutional liberties and protections are enjoyed equally by all,” according to the JACL. The workshop will feature classroom lesson plans that focus on the shifting balance between constitutional rights and issues of national security during wartime and address curriculum topics from the National Council for Social Studies. The cost is $20 and includes curriculum materials for educators.

UD’s ArtStreet and the local chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League are sponsoring the exhibit and workshops. Advanced registration is required for the Oct. 13 and Nov. 18 events. Call 229-5103.

For more news, see http://universityofdaytonblogs.com/newsinfo/
Grassroots activist opens series of lectures on environment and public policy

A grassroots environmental activist who battled Gulf Coast corporate chemical polluters — and won — launches this year’s Humanities Symposium and Baker Colloquium in Philosophy at the University of Dayton Oct. 11-14.

Keynote speakers on environmental philosophy and public policy, including one of the world’s leading experts on regulatory policy, will examine environmental issues from a variety of perspectives.

All keynote lectures will be held in Sears Recital Hall and are free and open to the public.

The schedule includes:

■ Diane Wilson, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 11 — “The Courage to Change”

Wilson, author of An Unreasonable Woman: A True Story of Shrimpers, Politicos, Polluters, and the Fight For Seadrift, Texas, opens the 2006 Humanities Symposium. A shrimp-boat captain and mother of five, Wilson fought Formosa Plastics’ proposed expansion of its PVC manufacturing plant in her hometown in Calhoun County, Texas, which led the nation in toxic emissions. Her determination and the help of a pro bono lawyer and a Greenpeace activist led to a “zero tolerance” agreement for Formosa Plastics and Dow/Union Carbide. Her story is the subject of a 2001 short documentary, “Diane Wilson, A Warrior’s Tale,” broadcast on a Lifetime Television special called “Our Heroes, Ourselves.”

Wilson’s lecture, part of the 14th annual Humanities Symposium, is sponsored by the Alumni Chair in the Humanities. The UD community will have another opportunity to hear Wilson during “A Conversation with Diane Wilson” from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 12, in Humanities Center 470-472. In case of overflow, the event will be moved to Sears Recital Hall.

UD’s 32nd Richard R. Baker Colloquium in Philosophy will follow Oct. 12-14 and examine the theme “Environmental Philosophy and the Duties of Citizenship.”

Keynote speakers are:

■ Roger S. Gottlieb, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 12 — “The Spirit of Environmental Democracy”

Gottlieb is a professor of philosophy at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and author of the forthcoming A Greener Faith: Religious Environmentalism and our Planet’s Future. He concentrates on the political, ethical and religious dimensions of the environmental crisis and the connections between religion and politics. His numerous works include This Sacred Earth: Religion, Nature, Environment and A Spirituality of Resistance: Finding a Peaceful Heart and Protecting the Earth.

■ Carl F. Cranor, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 13 — “The Science Veil over Personal Injury Law”

One of the world’s leading experts on regulatory policy and philosophical issues in science and law, Cranor is the author of Regulating Toxic Substances: A Philosophy of Science and the Law and Toxic Torts. Cranor, a professor of philosophy at the University of California, Riverside, with funding from the National Science Foundation, has published groundbreaking research on the use of scientific evidence in toxic tort law.

■ Andrew Light, 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 14 — “What Killed Environmentalism?”

Light, associate professor of philosophy and public affairs at the University of Washington, focuses on making environmental ethics more practical and applicable to environmental policy in order to solve environmental dilemmas. A prolific author and editor, his most recently published work is Environment and Values.

Additional presentations are scheduled throughout the colloquium on topics ranging from ecological citizenship to global warming and public policy. For the complete schedule, see http://academic.udayton.edu/philosophy/colloquiums/32prog.htm.

The Baker Colloquium in Philosophy is supported, in part, by a grant from the Ohio Humanities Council.

—Anna Sexton

Lectures link to environmental research courses

Both the Humanities Symposium and Baker Colloquium in Philosophy complement UD’s new curricular experiments in community-based environmental research. Such experiments include a pilot course, Undergraduate Research on Environmental Sustainability, being team-taught this year by Humanities Fellows Dan Fouke, professor of philosophy, and Sukh Sidhu, associate professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering and senior research engineer in UDRI’s environmental engineering group.

