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‘To Abstraction’
‘Sacred Sounds’ programs explore psalms’ link to different faith traditions

“Sing to the Lord: the Psalms Through the Ages” will explore similarities in how Hebrew and Christian musical traditions express their faiths.

Sponsored by the University of Dayton Library Advancement Association, the program will be held on two consecutive Sundays, March 11 and March 18, and offer opportunities for audience participation.

“We hope to have the audience appreciate the roots of the whole tradition,” said J. Ritter Werner, who will speak at the events. “There’s going to be a lot of singing and demonstrating.”

Werner, organist and music director at Corpus Christi Church and United Theological Seminary in Dayton, said the programs will examine shared elements of traditional styles of ancient Hebrew music and worship along with modern Christian hymns.

“One thing they all have in common is the psalms,” Werner said. “Even though the melody changes, each generation has kept the music alive.”

At 3 p.m. Sunday, March 11, at the Immaculate Conception Chapel on campus, Joyce Ury Dumtschin, cantor of Temple Beth Or in Washington Twp., and Alan Kimbrough, UD English professor and accompanist with the Bach Society of Dayton, will present Hebrew traditions and shared aspects of Judaic and Christian music.

The following week, at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 18, at the South Park United Methodist Church, Brown Street and Stonemill Road, the program will offer a discussion of psalm-singing and an old-fashioned Methodist hymn-sing, focusing on the hymns of Charles Wesley and featuring choir members from local Methodist churches.

Tickets for the general public are $25 each or $39 for both programs. Reservations are required and seating is limited. For more information, contact Sarah Meyer at 229-4094 no later than Feb. 26 or go to the UD Library Advancement Association on the Web at http://library.udayton.edu/laa/sounds.

Heritage Center highlights UD pride

On her first day volunteering at the Heritage Center, Ann Fitzgerald Wourms ’46 got a surprise: a picture of herself in a 1946 May Crowning on one of the display panels. “I said, ‘I know her and her and her,’” she said going down the line of faces. “And then I saw myself there.”

Such memories are just one part of the appeal of the Heritage Center, which had a soft opening Feb. 19. The center, located in the former post office building just east of St. Mary Hall, offers the UD community and campus visitors a firsthand look at the University’s history and development through artifacts, photographs, narratives and multimedia that tell the distinctive UD story.

Approximately 40 volunteers from the Golden Flyers, an organization for alumni who left UD 50 or more years ago, have signed up to staff the center. For Wourms, volunteering was a way to help tell the UD story.

“I wanted to give some of my time,” she said.

A dedication and blessing of the facility is scheduled for 3 p.m. Monday, March 19, the 157th anniversary of the purchase of the land on which the school that became the University of Dayton was built.

Dedication and innovation

The School of Engineering innovation center will be dedicated and blessed at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 27, in Kettering Labs 108. Tours will follow the ceremony. The center, the cornerstone of the School’s plan to enhance its infrastructure for innovation, features studio space and conference capabilities, allowing for flexible project development, experimental prototyping and materials testing.

Historian to compare U.S. roles in Germany and Iraq

Rebecca Boehling, an associate professor of history at the University of Maryland, will present the second annual Beauregard-King History Lecture from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 28, in Sears Recital Hall.

Boehling, an expert on modern Germany, will speak on “The Uses and Abuses of Historical Comparison: American Occupations in Germany and Iraq.”

March 30 is last issue of Campus Report this term

The last print edition of Campus Report for the 2006-07 year will publish Friday, March 30, one week early to accommodate Easter recess. Campus news will continue to be delivered through Campus News Digest, the weekly e-mail newsletter.
RISE VII Global Investment Forum attracts industry leaders

**Full-time employees eligible for continuing education funds**

The RISE VII Global Investment Forum at the University of Dayton on Thursday, March 29, will host a group of internationally known industry leaders to share their outlook on the markets, economy, corporate governance, public policy and Federal Reserve perspective. A preliminary candidate pool has been identified, and open forums with three candidates have been scheduled:

Candidate No. 1: 10 a.m. Monday, March 19, Kennedy Union east ballroom; Candidate No. 2: 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 27, Science Center auditorium; and Candidate No. 3: 10 a.m. Thursday, March 29, Kennedy Union east ballroom.

At their spring meeting in May, the board of trustees approved a campaign to support the University of Dayton’s strategic plan. At its spring meeting in May, the board is expected to approve a preliminary draft of campaign priorities.

The deans have been meeting as a group to identify collaborative initiatives,” said Fran Evans, vice president for advancement. “They are working with faculty to identify, through the strategic plan, priorities they’d like to see supported in a campaign. The emphasis will be on support for students and faculty.”

This is all part of what’s called the “quiet phase” of a campaign. “We are shaping priorities and soliciting leadership gifts in support of those priorities,” Evans said. “No goal has been set, other than to maximize giving from those closest to the University.”

