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First frat to turn 50

The brothers of AΦΑ are trying to provide models for today's young people. To help them are nearly a half century of alumni models. And, according to acting president Anthony Yamini, a mechanical engineering technology major, "Alumni come back every year to see how we're doing."

The seven current brothers are doing very well. "We try," Yamini says, "to help out the community."

That help includes:

• feeding the homeless at St. Vincent's where fraternity brothers serve and clean up;
• visiting the elderly at Mary Scott Nursing Center;
• working with young people at Roosevelt Recreation Center; and
• bringing young people they tutor to campus so they will "know they too can go to college."

Undergraduate brothers and alumni collaborate on a project — a voter registration drive. "One of our slogans," Yamini says, "is 'a voteless people is a hopeless people.'"

The University's ΓΘ chapter of AΦΑ was founded in 1947, making it the oldest national fraternity on campus.

Yamini sees the bond among the fraternity brothers as a strength they can use to bring together the campus African American community and to serve the broader community, also.

Homecoming is Oct. 11-13. Among those returning will be alumni who were members of the Gospel Choir and the Ebony Heritage Singers. Those interested in getting together can call Donna Cox at UD's music department, (513)229-3946. The current Ebony Heritage Singers performed during the spring term at both the Ohio Music Educators Conference and the national Music Educators Conference.
**Law school experience led Jones to ‘speak up for a child’**

A large insect sits on the conference table in Helen Leonhart Jones’ office, testimony not to a bug fetish but to a spirit of collaboration that touches everything she does.

The “collaboritis bug” couldn’t have been a more appropriate gift for Jones, the executive director of Montgomery County Children’s Services, a 1984 School of Law graduate and a tireless advocate for children. When she became the first director of Montgomery County’s Court Appointed Special Advocate program in 1987, she surrounded herself with well-trained volunteers able to enter court and live the CASA motto — “speak up for a child.”

The program trains community volunteers (CASAs) to serve as guardians ad litem for children in cases where there has been an allegation of abuse or neglect. The CASA conducts an independent investigation, reports his or her findings to the court, makes recommendations to the judge and monitors the case to completion.

Jones says the School of Law’s willingness to let her blend service experiences with her studies led her down her present-day career path. “I went in to the private sector with the intention of being there long enough to pay off law school,” she said, laughing. “But everything I did kind of pushed me this way. That’s why I went to law school in the first place.”

Today, she’s national president of CASA. That job allows her to travel the country, speaking on behalf of the program. “This role I play now allows me to have my voice on a broader level,” notes Jones. “And if that helps one child, that’s what matters.”

**Keeping academic computing up-to-date provides challenge**

When Jim Baccus ‘64 returned to his alma mater to work as the assistant director of academic computing for UD’s office for computing activities in 1979, there was only one large mainframe computer on campus.

Seventeen years later, most faculty and staff use personal computers in their offices, there are 18 computer labs on campus and each school has its own computer support staff.

Baccus, who graduated with a degree in mathematical statistics, said he never imagined the switch from mainframe to personal computers would happen so fast. “The first PCs weren’t very fast and couldn’t do as much work,” he said. “Now you can do about anything on a desktop that you could do with a mainframe.”

As the senior academic computing consultant for UD’s instructional computing group, Baccus coordinates computing between schools and plans annual upgrades for the labs. “We’re trying to coordinate computing among the schools in an effort to develop common policies and to share resources, which could potentially save money,” he said.

Baccus said his main challenge is staying up to date with the changing technology. “I hate to say it, but sometimes it’s a challenge just to keep ahead of the students,” he said. Many students are entering college with advanced computer skills, he said.

In addition to coordinating communication between schools, Baccus hopes to help faculty implement new multimedia and interactive technologies into their classrooms in the next two to three years. These new technologies have the potential to “make the classroom much more exciting,” he said.
Two provide a black perspective

When his 16-year-old brother was designated as a slow learner, Joseph Salley stepped in to help.