Students will conduct research that responds to needs expressed by groups in the community. For example, the city of Dayton’s environmental manager has asked some students to research how Dayton can reduce carbon dioxide emissions, and a representative of b-w greenways has requested research on alternative farming practices.

Faculty have also received a grant from SENCER — Science Education for New Civic Engagements and Responsibilities — to implement a course for students in secondary education that focuses on understanding the Great Miami River’s ecosystem and its social implications.
Edward P. Jones, author of The Known World, a novel about slavery that won the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for fiction, will speak at 8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 23, in Kennedy Union ballroom. The lecture is sponsored by the Lawrence A. Ruff Honors Author Program.

Based on historical facts, The Known World tells the story of a former slave in antebellum Virginia who, upon gaining his freedom, purchases slaves to work for him.

Each year, through the Ruff Honors Author Program, first-year students read a literary work for their Honors English class and then have the opportunity to meet the author and ask questions. Honors authors in recent years have included Billy Collins, Matthew Pearl, Andre Dubus III and Kathleen Norris.

Jones, a New York Times bestselling author, has also been awarded the National Book Critics Circle Award, the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award and the Lannan Literary Award for The Known World. He received a MacArthur Fellowship in 2004.

His first collection of short stories, Lost in the City, won the PEN/Hemingway Award and was short-listed for the National Book Award. He has taught fiction writing at a range of universities, including Princeton. He lives in Washington, D.C.

His most recent book, All Aunt Hagar's Children, is a collection of 14 stories, five of which have been published in The New Yorker.
High hopes: UD materials engineer sees plenty of possibilities for Boeing’s new Dreamliner

A more affordable, longer-range, explosion-resistant, comfortable and safer plane that offers more international destinations from smaller domestic airports is what a University of Dayton materials engineer sees for future Boeing 787 Dreamliner passengers.

“I was nervous about this project before I got there. The largest plane currently made of mostly composite materials is a six-seater. Now, somebody is trying to jump three plane sizes,” said Daniel Eylon, chair of UD’s graduate materials engineering program. “I came back very reassured Boeing has the technology to do this.”

Eylon, a titanium expert, spent two months at three different Boeing facilities as part of an information sharing program between Boeing and university experts in various aviation disciplines. Boeing filled only 12 spots a year for the Boeing Welliver Faculty Fellowship Program.

Composite materials and titanium alloys are among the strongest, lightest materials in existence. They allow planes to fly farther with more people, less fuel and better cabin air conditions than current aluminum materials. Boeing fills the gap with a rib-cage design, according to Eylon. Because composites and titanium don’t corrode, Eylon said there is no fear of the metal fatigue that caused the roof to peel away from an Aloha Airlines jet in 1988. “A forklift on the ground will not dent this plane. It would poke a hole through a plane with aluminum skin,” said Eylon, who found that Boeing has been using some of his titanium research. “There is no research to back this up, but I would say composite material would help contain an explosion better, especially one like the fuel tank in TWA 800 (in 1996 off the coast of Long Island, N.Y.). Some explosion-proof cargo containers already are made out of composites.”

Eylon added that it takes less time to assemble a composite plane, and it will require less maintenance. Overall, the savings are passed to the consumer.

The Dreamliner is designed for nonstop, international flights. Boeing, which has 100,000 employees overall, plans to use her Florida results to create models for success and to back this up, but I would say composite material would help contain an explosion better, especially one like the fuel tank in TWA 800 (in 1996 off the coast of Long Island, N.Y.). Some explosion-proof cargo containers already are made out of composites.”

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Titanium is expensive to process even though it is the world’s fourth-most abundant metal. It needs a lot of electricity and must be made in a vacuum, according to Eylon. However, titanium manufacturers continue to uncover additional resources.

Eylon said Russia is emerging as a country with a large titanium capacity.

Besides the airports, GE Aircraft Engines in Evendale, the landing gear division of Goodrich in Cleveland and RMI Titanium in Niles are Ohio companies that will benefit from the Dreamliner. Eylon also said much of the Dreamliner’s technology was tried out in the military at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Fairborn, Ohio.

—Shawn Robinson

Researching entrepreneurial success

Ronald Sullivan started with a dream and a van and built his own air conditioning company in central Florida.