The campaign will support UD’s Catholic, Marianist philosophy of education, according to Provost Fred Pestello. “By focusing on scholarships, endowments for faculty support, money to initiate and strengthen transformative programs and some capital for buildings, this campaign is essential to realize the ambitious strategic plan for achieving our Vision of Excellence.”

A national search is under way to find a replacement for Evans, who is stepping down this spring. Joseph Saliba, dean of the School of Engineering, and David Winch, a trustee who chairs the advancement committee of the board of trustees, are heading the search, with the help of a campus committee and an executive search firm, Isaacson, Miller.

A preliminary candidate pool has been identified, and open forums with three candidates have been scheduled:

Candidate No. 1: 10 a.m. Monday, March 19, Kennedy Union east ballroom; Candidate No. 2: 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 27, Science Center auditorium; and Candidate No. 3: 10 a.m. Thursday, March 29, Kennedy Union east ballroom.

The search committee includes Joyce Carter, vice president for human resources; Lisa Koppelberg, dean of the School of Law; Father Gene Contadino, S.M., director of University Marianist outreach; Tricia Hart, director of the Honors and Berry Scholars programs; Bill Hunt, assistant vice president for alumni relations; Pete Luongo, trustee and executive director of the Center for Leadership and Executive Development; Don Pair, professor and chair of the geology department; and Lynnette Heard, executive director of the president’s office.

Last year, UD raised $28.8 million in gifts and pledges.

For more news, see http://universityofdayton.blogs.com/newsinfo/
**‘Being Muslim at a Catholic University’ opens Islam Awareness Week**

Islam Awareness Week, sponsored by the Muslim Students Association, religious studies department and campus ministry, will offer film, music and the opportunity to gain a variety of perspectives. All events are free and include:

- **Monday, March 5**
  - **“Being Muslim at a Catholic University”**
    - Noon-1 p.m., Kennedy Union 310
  - Brown bag lunch with a panel of UD students. Beverages and dessert provided.

- **Tuesday, March 6**
  - **Questions and answers with Asra Nomani**, author of *Standing Alone in Mecca* 4-5 p.m., Kennedy Union Torch Lounge
  - Noon-1 p.m., Kennedy Union 310
  - Brown bag lunch with a panel of UD students. Beverages and dessert provided.

- **Wednesday, March 7**
  - **“Islam and America: A Match Made in Heaven?”**
    - Perspectives in Faith and Life dinner and discussion with Ramzieh Azmeh, M.D., and Welay Azmeh, M.D.
    - 6-8 p.m., ArtStreet Studio D. Space is limited; reservations required. R.S.V.P.: phs@notes.udayton.edu.

- **Arab Music Concert**
  - featuring Karam Dawoud, oud; Fouad Roma, keyboard; and Hakkan Kaya, drums
  - 8:30 p.m., Sears Recital Hall

- **Thursday, March 8**
  - **Islam — Empire of Faith**
    - **documentary**
    - 4:30-7 p.m., ArtStreet, Studio B. Pizza and drinks provided.

  - For more information, e-mail [zmehroz@notes.udayton.edu](mailto:zmehroz@notes.udayton.edu).

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**Distinguished Speaker Series hosts Asra Nomani, activist for Muslim women’s rights**

Writer and activist Asra Nomani, author of *Standing Alone in Mecca: An American Woman’s Struggle for the Soul of Islam*, will discuss her book at 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 6, in the Kennedy Union ballroom. Her talk, sponsored by the Distinguished Speaker Series, is free and open to the public.

Nomani wrote her book after her pilgrimage to Mecca, during which she drew upon four Muslim matriarchs to learn more about sin, redemption, courage and self-determination. She returned to the United States to confront sexism and intolerance in her local mosque and, she said, “to fight for the rights of modern Muslim women who are tired of standing alone against the repressive rules and regulations imposed by reactionary fundamentalists.” She shows how several freedoms enjoyed centuries ago have been erased by the conservative type of Islam practiced today, giving the West a false image of Muslim women as veiled and isolated from the world.

**Nomani calls not for the reform of Islam, but rather the restoration of Islam.**

“From Goddess to Garbage: Pornography as a Religious Worldview” 7:30 p.m., Science Center auditorium

“Changes, Challenges, Choices: The Art of Women’s Leadership.” Registration fee is $10 for students and $20 for community members. Visit http://www.udayton.edu/~udwlc or call 229-3351 for more information.

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**Women’s History Month highlights include lectures, oil changes**

Women’s History Month at the University of Dayton will be observed with guest speakers, performances, panel discussions and the sixth annual Annie T. Thornton leadership conference. For the complete listing of events, see the Women’s Center calendar at http://womenscenter.udayton.edu/calendar/default.asp?datlookup=3/1/2007.

- **Wednesday, March 21**
  - Take Back the Night annual march against sexual assault
  - 7 p.m., beginning at ArtStreet and ending at Humanities Plaza

- **Thursday, March 22**
  - Miryam Award presentation 4:30 p.m., Immaculate Conception Chapel
  - Awarded annually to a person or group for efforts to enhance the climate for women on campus.
  - Reception will follow in the Torch Lounge.

