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YOUNG CREATIVES BELIEVE IN UPDAYTON

By Anna Hurley

This year, updayton hosted its third annual Young Creatives Summit at the Dayton Convention Center on Friday, April 15.

Over 175 students, young professionals and citizens from around the region came together to engage and work together to help address some of the region’s toughest issues. The goal of the summit is to invite creative and educated professionals in their 20s and 30s to express their ideas for making Dayton a better place to live, work and play — giving them a chance to impact the direction of the region. Updayton believes that if young people are proud of their community and feel invested in shaping its future, they will be more likely to stay.

There were four projects that emerged from the summit breakout sessions. The first project focuses on nightlife and will team up with the Downtown Dayton Partnership to create pedicab transportation to various local vendors participating in First Fridays. The second project aims to establish a “Big Brother” program that links local families to new immigrant families to ease the transition into the Dayton community. This group will work with the City of Dayton Human Relations Council. The third project will be paired with SOCHE (Southwestern Ohio Council for High Education) and will work to create a LinkedIn page for local students to post their internship and job interests so that local employers can better connect with young professionals around the region. The final project will be working with CityWide Development Corp. to create a neighborhood beautification project that will travel to different neighborhoods around the region.

The updayton Steering Committee is excited to support these four projects. The dedication and hard work of young creatives in the region is a powerful asset and will help create a place where people of all ages want to call home. For more information on the projects, please visit www.updayton.com.
It promises to be an incredible summer of learning while serving.

This spring’s Semester of Service students were each able to incorporate their education and interests here at UD into their Semester of Service sites. Each student is leaving a mark.

**Nicholas Manfredi, senior serving at Adventure Central**
As a psychology major, Nick concentrated on many areas related to his future profession. An internship with the Cleveland Clinic convinced him to pursue a career as a clinical counselor specializing in behavior modification. “Because of my psychology background, I consciously know each child is different. Their cognitive, emotional and physical development depends on numerous factors. I try to instill within each child a set of skills to promote both social competence and a positive self image.”

**Jackie Hicks, senior serving at Daybreak Youth Shelter**
As a pre-physical therapy major, Jackie encouraged good practices of nutrition and physical activity among clients and staff at Daybreak. Her knowledge of rehabilitation and dieting helps her clients begin a healthy lifestyle. “Case managers refer me to clients who are having backaches or weight concerns. I drive the clients to health fairs, play basketball with the boys and dance with the girls. At Daybreak, I am learning more about peoples’ attitudes toward health and fitness, which will ultimately increase my effectiveness as a physical therapist in the future.”

**Jillian Grisafo, junior serving at East End Community Services**
As a psychology major, Jillian used her skills and knowledge at the Youth Center at East End. She is able to work toward her ultimate goal of working as an adolescent-aged school psychiatrist. “My service enables me to observe a variety of behavioral issues and help my desired age group of students with academic troubles. My time at East End has reassured me that I am striving toward the right career path and I have come to the realization that I now want to work in an inner-city school.”

**Michaela Cummins, junior serving at Salvation Army Booth House**
As a business major, Michaela felt her extensive experience in interviewing, résumé critiquing, and business education thus far would benefit the clientele at the Salvation Army Booth House, which houses homeless men, ex-offenders on probation or parole, and those exiting from incarceration. “I have extended my hours to help with Employment Group, which is mandatory for all unemployed clients. I perform mock interviews with individual clients and teach them how to create a professional resume. Clients have said these tips have related directly to their job interviews, increasing their confidence. I feel that I am helping them secure employment which is an extraordinary feeling.”
This summer, 10 students will participate in community living in the UD student neighborhood while serving full time at social service agencies in Dayton. Serving at nonprofit centers for inner-city children and teens, individuals who are homeless, and neighborhoods undergoing revitalization, these students will challenge themselves to gain new skills and insights into social justice issues right here in Dayton.

Rising juniors include Kevin Sullivan, pre-med major serving at the Dayton Early College Academy; Jennifer Churik, education major serving at Adventure Central; Stephen Mackell, philosophy and economics major serving at Daybreak; Angela Mastandrea, psychology major serving at We Care Arts; and Emily McCauley, education major serving at Dakota Center.