His success was an inspiration to his daughter, who is now studying the forces that made him — and continue to make so many other small-business owners — successful.

“What really helped him in his business and to become business-savvy was his networks,” said Diane Sullivan, who joined UD as an assistant professor of management in August.

Sullivan received a $25,000 grant to study the influence of networks on entrepreneurial success. She is currently analyzing data received from a survey mailed to 2,000 firms incorporated in Florida in 2005. In a year, she’ll send a follow-up survey, looking at how their networks, opportunities and financial state have changed. She hopes the findings can be translated into best practices.

“I’m looking to identify the people who are important at the different stages of venture development,” she said. For her father’s business, that person was Joseph Tritch, her father’s accountant. Through a common link to New York, the men also forged social ties that are often hallmarks of the most valuable network relationships, she said.

Sullivan, who received her Ph.D. from the University of Central Florida, centers her research on the dynamic relationships among founder characteristics, social networks and venture emergence. She plans to use her Florida results to create models for success and to help stimulate economic activity in Ohio.

“Ohio is an attractive state. With its decrease in population, its future is really tied to economics and to the success of small ventures,” she said.

She’ll also be sharing her knowledge with young entrepreneurs, teaching a new venture creation course to both sophomore entrepreneurship majors and to MBA students.

—Michelle Tedford
National Science Foundation awards UD $1 million for nanoscale research

Geckos’ toes hold key to stronger adhesives

The tip of a gecko toe holds the key to a million-dollar technology. Those ambitious amphibians can run up, down and under surfaces with a grace that defies gravity. It is their toes — or, more specifically, the toe’s hairlike stalks called setae — that permit such fantastic feats.

That discovery has led to a rush of research aimed at mimicking setae, and the University of Dayton is set to be a leader in that research. The National Science Foundation awarded UD $1 million over four years as lead institution for the Nanoscale Interdisciplinary Research Team, which will investigate the manipulation of carbon nanotubes to intensify the gecko’s adhesive properties. Liming Dai, UD’s Wright Brothers Institute Endowed Chair in Nanomaterials, will lead the team, which also includes the University of Akron, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and the Air Force Research Laboratory.

“On gecko feet, there are hundreds of aligned sticky hairs used for gripping vertical surfaces,” Dai said. “If you look at carbon nanotubes under the electron microscope, they look similar to gecko feet.” Carbon nanotubes are tiny, hollow tubes made of carbon atoms. Their diameter is measured in nanometers — a millionth of a millimeter — and they exhibit unusual strength and unique electrical properties. Dai said the grant will be used to discover nanotubes’ sticky properties and to modify the nanotube surface to change these properties depending on the application. For example, nanotube adhesives could be used to seal packaging, bond together airplane parts or adhere surveillance equipment to walls.

The Wright Brothers Institute Nanomaterials Program and UD’s Nanoscale Engineering Science and Technology Laboratory will facilitate research and development through the inquiry, characterization and manipulation of materials at the nanoscale. Faculty, researchers and students from throughout the University use the NEST Laboratory. Dai will hire a graduate student and a post-doctoral fellow for the project. His proposal also includes learning opportunities for undergraduate students and high school teachers, giving them a nanotechnology primer to pass on to their students, something encouraged by the NSF.

“Nanotechnology is developing so fast and we will need to have a future labor force for the field,” Dai said. “This educational component is very important to the future development of nanotechnology.”

—Michelle Tedford

NSF grant aids information retrieval research

How to quickly and accurately retrieve information stored in huge databases in decentralized networks is a research problem that’s going to keep Duc Tran busy for at least the next three years.

Tran, an assistant professor of computer science, was recently awarded a grant of nearly $225,000 from the National Science Foundation to develop “a scalable and self-organizing system architecture for fast and efficient information retrieval in large-scale decentralized networks.”

“Many organizations and institutions have their own data. It’s impossible to store indices of all that data in one place and to search it,” Tran explained. “Also, a data object may have many attributes, and thus we have to deal with the curse of dimensionality. I am trying to develop a solution to search for all kinds of data — as long as it’s indexible. I want to design a search solution that can find something in a time that is logarithmic with the size of the total data.”