- **Monday, March 19**
  - “Girls and their Toys” 1-3 p.m., parking lot RP7 near Rudy’s Fly-Buy
  - Car maintenance demonstration sponsored by the Women’s Center.
Survey gauges UD community’s understanding of Catholic and Marianist philosophy of education

The vast majority of students say they’re receiving a quality education and their values have been strengthened by being part of the University of Dayton community.

That’s a major finding of a new study of how well UD reflects its educational mission on campus and beyond. The board of trustees’ mission and identity committee, made up of trustees, faculty, staff and students, commissioned the study.

“We see how Catholic, Marianist values shape students. This is what we mean when we talk about a transformative education,” said Brother Tom Giardino, S.M., chair of the mission and identity committee of UD’s board of trustees and executive director of the International Center for Marianist Formation. “We consider this report a state of the mission. It’s a snapshot to let the campus community know where we are at this moment with our collective understanding of the Catholic and Marianist philosophy of education.”

It’s one of several highly visible efforts in the past year aimed at strengthening UD’s niche as a Catholic, Marianist university. The Marianist Education Working Group has recommended ways to redesign the undergraduate curriculum. UD also has launched a Marianist Educational Associates Program to develop a corps of lay faculty and administrators dedicated to preserving UD’s Marianist heritage.

UD’s Business Research Group conducted the online survey of faculty, staff, students, alumni, parents, trustees, vowed Marianists and community leaders last fall. Its key findings:

■ More than 80 percent of University of Dayton students say they’re receiving a quality education. Three out of four University of Dayton undergraduates agree that being a part of UD has strengthened their values. Two out of three agree they feel the same way.

■ Nine out of 10 parents believe UD provides a quality education. Nearly the same percentage of alumni (89 percent) agree.

■ Approximately two-thirds of students and three-quarters of parents believe UD educates for formation of faith and for adaptation and change either extremely or very well.

■ Substantial majorities in all groups (87 percent to 100 percent) say UD educates for service, justice and peace. UD received similar high marks for educating students “in a family spirit which builds community for growth and learning.”

■ When asked to define UD’s philosophy of education, respondents used phrases that included the words “whole person,” “community,” “relationships” and “social justice” as well as the slogan “Learn. Lead. Serve.”

The report “reveals both lights and shadows,” said Giardino, noting that only about half of the faculty and staff (49 percent) believes the coursework and majors embody the Catholic and Marianist philosophy of education. About one in five law students and one in three graduate students feels the same way.

And while a substantial majority of undergraduates believes the UD experience has shaped their values, only about half credit their coursework.

“This report and our commitment to use its findings say to the University of Dayton community that the board is very serious about mission,” said Dave Fitzgerald, a trustee on the mission and identity committee and president and CEO of Fitzgerald and Co. in Atlanta. “We are all charged with being the keepers of the flame.”

Added UD student Gary Motz: “We share a common identity. We’re all focused on striving for excellence as a Catholic university.”

Committee members want the report to stimulate conversation across campus and serve as a baseline for another survey in three years. Since results are broken down by division or school, Giardino said the report offers the opportunity for individual areas to delve deeper into the data and discuss ways to better incorporate the Catholic and Marianist educational philosophy into their work.

The report can be found at http://president.udayton.edu.

—Teri Rizvi

March 2, 2007  Campus Report  5
Looking west
Core Program focuses on Dayton’s African-American heritage

Did you know that at one time all of Duke Ellington’s trombone section came from Dayton? That Ella Fitzgerald played at the Palace Theatre on West Fifth Street? That “Take the ‘A’ Train” composer Billy Strayhorn was born in Dayton? That the country’s oldest continuously existing black YWCA is in Dayton? That Dayton was the epicenter of the 70s funk music scene?

Students in UD’s Core Program do. This year, they have met some local African-American legends and learned first-hand about West Dayton’s 20th-century history and culture. In conjunction with exhibits at the Schuster Center and on campus, they’ve discovered a few more “skyscrapers” than they may have known Dayton had to offer.

Some of the subjects and some of the artists who created “Dayton Skyscrapers: An African-American Visual Artists’ Tribute to African-American Heroes of Dayton, Ohio,” an exhibit at the Schuster Center during Black History Month, were recent guests in Core classes. During February, artist Bing Davis and historian Margaret Peters lectured on Dayton’s African-American artists; poet-in-residence Herbert Woodward Martin performed poetry and

Top right: In February, Core students toured significant sites in West Dayton, including the building at Fifth and Horace that housed the West Side YWCA. The program is the country’s oldest continuously existing black YWCA. Right: Students learned about Dayton’s African-American artists from two “Skyscrapers,” Margaret Peters and Bing Davis. Far right: Curtis Barnes Jr. attended the artist reception held in his father’s honor in the Marianist Hall Learning Space.