Rising seniors include Seth Richardson, psychology major serving at East End Community Services; Leah Schumacher, psychology major serving at Life Essentials; Megan Glanker, education major serving at Dayton Christian Center; Bonnie King, education major serving at Adventure Central; and Amanda Zengel, psychology major serving at Daybreak.

It promises to be an incredible summer of learning while serving.

SOS student’s awards

Congratulations to Kristen Hammaker, a Fitz Center standout and graduating senior, who won many awards this year:

- Kenneth J. Kuntz Award for Outstanding Service in Psychology from the psychology department
- Office of Leadership Development Distinguished Contributions Award
- Office of Leadership Development Non-traditional/Commuter Student Award
- Young Women Leaders Award from Womanline, a counseling center in Dayton. This award honors three young women in the community who have made positive changes in the community and performed extensive volunteer service to solve a problem that the community is facing.

Kristen comments, “I know I could not have won any of these awards without my Fitz Center experiences. My experience as an NSC intern and volunteer at the Neighborhood Schools, my service-learning courses, and Semester of Service all taught me about the importance of service to the community. I’m grateful for all that the Fitz Center has done for me throughout my years at UD and all that I have learned. I appreciate all your hard work as Fitz Center staff members and am glad that I had the opportunity to learn from you all.”
DAYTON CIVIC SCHOLARS ACTIVE IN COMMUNITY

By Anna Hurley

Over the last year the Dayton Civic Scholars program has worked with a number of community partners to create internship positions exclusively for Civic Scholars. Current internship placements include the City of Dayton, CityWide Development Corp., STOP Human Trafficking, Dayton’s Neighborhood School Centers, City of Kettering’s Partners for Healthy Youth, and the Montgomery County Family and Children First Council. Our students have truly enjoyed their positions and recently penned summaries of their experiences. Here are some highlights:

“Since the beginning of my sophomore year, I have had the privilege to serve as an economic and neighborhood development intern at Citywide Development Corp. The research experience I have gained and the exposure that I have had to the nuts and bolts of neighborhood and economic development will have a tremendous impact on my ability to be an effective community leader in the future.” — Zachary Hadaway, Applied Mathematical Economics

“Thus far, I have enjoyed my internship at Fairview PK-8 through the Neighborhood School Centers immensely! It is just a great experience to be able to look into the halls and know that what I am doing will benefit the students and most likely they will enjoy it. At Fairview it is my responsibility to ensure that the logistics of nearly all events are controlled in a timely manner. Fairview has definitely become home for me, and with many changes and a new school coming soon, I am excited to see more positivity in the near future.” — Brandon Glasper, Psychology

“I’m interning at STOP Human Trafficking Dayton. It’s a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping raise awareness about human trafficking in the greater Dayton region. Along with interning, I am also on the board of directors. We are a small and very young organization and make use of a lot of volunteers. My job includes creating press releases and other advertising for our events as well as coordinating volunteers. I am also creating a PowerPoint along with two other UD students about human trafficking to show at various events in the community.” — Briana Hollis, Criminal Justice

“I work with the youth leadership and service department [for Kettering’s Partners for Healthy Youth]. Once a month, kids meet for Kettering Youth Council, which gives kids the chance to take leadership roles in their community and build healthy life styles. KYC focuses on the Search Institute’s 40 Developmental Assets by incorporating all of them into each council meeting. I am currently having kids create small video clips that best represent each asset. I really have enjoyed all the experience that has come out of this internship and I hope that I can continue working with Partners for Healthy Youth.” — Cara O’Grady, Psychology
WILL YOU ANSWER THE CALL TO SERVICE? 
THE CITYLINKS NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCE 
By Char Cook-Robinson

The Fitz Center for Leadership in Community hosted the 26th annual CityLinks Neighborhood Conference on Friday, April 15, 2011. This year’s theme prompted participants with a question: Will You Answer the Call to Service?