So, for example, if data were stored on 1,024 computers, he would need to search just 10.

“We have the preliminary algorithms and can prove mathematically that a search in logarithmic time is possible,” Tran said. “The next step is to study a broader range of problem cases and implement a real system that can test the performance of the theory.”

The project is applicable to any large-scale distributed information-sharing network used in scientific, commercial and homeland-security fields. For example, information about potential terror suspects is stored in databases around the world and in every U.S. state. Tran’s search solution may make it possible for authorities to quickly retrieve information in many distributed networks and make swift decisions and act, before a suspect leaves a country.

Tran won the NSF award — his first external grant — on his first try. The NSF accepted only 14 percent of the 350 proposals it received in its computer systems research program. “It was an uphill competition,” he said, noting that he was up against universities with Ph.D.-granting computer science programs. “I was lucky.”

It’s not the first time Tran has distinguished himself in a large competition. In 2003, he was one of two graduate students and 10 undergraduates to receive the Order of Pegasus, the most prestigious student award at the University of Central Florida, which enrolls more than 40,000 students.

Tran is enthusiastic not only about the new research direction he’s pursuing, but also about the opportunities the grant offers to support a graduate student and to provide undergraduates with the chance to work on a real project. “It has both research value and educational value.”
A bust of Johann Sebastian Bach and a robot sit side by side on a table in Jennifer Seitzer's office in the computer science department.

For Seitzer, a classical pianist, the connections between music and computer science are tightly wired.

"Many of the skills that one uses as a musician are similar to the skills one uses as a computer scientist," said Seitzer, associate professor of computer science and director of the department's graduate program. "Music is a sequence of sounds through time; computer science is a sequence of tasks. Music uses languages and has ambiguity, as does computer science."

One of her goals is to attract students who may not have majored in computer science as undergraduates to enroll in UD's professional master's program in computer science.

Students who majored in music, philosophy and languages all have developed skills that would allow them to succeed in computer science.

"I believe there's a cognitive link. So many of my best computer science research students are also musicians," she said, adding that she plans next fall to offer a pilot graduate course to introduce non-majors to the discipline.

"When you start to make music you go beyond left-brained activity. There's a mystery about music that's difficult to codify," she said. In a similar vein, elements of art infuse research. Her own research interests include intelligent systems, autonomous agent development and data mining, and she has received funding from the National Science Foundation and U.S. Air Force.

Seitzer has always been drawn to words and language, affinities that fit well with her research. "I loved that I could learn a new word and it would spawn a new thought," she said. "Language is a gross approximation of our thoughts. ... In artificial intelligence, we grapple all the time with mapping syntax and semantics and inference mechanisms. It gets into the realm of philosophy, which is why philosophy majors make good computer science students. They've studied universal agreements between syntax and semantics."

Seitzer sees those connections clearly because she has mapped her own eclectic path. After training to become a serious pianist, she found herself at a crossroads during her senior year in college, considering whether she wanted to change direction. "I soul-searched and asked myself what other classes besides music did I like. Computer science 101 for non-majors stood out."

She went on to earn bachelor's degrees in music and in computer science before beginning graduate work that culminated in a doctorate in computer science from the University of Cincinnati and post-doctoral study at Purdue University.

"I've always loved to learn anything," she said. That disposition is unmistakable in a conversation peppered with references to linguist Noam Chomsky, mathematician Paul Erdos (who relied on others to tie his shoes and, when Seitzer heard him speak, was wearing sandals), and sopranos Sylvia McNair and Kathleen Battle (whose CDs Seitzer sings along with as she commutes from Cincinnati.) Seitzer, who is now taking classical voice lessons, is a member of Cincinnati's May Festival Chorus and a frequent soloist at her church. She's also participating in UD's Opera Workshop Nov. 10-11. (See related story.)

Her love of learning anything is accompanied by a passion for teaching.

"I love helping people become more of who they are. I believe it's how you make the world a better place."