Herbenick Award applauds student’s interdisciplinary efforts

Junior Janet D’Souza believes in crossing disciplines and boundaries.

D’Souza, an adolescent to young adult education major, is the recipient of the Core Program’s Herbenick Award. The award recognizes a student, who like Ray Herbenick, the late philosophy professor for whom it is named, integrates interdisciplinary learning. D’Souza received the award Feb. 10 at the 20th annual Core graduation luncheon, which honors junior graduates.

As a first-year honors and Core student, D’Souza conducted a research study on “Retaining High Achieving Teachers and Students in Education,” attempting to discover why students left or remained in the honors program. She was one of only two first-year UD students to present individual posters at the Stander Symposium. In an attempt to improve connections between UD and the Dayton Early College Academy, D’Souza worked as a liaison between the two schools and developed a mentoring program. She also found time to give back to the Core Program, working four to five days a week as a tutor.

Students toured Davis’s EbonNia Gallery and viewed urban and African art that he recently exhibited at museums in Indianapolis and in Canton, Ohio. They explored some of the remaining significant West side buildings that hold the history of early 20th-century African-American Dayton, including the now boarded and crumbling house at Fifth and Horace, site of the oldest black YWCA building

in the country.

The Core Program’s focus on West Dayton grew out of last year’s celebration of the centennial of the death of poet Paul Laurence Dunbar and the realization “that we hit the tip of a cultural iceberg,” said Core Program director John Inglis. Although West Fifth Street, known as the “Nickel” in its hey-day, is only blocks from the Paul Laurence Dunbar State Memorial on Summit Street, “I literally did not know it was there,” Inglis said. From Margaret Peters, a UD alumna, Inglis learned of the area’s significance in the lives of many of Dayton’s African-Americans who were celebrated in the Schuster exhibit.

“We realized that we did not need to go to Florence to learn about an incredible place but could do so with over a hundred students here at home,” he said. “This has been the educational experience of my life.”

The Core Program also celebrated a milestone last month, graduating its 20th class, with about 75 students attending the ceremony and luncheon. The three-year Core Program began nearly 22 years ago with a National Endowment for the Humanities grant. Since then, Core has provided a way for students to complete general education requirements in the arts, social sciences and humanities in an integrated, thematic setting.

“The program tries to build skills across classes so people end up knowing how to do more, just because of the way their learning is organized,” said Inglis, who has taught in the program for 13 years.

—Deborah McCarty Smith
Core Program focuses on Dayton’s African-American heritage

Words are a powerful weapon, he repeated several times during his talk. A common term to hunt after a dog.

Helping first-year students transition from high school into Core.

D’Souza said she jumped at the opportunity to help because the program has helped expand her worldview. “Having that integration between the classes has been really helpful,” she said. “I now see the big picture, instead of a bunch of pieces of the picture.”

Off-campus, D’Souza works as an intern with Keys to Improving Dayton Schools (k.i.d.s.), a Dayton-based, non-profit education reform organization. She has assisted one charter school in developing its education plan and policies and aligning assessments to the Ohio content standards.

This semester she has begun grant work with both k.i.d.s. and the charter school.

For her honors thesis, D’Souza is working with Rachel Collorary, assistant professor in the School of Education and Allied Professions, studying the verbal and written feedback Incarnation Catholic School teachers give students about their writing.

Philosophy professor John Inglis said D’Souza is a prime example of the kind of student the Core Program strives to produce. “Janet has been able to connect the different disciplines to her major and to her life so she could find the deeper meaning.”

—Matthew Dewald

Paul Rusesabagina, whose courage inspired the film Hotel Rwanda, has become an advocate for the displaced people of Darfur, Sudan.

Lessons from Rwanda: ‘Stop being bystanders’

Paul Rusesabagina said he spent hours “convincing him that I was a prisoner of myself.”

“Where was peace? Who was in genocidal government, he said. “Where was peace? Who was in...”

At the hotel shouting across the lobby that he had come to take away “that dog.” Rusesabagina said he spent hours “convincing him that this was not a duty, an obligation of a colonel, to hunt after a dog.”

Words are a powerful weapon, he repeated several times during his talk. A common term “cockroaches,” he said. “Dehumanizing people before killing them: that is what I call the power of words. With words, you can save lives. With words, you can kill lives.”

When he was handed a Kalashnikov in the early days of the genocide and ordered to kill his own family on the spot, he told the soldiers, “You are hungry. You are tired. You are stressed by the war. I understand you. You are thirsty. You have been frustrated. But we can solve those problems otherwise. We can find other solutions.”

He was with the last group of refugees to leave the hotel June 18, having declined several earlier opportunities to evacuate. “If I leave and these people are killed, I will never be a free man in my life,” he explained to his wife. “I will be a prisoner of myself.”

He called the survival of all of the hotel’s refugees “a miracle,” and when he was evacuated to relative safety behind an advancing rebel force, he expected to find others. “I had in mind that many miracles in the country had been performed,” he said. “I had in mind that in the rural areas no one could have killed a neighbor.”