This conference focused on community engagement and getting young people involved in the city’s future. Byron White, Ph.D., vice chancellor for economic advancement for the Ohio Board of Regents, was the keynote speaker. White spoke on the importance of being specific with those who make decisions in your community about your current needs and desired future. “As more and more nonprofit organizations are closing their doors because of financial reasons, we need to find ways to channel and challenge our energy in the best interest of the community and neighborhood,” White said. He also emphasized that urban universities, with their assets, can play a key role in helping to mediate those connections.

This idea has served as the conference’s cornerstone since its inception. Over the past 26 years, CityLinks has stressed the importance of leadership development as a way of engaging the next generation in tackling significant ongoing issues that impact our community. Local residents and community leaders connect to empower grassroots leadership in neighborhood revitalization efforts. CityLinks presents workshops that bring Dayton and Montgomery County citizens together to learn ways to revitalize neighborhoods and nurture leadership at its roots. Vision, perseverance, and sweat are fitting descriptions of the requirements of leading community-based organizations in community building, development strategies and the “new” challenge of getting more for less.

For the 13th year now, the University of Dayton honored a person who exemplified vision and compassion toward neighborhood or community by with the Mattie Davis and Joe Kanak Community Builders Award. This year’s recipient is Mary Ellington, who has lived in the Wright Dunbar neighborhood for 68 years. She has been a stellar neighborhood leader for over 35 of those years. Mary has served on the Innerwest Priority Board since 1975 and continues to take on new challenges related to her neighborhood. With a visionary gift that is heartfelt, Mary is a pioneer working toward a better today and tomorrow within her community.
The River Leadership Curriculum (RLC) has now completed its inaugural year. Simultaneously, the River Stewards have brought another gratifying yearlong minicourse to a close. With two rewarding semesters of the RLC complete, we are entering our second summer of development. Interns Lindsay Rynne and Nicole Goettemoeller will be focusing on the curriculum as we assess it with student feedback. A unique part of that feedback came from our River Stewards. We had several River Stewards participate in both semesters of the curriculum. Their participation provides a unique perspective that adds to curriculum development and implementation. The courses also benefited River Stewards by enhancing their education of our community and natural assets.

Stewards applied their learning from the River Leadership Curriculum to many River Steward minicourses. This year provided several new opportunities, including a tour of the Beavercreek Wetlands with Brother Don Geiger, S.M. The tour presented a local example of environmental leadership. Stewards also had a chance to converse with Dan Sahli, outdoor recreation coordinator at Five Rivers MetroParks. The junior cohort found this opportunity especially beneficial as they continued planning a bike initiative for their senior project. Eileen Carr facilitated a session on art and the river, and Susan Byrnes led an art project that welcomed guests at the River Summit.

Other successes include a minicourse focused on environmental justice, complemented by a tour of the McCook Field Neighborhood. Neighborhood association president Jerry Bowling III led the tour, joined by local Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE) attorneys Matt Currie and Ellis Jacobs. And the sophomore cohort received rave reviews from the students and teachers at Ruskin NSC for an afterschool program they began this semester. (See accompanying story.)

Stewards participated in some of their favorite activities again this year, including teaching water safety skills at Trotwood-Madison High School. The end of the school year also brings the end to the 2011 cohort’s roles as UD River Stewards. The senior cohort finished its Dayton Explorers project, which focused on coordinating events that brought UD students off campus and into the city.

Finally, a warm welcome to the Rivers Stewards 2014 cohort, comprised of 17 rising sophomores: Angela Brancatelli, business; Adam Bynum, biology; Stephanie Clafford, adolescent/young adult education; Stephen Crum, pre-physical therapy; Alexander Gaskins, civil engineering; Laura Hoffacker, accounting; James Kurzawa, mechanical engineering; Brian Lewis, premedicine; Elizabeth Morrison, pre-physical therapy; Ashley Niemeler, Spanish/philosophy; Flor Ortega, psychology/religious studies; Allison Rakowski, biology; Concetta Reda, political science; Joseph Schmidt, civil engineering; Amy Schultz, civil engineering; Zack Valigosky, mechanical engineering; and Anthony Whaley, chemical engineering.

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**Experiential lessons at Ruskin NSC**

The River Stewards’ sophomore cohort brought experiential lessons about Dayton’s aquifer and rivers to Ruskin Neighborhood School Center this past April in a hugely successful afterschool program.