"When I worked with him, he grabbed onto what he was learning," recalls Salley, who graduated this spring as an elementary education major. "If he didn't understand something, I just went over it again. He just needed a little patience and reinforcement."

Watching his brother progress from a misdiagnosed assessment into a self-motivated learner and confident young man focused Joseph's ambition. He enjoyed making a difference. When he took over as co-editor, then editor, of UD's Black Perspective, he also helped make a difference — reorganizing the operation, redesigning the format, publishing the newsletter on a monthly basis and revamping the editorial content.

"We tried to cover relevant issues," says Joseph, "such as the Million Man March, affirmative action — things that affect the African American population globally."

Joseph passed on the editorial baton to current editor Joy Stevens in March as he prepared to graduate, to accept a teaching position with the Dayton Public Schools in the fall and to continue making a difference.

PERKINS TO MEET AFRICAN NEIGHBORS

Jeborrah Perkins, a junior management information systems major, first learned about UD's Cameroon immersion program while a student in Julius Amin's history class.

During their stay in Africa, Perkins and seven other UD students will stay with host families and have the opportunity to work in job placements and visit villages and cities throughout the country in order to better learn from people they encounter. "Professionally, I think that it will give me a broader outlook on business practices in other countries, Perkins says. "Personally, I think it will give me flexibility in working and living in new situations."

Shirley Gregory '87, a trust administrator for National City Bank and mentor for Perkins, says, "I think that it is important for any student to be involved in a program to travel to another country or culture. All the time, you hear that we are in a global society. We really need to know our neighbors, even if they are on the opposite side of the globe."

FROM INTERNSHIP TO FELLOWSHIP

Delisha Stewart, who graduated in May with a degree in biochemistry, interned in the toxicology lab at the county coroner's office as part of earning the W. S. McIntosh Memorial Leadership Award, a full scholarship to UD that includes a four-year internship.

Stewart has also won an undergraduate research competition sponsored by Rohm & Haas in Philadelphia. Stewart learned of the competition from Sally Hunnibett, assistant professor of chemistry, submitted her undergraduate thesis and won $1,000 and a 12-week paid internship with the company starting this spring.

Stewart will attend the University of Alabama at Birmingham on a full fellowship.

STUDENT AWARDS

- Maurice Beyina — John L. Macbeth Memorial Award to the outstanding scholar-athlete in football and basketball.
- Kemba Hubbard (co-winner) — The George A. Pflaum '25 Award of Excellence to the outstanding student in elementary school teacher education.
- Esther (Kemi) Ogunjimi — Mary M. Shay Award of Excellence in both academic and extracurricular activities.
- Cleothas (Cleo) Syph — Daniel L. Leary Award for outstanding research and development activity by a student seeking teacher certification in the School of Education.
Margaret Peters '59 received the Dr. Carter G. Woodson Award from the National Education Association. Her book, *Dayton's African American Heritage*, is available from the UD Bookstore, 1-800-543-4825.

Meeting calls for diversity

"Everyone wants to live in a world where commonalities are recognized and differences are celebrated," Dayton City Commissioner Idotha Neal told participants at "Diversity Planning for the 21st Century," a symposium held on campus April 20. "This is a good beginning to create the forum to confront the issues," said Neal, who served as keynote speaker for the symposium sponsored by the diverse student populations office.

Among those

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issues was affirmative action. "Affirmative action can end when discrimination ends," Neal said. "I would challenge all the scholars in the room to tell me when discrimination will end."

Following Neal's address, participants attended one of four panel discussions on topics such as affirmative action, law, economic empowerment and the media's role in diversity. Panelists included UD faculty and staff and Miami Valley professionals.

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MARTIN WINS LACKNER

Herbert Martin, poet, professor and portrayer of Paul Laurence Dunbar, won UD's Lackner Award for contributions to the University's Catholic and Marianist character.