But he was wrong. When he traveled south to his home area, he saw bodies, flies and dogs everywhere. Two of his siblings were dead. His wife’s family had been killed and dumped in a pit used for making banana juices and beer.

Though the genocide had stopped, mass killings still continued in areas controlled by the rebel forces who overthrew the genocidal government, he said. “Where was peace? Who was innocent? Who was a criminal? ... We had changed players, but the rules for the game had remained the same.”

Such criticisms of the new government brought him disfavor, and he was forced to flee Rwanda for good in 1996. Today he is a strong advocate for the displaced people of Darfur, Sudan, where he said conditions are similar to those in Rwanda just before the genocide. On an Air France flight while returning from Darfur, he watched news coverage from Auschwitz, where Western leaders had gathered to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of the Holocaust.

“The two most repeated and abused words were ‘never’ and ‘again,’” he said. “When they were repeating ‘never again, what happened here 60 years ago we will never allow to happen anymore,’ it was happening again and again and again and again.”

Then he closed by addressing the students in the audience directly. “Tonight I’m urging you to stop being bystanders. ... Today’s world is yours. It is your mission to shape it the way you want it to be. Do you want it to be a better world? It will be a better world. Do you want it to be the way it is? It will be how you want it to be. Do you want it to be worse? It will be.”

—Matthew Dewald

March 2, 2007  Campus Report  7
John Rapp
An economist with a fan club

John Rapp may be the only 70-year-old economist with his own fan club on Facebook.com.

The club includes 177 members at the University of Dayton who count themselves among “those who believe the world should include more big words such as ‘marginal’ and ‘propensity’” and “who love John Rapp, chalk allergies and all. He is the ECONOMIST.”

Rapp, who will retire from full-time teaching at the end of this semester, estimates he has taught economics to more than 15,000 students since joining UD as chair of the economics and finance department in 1972. He complements those auditorium lectures with class notes posted on his Web page, where he uses down-to-earth examples — such as the opportunity cost of a CD purchased and a pizza foregone — and silly clip art to help students understand and remember crucial theories that will recur throughout the course and will definitely be on the test.

“I try to make it interesting and use real-world examples,” said Rapp, who believes that technology has significantly improved teaching and learning.

“Seeing students get excited about economics is what I’m happiest about, especially knowing that many students approach economics perceiving it to be dull.” His lectures and notes are peppered with jokes about economists as well as surefire ways to irritate them. Just try telling one, “Well, that’s fine in theory, but in the real world....”

“No one,” Rapp insists, “can understand much of anything except by having an underlying theory. A good theory has to predict reality.”

Considered a legendary teacher and adviser by many students, Rapp also has earned a reputation as a skillful University administrator — despite his opinion, after serving two terms as department chair, that “all administrators do is sign their names on relatively meaningless pieces of paper.” He nonetheless was persuaded to continue in administrative roles, serving on the search committee that brought Sam Gould to UD as dean of the School of Business Administration, and then as associate dean for 16 years. “Some of it was boring, like any job,” he said.

But he particularly enjoyed being the academic-in-charge of renovations to Miriam Hall and working with architects on the project. “It made me think I would have liked to have been an architect,” said Rapp, whose aesthetic appreciation extends to signed, contemporary lithographs, red Thunderbirds and shirts colorful enough to keep students awake in class. He also served nine years on the academic senate, including a term as president, where he worked to eliminate the need for senior grades to be turned in early and the practice of foregoing finals.

Rapp also spent 10 years hosting an AM radio talk show, first on the now-defunct WAVI, and then on WHIO, where he discussed social issues. “My conservative posture hit the most buttons with callers,” he recalled. Chief among his positions is that “government is not the place to right every wrong and solve every problem. I don’t buy the ‘I’m entitled to’ point of view. Where’s the responsibility of the individual?”

When he recently visited the Social Security office in Xenia, Ohio, to sign up for Medicare, he noted that an armed guard was protecting the premises. “What kind of waste is that?” he asked. And although he has no intention of refusing it, he can think of no reason why the government should send him a Social Security check. “When Roosevelt started the program it was supposed to be a safety net to benefit the poor elderly.”

Rapp plans a retirement in the time-honored UD style: he’ll teach one course next year, attend no meetings, do no advising, but help to write the self-study report for the School’s AACSB reaccreditation in 2009. It’s a good gig: “You get to collect your TIAA-CREF, and the provost pays for your parking” (for professors emeriti). A longtime member of the President’s Club (ever since former Dean Bill Hoben, “a persuasive individual,” paid a fund-raising call on him), Rapp has been a loyal and consistent University donor.

UD “is where I did what I grew up to do — teaching and trying to contribute something. I’m at heart an academic,” he said. Noting that he has enjoyed the freedom of intellectual inquiry and independence, he said, “You don’t have to do anything at a prescribed time except show up for class. That permits you the luxury of time to think about something, read something, learn something.”