On a related note: Opera Workshop examines ‘The Tragic Gap’

Jennifer Seitzer will be one of the featured performers in UD’s Opera Workshop at 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 10, and Saturday, Nov. 11, in Boll Theatre. The free performance, titled “The Tragic Gap,” based on a concept from Parker Palmer’s book A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward an Undivided Life, features selections by Benjamin Britten, Leonard Bernstein, Darius Milhaud and numerous other composers. “The intention is that we and our audience will be awakened to the roots of conflict within ourselves that are reflected and projected as conflict in the world,” said Lee Hoffman, co-director of the Opera Workshop. “Not fighting against war or for peace, we hope that by standing in the tragic gap between the self we are and the self we most want to be, peace in the world is possible.”

More information is available at http://academic.udayton.edu/leehoffman/ow06.html.
Holy mole

Mark Brill’s recipe from Oaxaca published in *The Ethnomusicologists’ Cookbook*

Mark Brill is not a bad cook, if he does say so himself.

“Mexican food is my specialty. Much of it is improvised,” he said. Improvisation is something the music professor knows well, and it isn’t just about ingredients and cooking temperatures. It’s also a philosophy and an attitude, the kind that makes his pasta taste better because he’s put it together with a little Puccini playing in the background.

“People like to listen to music while they cook,” he said. “Hearing and taste seem to be inextricably bound.”

So it made sense that while Brill, an ethnomusicologist, was in Oaxaca, Mexico, researching liturgical music of the colonial period at the city’s cathedral, he got out into the villages and watched “little old ladies make tortillas by hand.”

“We go to all corners of the world, not just cities but also into small villages.”

It made even more sense when a group of ethnomusicologists recently got together and asked, “Wouldn’t it be great if all the recipes we collect could be put together in one volume?”

*The Ethnomusicologists’ Cookbook* combines recipes from around the world with essays that explore the links between food and music within the cultures from which they come. Brill contributed a mole (pronounced MOH-lay) recipe he brought back from Oaxaca.

A good mole is “a triad of spicy, sweet, and tangy (that balances) four distinct elements: a solid vegetable base, ... exotic tastes, ... heat, ... and sweetness” through a combination of herbs, spices, chilis and chocolate, he writes in his accompanying essay. His recipe takes about three hours to prepare but makes “enough to last you a year.”

“It’s an indigenous recipe invented by the Aztecs, and then European elements were added. It’s syncretic, two cultures coming together to form a distinct third culture, in this case culinary,” he said.

Should there be a second edition, Brill has another recipe in mind, iguana in pipian sauce, a Mayan sauce found in Mexico’s Yucatan region.

“It’s lighter than the mole. Iguana is tasty. I have a whole cookbook on iguana recipes.”

“You can get all of the ingredients for the mole at Dorothy Lane Market, maybe even Kroger. Maybe that’s why I didn’t go with the iguana. Even Jungle Jim’s does not have iguana.”

—Matthew Dewald

For the mole recipe, see UDQuickly at http://campus.udayton.edu/udq. More information about *The Ethnomusicologists’ Cookbook*, edited by Sean Williams, is available at Amazon.com.

JASON PIERCE’s book, *Inside the Mason Court Revolution: The High Court of Australia*, was recently published by Carolina Academic Press. Pierce, assistant professor of political science, completed the research for the book while he was a Fulbright Fellow at the Australian National University’s faculty of law. The book examines the Australian High Court’s transformation led by Chief Justice Anthony Mason during the 1990s, when the court became a catalyst for reforms that included rights for Australia’s indigenous populations and free-speech protections.

Berry Scholar EMILY KLEIN and Honors student JANET D’SOUZA attended the Midwest Regional Undergraduate Conference on “Exploring Your Vocation in Christian Academic Institutions.” The conference, funded by the Lilly Fellows Program in the Humanities and the Arts, was held at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich., Sept. 22-24 and included 27 undergraduates from 12 institutions. Among the questions that participants reflected on: Is the choice I am contemplating a source of joy to me? Is it something that genuinely taps my gifts and will continue to challenge me? Is it a source of true service to others?

History professor LARRY SCHWEIKART was the invited guest of President George W. Bush Aug. 3 for an “off-the-record” meeting in the Oval Office that lasted more than an hour. He was one of six historians invited, including Victor Davis Hanson, senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, and military historian John Keegan from England. Karl Rove and press secretary Tony Snow also were present. Schweikart described the discussion with the president as “freewheeling.” Schweikart also filmed a segment for A&E Channel’s “Biography” series on John D. Rockefeller and was videotaped for a segment on “Christians and War” for Southbrook Christian Church. On Sept. 23 he spoke to the Eagle Forum on his book *A Patriot’s History of the United States*, then went to the Washington Monument, where he was the opening speaker for the Free Republic 10th anniversary convention.