Teachers and students from Ruskin expressed great thanks to the River Stewards. Everyone enjoyed the activities and positivity of the experience. Joanne Troha and Michelle Johnson organized the program.
RIVER SUMMIT: A CALL FOR COLLABORATION

By Emily Striebich

The Great Miami River is not the only thing flooding this spring season. This year’s spring showers also brought with them a flood of enthusiasm, growth and collaboration around our rivers. March 31 marked the fourth annual River Summit convened by the University of Dayton and the newly created Ohio’s Great Corridor Association (OGCA). The summit brought together nearly 250 business owners, government officials, community partners and concerned citizens around the development of the region’s greatest shared asset.

Uniting such a diverse group of citizens created an undeniable energy in the room that jump-started the early morning event. It began with a welcome from Fitz Center Executive Director Dick Ferguson and was followed by the River Stewards’ “Corridor Exploration,” which illustrated that the best way to get to know the river is to explore the communities along its banks. As the day progressed, Summit participants enjoyed presentations from city mayors who were eager to highlight their community’s riverfront initiatives, local champions of the river, and representatives from OGCA’s steering committee.

Ohio’s Great Corridor Association formed following a planning session in the 2010 River Summit. It was created to promote a regional effort to embrace the Great Miami River Corridor as an instrumental asset in revitalizing farmlands and cities. One year later, the astonishing growth and progress of the OGCA is evidenced by over 100 members. Dick Ferguson attributes the success of OGCA’s collaboration to the strength of its shared vision: “It is because we believe that the Great Miami River valley is gifted in ways that we have yet to acknowledge that we have come together as Ohio’s Great Corridor Association.” OGCA members’ four primary goals are to develop city waterfronts, promote recreation and tourism, preserve farmland, and protect open spaces.

The second half of the River Summit focused on developing these goals. Breakout sessions pinpointed different topics such as funding watershed protection and recreation projects, waterfront development and recreation tourism, and watershed management through the example of the Indian Lake Watershed Project. Sean Creighton, executive director of the Southwestern Ohio Council for Higher Education (SOCHE), closed the summit with a keynote address on collaboration that left the audience optimistic about the river corridor’s future.

The great success of the River Summit came out of a successful collaboration of association members, the Miami Conservancy District, Five Rivers MetroParks, the University of Dayton and a dedicated cadre of River Stewards. The undeniable growth and success of the River Summit and Ohio’s Great Corridor Association are just the beginning of the bright future that lies ahead for the Great Miami River corridor. For more information about Ohio’s Great Corridor Association, visit ohiosgreatcorridor.com.
OUTSTANDING INTERNS ARE KEY TO DAYTON NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL CENTERS

By Don Vermillion

The Fitz Center commends three graduates in the Class of 2011 with a long history and outstanding record of service as Neighborhood School Centers (NSC) interns.

Charlie Bull, a Centerville native who attended Incarnation School and Alter High School, began volunteering at Kiser NSC as a first year. Amber Rose, then site coordinator, took notice of the many hours of service Charlie gave to Kiser. At the end of the school year, she and Don Vermillion, Fitz Center director of public projects, offered Charlie a paid internship in his sophomore year. Not only did Charlie agree, but he also changed his major from business to middle childhood education. Through the years, Charlie accompanied Kiser students on weekend trips to the Cincinnati Zoo and Glen Helen nature reserve, coached fourth- through sixth-grade basketball and soccer, and fulfilled a “big brother” role to many Kiser students. Charlie received the Rev. George Renneker Award of Excellence for Outstanding Achievement in Teacher Education in May 2011 and is interviewing for middle school teaching positions in the Dayton area.

Casey Aldrich, also from Centerville, is a Dayton Civic Scholar who served for three years as an intern at Cleveland School. She succeeds her sister Erin, who was one of the first NSC interns in this position at Cleveland. Casey feels that the highlight of her years as an intern is the growing relationship between the neighborhood and the school. In her first two full years, Casey felt that most of the community activities connected to NSC, such as Trunk or Treat, were dominated by the efforts of UD students. During this past year, she observed to her delight that participation from parents and community members rivaled UD’s student presence. Casey received the Marianist Voluntary Service Award in May 2011. She earned her undergraduate degree in psychology and plans to pursue a master’s degree in social work with a focus on child therapy.