Rapp, who will soon have greater luxuries of time, said, “I know I’ll not have any problem finding something to do because I never have.”

Although he eschews golf and admits, “I’m not a big hobbyist,” he likes amateur digital photography and can see himself volunteering at the Dayton Art Institute. The professor, who double-majored in English as an undergraduate, also enjoys reading novels, particularly the works of Joyce Carol Oates and Kurt Vonnegut. And he does have a favorite economist, one whom he counts as the most influential of the 20th century: “Milton Friedman, although he had the audacity to die on my 70th birthday.”

—Deborah McCarty Smith
Sam Johnson
Retiring, not with a bang ...

Sam Johnson, assistant dean in the College of Arts and Sciences, would prefer if no one notices when he retires in June. He compares his role to a stage manager’s — if he does his job well, no one should know he is even there.

“One principle on which I work is to remain as invisible as I can,” said Johnson, who joined the University in 1985 and taught as a lecturer in the English department before joining the dean’s office 15 years ago.

“When you’re seen, you’re a lightning rod,” he explained. "This job is to facilitate everyone else’s job. We’re a source of dependable information. We’re interested in protecting academic integrity and supporting the students as they go through.”

Johnson, a poet whose work has appeared in Poetry, a monthly magazine published by the Poetry Foundation in Chicago, is looking forward to having time to write.

“My best writing is in the morning. My best working is in the morning, and I can’t do both when I’m here,” he said.

While his retirement plans are open to all possibilities, “learning more” tops Johnson’s list. He’s currently taking Spanish classes because, he said, “Our neighborhood and much of what I can see in Dayton is becoming Hispanic. I would like to participate in conversations with neighbors.” Besides, the poet added, “Some language tastes good when you say it. There’s a musicality running through the vocabulary in my head.”

He will also continue to pursue two deeply consuming and connected interests: bird watching and Buddhism. Museums may be must-see destinations for others traveling abroad, but from India to Africa, Johnson said, “I organize any of our trips around watching birds.”

His most memorable sighting, though, occurred a few miles from home on a cloudy day. A prothonotary warbler, a “stunningly yellow and black bird that nests in tree cavities, popped its head out just as the sun came out. I was truly captured at that moment,” he said.

“One of the truly exciting things that happens in bird watching is you completely lose your sense of self. It becomes only the seeing. You’re completely drawn in. The ego in a moment disappears. The experience is remarkably rich,” said Johnson, a Quaker who was trained as a Methodist minister and who values silence and the openness that comes from resting in the moment.

“That’s at the heart of the Buddhist experience of non-self. I believe the ego is constructed; it becomes only the seeing. Your sense of self. It becomes only the seeing. The experience is remarkably rich,” said Johnson, a Quaker who was trained as a Methodist minister and who values silence and the openness that comes from resting in the moment.

“Individual life crises is where the work gets relatively intense,” Johnson said. “Some are ready to accept responsibility for their actions; some are not, and that includes the parents.”

Suicide attempts, illnesses, sexual assaults and pregnancies are among the crises that can lead to academic problems, Johnson said. While not a professional counselor, his pastoral skills have served him well in working with students: “the ability to listen, be empathetic and nonjudgmental. We maintain confidences.”

While he harbors some concern about what will happen, after he retires, to the lush philodendrons that cascade over the tops of his bookcases, he knows what he will miss most.

“I’ll miss seeing the turnaround. About 50 percent of the students on probation we work with pull it together, grow up, take on responsibility and become real college students.”

—Deborah McCarty Smith

Caroline Waldron Merithew, assistant professor of history, has been awarded the Anita S. Goodstein Junior Scholar Award for the best article published in the Journal of Women’s History. The prize, awarded by the University of the South, Sewanee, Tenn., includes funding to travel to the university and deliver an annual lecture in women’s history March 5. Merithew’s lecture and article are titled “We Were Not Ladies: Gender, Class, and a Women’s Auxiliary’s Battle for Mining Unionism.”

According to Merithew’s abstract, the article “uses the 1930s dual union fight between the United Mine Workers of America and the Progressive Miners to challenge the historiography on women’s auxiliaries in the United States. While most labor and women’s historians have focused on the traditional and supporting roles that non-wage-earning women played in male unions, I show a more radical side to working-class housewives’ activism. Through the Women’s Auxiliary of the Progressive Miners, coal miners’ daughters and wives recognized that convention-al gender roles could neither gain them political and economic power in their communities, nor could these roles encompass their evolving political consciousness. Because the mine union wars of the early 1930s opened up an opportunity for women to understand and rearticulate their

noteworthy

Continued on next page
New book charts a revolutionary history

If you thought that Catholic colleges and universities have always taught theology, Sandra Yocum Mize's new book may pack a few surprises.

In the mid-1950s, “to teach theology to Catholic undergraduates ... was a relatively novel idea. So novel, those who did thought it wise to form a distinct society to discuss how to improve their craft,” Mize, chair of the religious studies department, writes in Joining the Revolution in Theology: The College Theology Society, 1954-2004. “None could have foreseen what unfolded in the subsequent decades.”