BROTHER VICTOR FORLANI, S.M., a University of Dayton management lecturer, wants to put some payday lenders on notice. “We’re going to be out there fighting you. Charging an excessive interest rate is wrong.”

Forlani and two Dayton credit unions created StretchPay, a credit union advance alternative that under-
Noteworthy, from Page 9

cuts what payday lenders charge by nearly 80 percent. Now, they’ve extended StretchPay to 11 other Ohio credit unions.

The Consumer Federation of America says payday lenders charge anywhere from 195 percent to 1,092 percent interest on a $100, 14-day loan. Borrowing $250 a month for a year through StretchPay costs $75 compared to $450 at a payday lender, according to Bill Burke, president and CEO of DayAir Credit Union.

Burke sees StretchPay catching on elsewhere. He said about a dozen other credit unions in the region also are interested in StretchPay.

“The more you have people who are financially stable, the better off we all are,” Forlani said.

Two generations of blacks have seen the number of their neighborhood hospitals decrease by nearly 90 percent, and 90,000 fewer blacks would die each year if they had the same death rate as whites, according to Dying While Black, a book by a University of Dayton law professor Vernelia Randall due out in this month.

“Unhealthy people living in unhealthy situations — not having suitable access to a hospital or other health care or facing discrimination and racism — perpetuates poor health from generation to generation,” Randall said. “If experts believe child abuse is generational, why can’t we believe it for health care?”

Randall, one of two Americans invited to discuss health issues with the United Nations’ working group of experts on people of African descent, said African-Americans lag on nearly every health indicator, including life expectancy, death rates, infant mortality, low birth-weight rates and disease rates. “We have shorter lives. We are quite literally dying from being black,” Randall, a former registered nurse, said.

Randall’s recommends increasing the number of health care facilities and providers in minority neighborhoods, removing dump sites and providing incentives to change behavior as ways to improve minority health. “We need to make changes to institutions that intentionally or unintentionally set policies and procedures that have the effect of discriminating against blacks. If certain changes are made, it will not just help blacks but all minorities.”

‘Step up together’: UD aims to boost United Way participation

The provost began his remarks at the campus United Way kickoff breakfast by talking about enrollment.

The connection between the seemingly disparate topics lies in how communities succeed. Fred Petello, provost and senior vice president for educational affairs, told the more than 100 faculty and staff members assembled on Sept. 29 in the Kennedy Union ballroom that “our consultants from Noel Levitz, the largest firm in enrollment management consulting, informed us that our first-to-second-year retention this year is over 90 percent. That is a fantastic accomplishment. They, the consultants, were astonished by it.”

The figure, a UD record, Petello noted, was achieved in a year in which the entering class was substantially larger than the goal. One might expect retention in such a year to drop.

But, Petello said, “you, and by you I mean faculty and staff, knew we would all have to step up together, make sacrifices and go the extra mile. You rose to the occasion.”

After saying that “we are a university that takes seriously our commitment to serving the region beyond the borders of our campus,” Petello added that in this community’s generosity through the United Way, “we can, and we should, do better.”

In arguing the United Way does make a difference, he pointed to his experience in working with human service agencies, in seeing friends and neighbors helped and in himself serving on the local United Way board.

In addition to the ongoing work of its member agencies, the United Way of the Greater Dayton Area is also serving in a liaison role to meet critical needs in the Miami Valley in four areas: foreclosure prevention, relief for displaced workers, “strong kids for strong communities” and connecting volunteers.

The United Way’s HelpLink phone number, 211, can be the first step toward help for those threatened with loss of home or job.

Hundreds of volunteer opportunities can be found at http://www.volunteerdayton.org.

Last year, in the face of the bad economic news for many in the region, the United Way of Greater Dayton raised $11.7 million, up from $11.6 million the previous year. The 2006 goal is $11.8 million. Areas of growth in the 2005 campaign included health care and higher education.