Sarah Hrabik, originally from Westlake, Ohio, earned her degree in psychology. Sarah was recruited to be an intern at Cleveland NSC by fellow Dayton Civic Scholar Casey Aldrich. As an intern, Sarah started the Girls Circle Program at Cleveland School, serving as a friend to the young women participants and providing them guidance toward their futures. Sarah says she learned through this program to listen closely and to reserve judgment. During her three years of service, Sarah actively recruited many UD students to volunteer at Cleveland in afterschool activities. She feels that one of the great features of a UD education is the many opportunities that students have to experience urban issues firsthand. Sarah will pursue a master’s degree in genetic counseling at the University of Cincinnati.
EXPLORING RUSKIN NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL CENTER’S UNIQUE TIE TO JAPAN

By Mike Bennett

As spring semester came to a close, the Fitz Center service-learning program celebrated more than 400 UD students who supported Dayton’s Neighborhood School Centers this year. One student continued a project she started last year at Ruskin PreK-8. Clair Kruskamp, a senior majoring in fine arts, became intrigued by an email she received from the Fitz Center advertising the numerous opportunities to volunteer with the Neighborhood School Centers. Ruskin hoped for help cataloging and exhibiting a collection of Japanese artifacts acquired years ago from their sister school in Japan. During Ruskin’s move to a new school building a few years ago, the items ended up in storage boxes and staff subsequently lost track of their significance. Organizing the artifacts would be the first step in re-opening appreciation and possible ties to Japanese culture.

A key component in this effort was Clair’s collaboration with Arata Yamaguchi, her friend and fellow UD student who grew up in Nagoya, Japan. Arata, a sophomore finance major, translated Japanese to English and helped Clair understand what some items were. Together they made a list of everything in the collection so that teachers could borrow them for classes. Clair and Arata are also working on compiling a book that gives descriptions of each artifact so that the updated information remains readily accessible. Mario, the site coordinator at Ruskin, has already created a display case in the school lobby inviting visitors and students alike to consider how we might all be strengthened by bonds with other cultures.

The organizational skills that Clair and Arata learned in studying, caring for and arranging the toys, children’s books, instruments, photos, etc., are trumped by the knowledge both gained about Dayton’s urban schools and Japanese culture. In their research, they found pictures of Ruskin students who visited the Japanese sister school in 1990, which added history about the relationship and Ruskin School. The accomplishments within this project are numerous and remind us that the tasks we often believe to be menial, such as organizing, can actually have a large impact on ourselves and those around us. Clair and Arata’s service-learning efforts at Ruskin School may benefit not only hundreds of school children, but their families, neighbors and visitors to the school. We recognize these accomplishments at a time when our hearts ache for those currently struggling from the disasters in Japan. The timeliness is yet another reason why projects such as Clair and Arata’s can be surprisingly significant.

Wheels for Kids celebrates 10 years

By Joanne Troha

UD’s Wheels for Kids (W4K) sent 27 happy children home with “new” bikes April 9. Started 10 years ago in an engineering course, W4K became a UD student volunteer effort the last three years with support from UD’s School of Engineering and Fitz Center for Leadership in Community.

A total of 22 UD students participated this year. They refurbished used bikes on Saturdays in winter and organized the April 9 event for 27 children invited from Fairview PreK-8 Neighborhood School Center. Each child received a bike, helmet, pump, lock, shirt, lunch and safety lessons. Community support included a $500 grant from the Phoenix Project, use of Fairview United Methodist Church grounds, bikes from residents and local police departments and a safety talk by a Dayton police officer.
Community Leader

No matter where life takes me I have learned how to help in the process of building and strengthening a community.