Beyond tracing the history of a professional society that has grown to nearly 800 members, Mize's book, published by Sheed and Ward, illuminates major currents in theological thought and describes the development of Catholic theology as an academic discipline. She charts the changes as theology moved from a specialty taught in seminaries into undergraduate college classrooms.

“One tension I try to trace within the society is the constant movement back and forth between what is our relationship to the church and what is our relationship to the academy?” Mize said.

The questions arise because “theology is confessional, and academic work is understood as objective and critical,” she said. “Theology comes out of a certain acceptance — faith seeking understanding. It could come into question whether you could be critical. If I’m doing theological work, am I going to reject the basic doctrines of the church?” she said.

“We’re academicians, but yet theologians have lots of conversa-

tions with church hierarchy and many have concerns about passing on the faith. Those kinds of tensions run throughout.” So do concerns about the professional qualifications of those who teach. Before the establishment of doctoral degrees in theology, those who taught it in colleges were not necessarily trained as theologians, said Mize, who is also working on a study focusing on Saint Mary’s College in Notre Dame, Ind., the first college where women could pursue doctoral-level studies in theology.

Organized by decade, the chapters of Mize's book alternate between chronological accounts of the theological discussions that developed over the society's history and narratives of the society itself, as “members gradually became not only teachers of college theology but also the producers of what they taught. Lay men and women, along with the ordained and religious, identified themselves as theologians and scholars of religion,” Mize writes. “The College Theology Society offered women religious and lay people a way to understand themselves as professional theologians,” she said.

The book calls attention to some of the influential discussions in the society’s Annual Volume, which published early essays by leading theologians, such as Elisabeth Schussler Fiorenza, Avery Dulles, Charles Curran and Stanley Hauerwas, among others.

“Some of the essays are groundbreaking. It’s interesting to see the role that Scripture played and how it became part of the discourse in liberation theology and the way feminist discourse influenced theological discussion,” Mize said. “Some are classic pieces you can use to introduce students to the history of major theological movements,” she said adding that graduate students who’ve read the book have commented, “Now I understand the fractures and the origins of a lot of the contemporary theological arguments.”

Mize wrote the book in morning stints spent with her laptop at a small hallway table at Starbucks on Brown Street — while chairing the religious studies department and directing its graduate program. Her graduate students are, in many

identities, the episode provides a critical historical vantage on the gendering of class in the rural industrial multiracial heartland.”

William Portier, the Mary Ann Spearin Chair in Catholic Theology at the University of Dayton, was a keynote panelist at the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities annual meeting in Washington, D.C., Feb. 3-5. On a panel focusing on “Catholic Higher Education in the American Context,” Portier presented “Rising to the Evangelical Moment.” His comments, which

included examples from the University of Dayton, were included in coverage of the conference in InsideHigherEd.com. “The key challenge facing the contemporary church is how to do the formational work the subculture once did,” Portier said. “People who define themselves as ‘members of the emerging evangelical subculture’ are coming ... The theologians are coming ... The College Theology Society will hold its 53rd annual convention May 31 – June 3 at the University of Dayton. The theme will be ‘Faith in Public Life.’ William Portier, UD professor of religious studies, will serve as local coordinator. Members of the National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion will also participate.

Catholic college students “had neither nuns in elementary school nor priests and brothers in high school. They have no rigid authority structure to rebel against, little formal religious training to escape from. Rather than as liberation, they more often experience pluralism as chaos.” He noted that “from this post-subculture situation comes the statistically small but significant group of young people I want to call ‘evangelical Catholics’ .... They are few but ubiquitous and it is from their ranks that many, if not most, undergraduate theology majors, parish youth ministers, and
ways, what the future membership of the College Theology Society will look like. Almost everyone will be a layperson and few will have experienced formation in the seminary or in religious community, she said. “A whole different generation is going to have an impact in theology.”

Those generational shifts become apparent when Mize describes the traditional songfests that conclude the society’s annual meetings held on college campuses. University of Dayton readers may come away with a new appreciation of the talents of their colleagues in religious studies.

Who knew, for example, that “The Vatican Rag’ is sung by Michael Barnes, sometimes solo, sometimes in a group” (there’s a photo to prove it) and “sometime during the evening, William Portier and Terry Tilley sing a remarkable rendition of ‘House of the Rising Sun.’”

In describing the sense of community among the members, Mize calls attention to the College Theology Society’s contributions to the life of the church. The book, she said, “recognizes the importance of this gathering of people who go into class day after day and teach undergraduates required courses in theology. That’s a hard job. They’re trying to make a difference in students’ lives to help them think about faith in new ways.”

—Deborah McCarty Smith

Undergraduate research award will boost biology and chemistry opportunities

The University of Dayton is one of 15 colleges in the nation to receive awards from the Merck Institute for Science Education and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Each award provides $20,000 annually for up to three years for joint use by biology and chemistry departments.