UD’s 2005 campaign raised $109,150 in pledges, making it the 22nd largest campaign for the United Way of the Greater Dayton Area, which serves Montgomery, Greene and Preble counties.

The volunteers who coordinate UD’s campus United Way campaign have this year set a goal in terms of percentages. They hope to encourage faculty and staff “to step up together” for the Dayton community by raising the campus campaign’s participation level from last year’s 27 percent to 40 percent.

Pledges can be made online at http://www.dayton-unitedway.org/pledge. Pledge packets contain logon IDs and passwords. Anyone who did not receive a packet or has questions about the campaign may call Sandra Kellam in the human resources office at 229-2544.

—Thomas M. Columbus
Employees are overwhelmingly satisfied with the benefits the University of Dayton offers, and few want to see any changes, particularly to UD’s health benefits plans.

Those are among the results from a survey conducted online last spring and sent to 2,100 benefits-eligible employees. The 50-question survey covered benefits ranging from health care to the retirement plan and drew a 70 percent response rate.

Survey results will be considered as the University makes any future changes to the benefits, said Joyce Carter, vice president for human resources.

Respondents placed the highest value on medical benefits, tuition remission, disability and paid medical time off. The level of health plan coverage drew high satisfaction rates, with 50 percent of respondents saying they were very satisfied and 46 percent saying they were satisfied.

The survey asked respondents to rank the importance of several health plan features. Keeping monthly premium contributions as low as possible and keeping deductibles and maximum out-of-pocket costs as low as possible were the two most important to respondents.

The survey also gauged which health benefits plan changes, if any, would be most acceptable to employees. Few respondents were willing to trade salary reductions for increases in benefits (89 percent said no) or to trade reduced benefits for higher salaries (69 percent said no). Respondents were more willing to accept prescriptions paid after a deductible was met and separate hospital deductibles in exchange for lower employee premium contributions.

“People like the benefits they have and they’re less likely to want change,” Carter said. “It’s not likely to happen that we can continue to offer the same plan at the same costs, however.”

The University faces a double-digit increase in health care costs in 2007 due to high utilization and a health care inflation trend of 13.5 percent in the Dayton area, according to Anthem.

UD has subsidized 86 percent of the monthly health care premium for employees — higher than the 74 percent median employer share, according to the College and University Association benefits survey in which more than 350 colleges and universities participated. In the national survey of employer-sponsored health plans conducted by the consulting firm Mercer, in which nearly 3,000 employers participated, the median employer share was 75 percent.

UD’s premium rates for 2007 will be available next month, during open enrollment.

‘Every organization that provides a quality benefits package is struggling with the same issue UD faces – that is, to contain costs while offering outstanding benefits.’

Most UD survey respondents (62 percent) favored basing monthly premium contributions on three tiers: single; employee plus one child or one spouse; and full family rates, even though that would mean higher family contributions. The survey also revealed that 44 percent of employees’ spouses are covered under the University’s benefits plans, even though they are eligible for coverage through their own employers.

On retirement benefits, a majority of survey respondents expressed satisfaction with the University’s contributions to retirement (97 percent said they were either very satisfied or somewhat satisfied), but faculty were less satisfied than staff. Respondents were also interested in expanding investment options beyond those currently offered by TIAA-CREF, and Carter said those changes were under way.

“Every organization that provides a quality benefits package is struggling with the same issue UD faces — that is, to contain costs while offering outstanding benefits,” Carter said.

During the next six months, human resources representatives will solicit additional feedback and visit with a variety of groups on campus to learn more about employees’ needs, as well as to gain consensus on possible benefits changes — both enhancements to the existing program as well as potential cost-containment initiatives, Carter said.

Online survey gauges understanding of Catholic and Marianist philosophy of education

How would you rate your overall understanding of the University of Dayton’s Catholic and Marianist philosophy of education? How would you define that philosophy?

Faculty and staff and other UD constituents are being asked to consider those and other questions on a short online survey sponsored by the Mission and Identity Committee of the board of trustees. The goal is to establish a benchmark of the level of implementation of the Catholic and Marianist philosophy of education in the life of the University.

The survey will help assess:

■ the areas in which the University excels, and those where implementation needs to be strengthened,
łam the success of future initiatives; and
łam how to improve communication on initiatives related to the Catholic and Marianist philosophy of education.