REFLECTIONS ON LEARNING, LEADING, SERVING

Maggie Varga: As a member of the first graduating cohort of River Stewards, I’ve had the pleasure of being involved with the Fitz Center and Rivers Institute for the last four years. I’ve transitioned from Steward to student intern to graduate assistant. One of the most important successes during my tenure at UD has been watching the Stewards program grow from nine to 45 students and being a part of the enthusiasm and excitement that has gone along with it. As a graduate assistant, I’ve helped to usher in two new cohorts of Stewards welcoming them into the program and sometimes into the office. I truly value the experiences I have had leading Stewards in the classroom, as well as in kayaks, and I look forward to hearing about the amazing projects that emerge out of the Fitz Center and the Rivers Institute over the years to come.

Anna Hurley: Prior to coming to the Fitz Center, I had always had a passion for civic engagement and community building. However, I had never had the people or the resources to truly study and experience these areas. When I first came to the Fitz Center I could not believe that there was an entire center dedicated to engaging and building community. I have learned so much from each person over the past two years. Leadership and consensus building are not topics that are typically taught in most universities, and I am truly blessed to have been given the experience to learn from the best. I know that no matter where life takes me I have learned how to help in the process of building and strengthening a community. I am a better person for having been a part of the Fitz Center and I will always treasure my time here.

Kathy Trick: I completed my undergraduate work at UD and returned to earn my master’s degree because of the welcoming, community-oriented environment. I had the privilege of serving as a graduate assistant in the Semester of Service (SOS) program during this time. The goal of SOS is for students (through service) to better understand themselves, to learn about issues in the community and to develop thoughtful reflection about one’s actions. I supported five groups of students through their service semesters, and in turn came to embrace the program’s goals as my own. I have learned so much about myself and have grown tremendously during my time with the Fitz Center. Leaving UD closes an important chapter in my life. I plan to stay in touch with the Fitz Center’s work and will continue my service to the Dayton Community as a staff member at Easter Seals.

Right: Graduate assistants Kathy Trick (Semester of Service), Anna Hurley (Dayton Civic Scholars), and Maggie Varga (Rivers Institute)
CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATING SENIORS

By Suzette Pico

The Fitz Center is proud to announce 39 undergraduate and graduate students from Fitz Center programs graduating this year. Congratulations and best wishes in your future endeavors.

Dayton Civic Scholars
Casey Aldrich
Jill Bucaro
Laura Getz
Amanda Hortsman
Sarah Hrabik
Nicholas Pesola
Kaitlin Stretch

Fitz Center Graduate Assistants
Mark Gore
Anna Hurley
Kathy Trick
Maggie Varga

Fitz Center Student Intern
Veronica Paulson

Graduate Community Fellows
Erin Anderson
Drew Formentini
Chinenye Ikeme
Angela Swearingen

River Stewards
Franz Berkemeier
Allison Frost
Grace John
Maggie McKenna
Dominic Miller
Nolan Nicaise
Sarah Peterson
Thomas Schlather
Eric Schroeder
Leah Winnikie

Neighborhood School Centers
Charlie Bull
Kelley Sheehan

Semester of Service
Stephanie Carpenter
Garrett Coleman
Kristen Hammaker
Andrea Henkel
Jackie Hicks
Nick Manfredi
Christine Olding
Jacqueline Sammon
Emilee Seger
Brandon Towns
Allison Dolle

Above: Dick Ferguson congratulates Angie Swearingen, Graduate Community Fellow, at the Fitz Center graduation reception.

Below: Rivers Institute Coordinator Leslie King (left) with several of this year’s graduating River Stewards
INTERNS TRANSITION TO GRADUATE ASSISTANT POSITIONS

Edited by Sacha R. Francis

Sarah Peterson graduated from UD in December 2010 with a degree in sociology. During her undergraduate career, she proudly served as a River Steward (2011 cohort) and interned with the Rivers Institute. Her impressive work led to her new role as a graduate assistant with the Rivers Institute, where she will continue as she earns her degree in UD’s Master of Public Administration program.

Veronica Paulson earned her degree this May in human rights studies and political science. She also plans to continue her education in the Master of Public Administration program. She joined the Fitz Center team in January to help coordinate tours of Dayton’s community assets and is excited for the opportunity to continue her good work over the next two years.

From left, Veronica Paulson and Sarah Peterson