 Winners were selected for their approach to interdisciplinary opportunities, ability to engage students in interdisciplinary research projects and commitment to future programs with a focus on combining biology and chemistry initiatives.

“The award recognizes our past achievements as well as our commitment to providing undergraduate research opportunities for future students,” said Mary E. Morton, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “This support will engage our current undergraduates and attract additional talented students in science to the College.”

Chemistry and biology students are regularly involved in conducting research, making presentations and writing articles. Chemistry students Dan Collins and Deepika D’Cunha, for example, were part of a UD group whose undergraduate research resulted in making close to 30 new compounds using a variety of rare-earth elements. Their work was published in the journal Inorganic Chemistry Communications.

“Undergraduate research gave Dee D’Cunha the chance to ‘learn about some very cool, cutting-edge stuff’ and see her group’s work published in Inorganic Chemistry Communications.”

“The undergraduate research I’ve been able to do here is critical because many graduate schools use research as a factor for admission,” Collins said. “Many graduate schools commented that my undergraduate research played a major role in their decision to accept me.”

Shawn Swavey, assistant professor of chemistry, led the students on this project. “The students got a chance to make something no one else had done before and characterize it afterward, using the technique to characterize compounds,” Swavey said. “For undergrads, you can’t ask for much more than learning new techniques. It helps them be better scientists.”

For D’Cunha, the opportunity to present at conferences and co-write papers “was a great opportunity to meet other student and faculty researchers as well as learn about some very cool, cutting-edge stuff. Although I’m planning on going into the medical field as a doctor, it was still awesome to work in coordinate chemistry and learn a lot more about the physical side of some of the medical technology I’ll have to use later on.”

In September, the University announced initiatives to support interdisciplinary research and education efforts that included plans for a new master’s degree in bioengineering and the emergence of a Center for Tissue Regeneration and Engineering at Dayton or TREND. The Merck/AAAS award will help move UD’s strategic plan forward.
March ’07

coming attractions

Friday, March 2
Academic senate meeting
3 p.m., Kennedy Union 331

Friday, March 2 and Saturday, March 3
Lucky Stiff
8 p.m., Boll Theatre
Closing performances of the musical comedy with lyrics by Lynn Ahrens and music by Stephen Flaherty, presented by the UD theater department and directed by Kay Bosse.
Tickets: Call the UD box office at 229-2545.

Sunday, March 4
University Chorale
3 p.m., Kennedy Union Boll Theatre
Conducted by Robert Jones. Free and open to the public.

Tuesday, March 6
Play
Noon, Sears Recital Hall
A one-man performance by Al Staggs is based on the life of Archbishop Oscar Romero. Sponsored by the Center for Social Concern, religious studies department and the Greater Dayton Christian Connections.

Distinguished Speaker Series
8 p.m., Kennedy Union ballroom
Asra Nomani, author of Standing Alone in Mecca: An American Woman’s Struggle for the Soul of Islam

Wednesday, March 7
Information session
2-3 p.m., Learning Teaching Center Forum
Faculty and staff are invited to learn about research and lecture opportunities offered by the Fulbright organization. R.S.V.P. to Lora Butcher at lora.butcher@notes.udayton.edu or call 229-3309.

Friday, March 9
Midterm break begins after last class.
Saturday classes meet March 10 and 17.

Wednesday, March 11
Dayton Christian Jewish Dialogue
7 p.m., Alumni Hall 101
Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra director Neal Gittleman will discuss Verdi’s opera, Nabucco.

Monday, March 19
Classes resume at 8 a.m.

Saturday, March 24
Annie T. Thornton Women’s Leadership Conference

Friday, March 23
UD Arts Series
8 p.m., Boll Theatre
Poetry in Piano:
Oni Buchanan
Tickets: Call the UD box office at 229-2545.

Wednesday, March 21
World Rhythms Series
8 p.m., Boll Theatre
Kiran Ahluwalia presents both folk songs from the Punjab and ghazals, a form of sung poetry of Persian origin. Call 229-2545 for tickets and more information.

Tuesday, March 20
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8 p.m., Boll Theatre
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An exhibit of painting, sculpture, ceramics and prints titled “Language/Structure/Vision: University of Dayton Women Artists” will be on display at the Cannery Art & Design Centre at 434 E. Third St. in Dayton from Feb. 27 through March 30.

The exhibit, made possible through a partnership between ArtStreet and the Cannery Art & Design Centre, features the work of eight students who are seniors in UD’s visual arts department. Exhibiting artists are Laura Adducci, Jessica Bohne, Rachel Dennis, Mallory Dover, Katie Kuntz, Allyson Meier, Elle Richards, and Nicole Rotmueller.

A reception for the artists will be held from 5 to 10 p.m. Friday, March 2, at the Cannery, in conjunction with downtown Dayton’s “First Fridays” arts event.

For more information, contact ArtStreet at 229-5101 or the Cannery Art & Design Centre at 228-2232.

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