The results of the baseline survey will be shared with the campus community in February 2007.

The survey will take about 10 minutes to complete, and responses will be anonymous. The Web address for the survey is http://president.udayton.edu/bot/survey/

Questions should be directed to Brother Tom Giardino, S.M., chair of the Mission and Identity Committee: tom.giardino@udayton.edu.

Benefits changes to be explored

The human resources staff will explore several features that could be introduced to UD’s benefits plans, including:

* A smoking cessation program
* Incentives to participate in a Health Risk Appraisal
* Voluntary benefits, such as an expanded vision plan, whole life insurance, cancer insurance and accident insurance
* Tiered levels of employee contribution to health care premiums
* Expanded retirement investment options.

Survey shows employees satisfied with benefits plans, reluctant to see changes
MUSE
8 p.m. Immaculate Conception Chapel
The UD Arts Series presents this 60-member women’s choir from Cincinnati. MUSE performs gospel, folk, jazz and blues and has produced three recordings, including "Growing Into Our Roots" (2005). Tickets: $14 for the public, $8 for UD faculty, staff and alumni, and $5 for students. Call the UD box office at 229-2545.

Counsel Chapel in Alumni Hall, followed by a presentation of Stoller’s art at the Marian Library by Father Johann G. Roten, S.M., director of the International Marian Research Institute.

Stoller’s artistic creed was to portray the beauty of God’s creation. All of her art was designed to give praise to the Creator and to express the inner beauty of all creation. Stoller worked as a cover designer, book illustrator, lecturer in the arts and a consultant for interior design. She designed the covers for two books on Mary, including one written by Mother Teresa.

To make special arrangements to view the exhibit, call 229-4214.

icons, paintings and other works by Beverly Stoller are on display in “Mary — A Feminine Touch,” a retrospective exhibit open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays through Friday, Nov. 17, at the Marian Library Gallery, located on the seventh floor of Roesch Library.

The 60 works on display include images of the Madonna, Mother and Child, the Holy Family, Christ and angels. The exhibit also includes pieces by Stoller’s granddaughter, 11-year-old Amelia Beverly Stoller, who hopes to continue in her grandmother’s footsteps.

A commemorative evening honoring Stoller will begin with a Mass at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 12, at the Mother of Good Counsel Chapel in Alumni Hall, followed by a presentation of Stoller’s art at the Marian Library by Father Johann G. Roten, S.M., director of the International Marian Research Institute.

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Monday, Oct. 9-Tuesday, Oct. 10
Midterm break
No classes

Wednesday, Oct. 11
Classes resume at 8 a.m.

7:30 p.m., Sears Recital Hall

Thursday, Oct. 12-Saturday, Oct. 14
The 32nd Annual Richard R. Baker Philosophy Colloquium
“Environmental Philosophy and the Duties of Citizenship”
Humanities Center
See details, Page 4. For the complete schedule, see http://academic.udayton.edu/philosophy/colloquiums/32prog.htm.

Friday, Oct. 13
Academic Senate meeting
3 p.m., Kennedy Union 331

Sunday, Oct. 15
Dayton Christian Jewish Dialogue
“A Modern Disputation”
7:30 p.m., Alumni Hall 101
Presentation by Jerry Kotler

Wednesday, Oct. 18
Distinguished Speakers Series
8 p.m., Kennedy Union ballroom
Frosty Woodridge, author of Incursion into America: How Immigration Adversely Affects American Citizens; Zero Visibility: a Blind Man’s Quest for the Summit of Everest; and When Your Father Left Too Soon.

Friday, Oct. 27-Sunday, Oct. 29
Parents Weekend

Oct. 20-22 and 26-28
The Three Sisters
8 p.m. Thursday, Friday, Saturday; 7 p.m. Sunday, Boll Theatre
Anton Chekhov’s The Three Sisters, directed by Tony Dallas, kicks off the University of Dayton 2006-07 theater season. The play explores the gap between hope and fulfillment in the relationships of the Prozorov family and their friends and focuses on the decay of the privileged class in Russia and the search for meaning in the world. Tickets are $10 for general admission and $6 for UD faculty, staff, alumni and students. Call the UD box office at 229-2545.