They lead a city to its future

The University of Dayton in 1920 took its present name, making a permanent statement of the institution’s strong connection to its home city.

Today, the Dayton, Ohio, City Commission has five members. Three of them are University of Dayton black alumni:

Lloyd E. Lewis Jr. ’48,
Dean Lovelace ’72 and
Idotha Bootsie Neal ’80.

Lloyd E. Lewis Jr. ’48
Lloyd Lewis remembers when NCR across the street from UD employed 25,000 workers.

“We're lucky to have 2,500 here now,” he said.

He also remembers when Frigidaire, Delco and other national businesses had Dayton locations.

“Almost all the foundries are gone,” he said.

Lewis has been watching Dayton’s transformation from an industrial to a service town for most of the past 50 years. He earned his bachelor’s in business administration from UD and his master’s in public administration from Central Michigan University. During and after his education, he spent 16 years in the armed forces. Before joining Dayton Power & Light in 1980, he worked as the assistant city manager for community services in Dayton, was general manager of downtown Rike’s and was vice president of Lloyd Lewis Sales and Services.

First elected to the 38th District of the Ohio General Assembly in 1994, Lewis resigned this January to join the Dayton City Commission.

Lewis remarked that while Dayton’s government had the same city manager/commission structure 50 years ago, things have changed. During a time when segregation was the rule and Dayton’s African-American population amounted to only 10 percent of the city, black and female elected officials were nonexistent. As Dayton’s black population, now 40 percent, (continued on Page 2)
COMMISSIONERS
(continued from Page 1)
continues to rise,
Lewis is dedicated to
updating the
longstanding city
charter so that it, too,
can acknowledge the
years gone by.
Also looking to
the future, Lewis
supports one team
approach to attract
businesses and halt an
outward flow of
employees. He said, "I
want to see baseball."
Regarding
Dayton's broader
economic future,
Lewis said, "We're not
looking for a Ford or
a GE to come in," he
said, adding that a
growth in the number
of small businesses will
encourage people not
to move to suburbia
and thereby will
strengthen the city's
economic base.

Neal: Despite some advances
in diversity, "We continue to
see segregation as it relates
to housing patterns."

Idotha Bootsie Neal '80
While Bootsie
Neal worked on her
master's degree in
social agency counsel-
ing at UD, her job in
C.J. McLin's office
gave her a first taste of
politics. Neal, however,
did not begin her
political career until
she had dedicated
several years to
education and human
services.
After graduation, she helped manage
Montgomery County
job training in Greater
Dayton and later
moved to Central State
University West in
Dayton to eventually
become its director, a
position she maintains.
Teaching as an
adjunct professor at
CSU and Wright State
University and consult-
ing in goal setting and
facilitating workshops,
Neal lost the 1987
election for Dayton
City Commissioner but
was elected in 1991
and again in 1995.
Known as a human
rights advocate, Neal
has assisted the
development of the
Wright-Dunbar
neighborhood, the
Teen Center and
redevelopment policy.
in Dayton. She has also been instrumental in refocusing city legislation on family and in relocating the Miami Valley Job Development Center.

Neal noted with satisfaction the increase in the number of African-American local political leaders since she graduated from UD, as well as the emergence of “serious dialogue around racial issues.” While she acknowledges some advances in citywide diversity, such as the annual Peace Bridge event, she said, “We continue to see segregation as it relates to housing patterns.”

Neal credits the quality of her UD education with preparing her for political life. “I had an opportunity to interface with many leaders throughout the region,” she said, adding that she has sustained many of these relationships.

Dean Lovelace ’72

Affected by the flaring political environment during his student years, Dean Lovelace stepped out of UD and into politics.

Newly graduated with a bachelor’s in business administration, Lovelace went to work as a resource planner in Dayton and was later transferred to the Northwest Priority Board. During these first years, he found his niche with the National Black Political Assembly and strove to hold local elected officials accountable to their promised political agendas throughout the 1970s.

The 1980s found him charging along a more intense political track. While championing the Rainbow Coalition agenda, “the passion of [his] life,” in 1984, he was presidential candidate Jesse Jackson’s campaign manager in Dayton. Lovelace remarked that this was “a natural transition from running officials around” to supporting them.

Lovelace lost special elections for Dayton City Commissioner in 1987 and 1989. By 1993, however, his intimate involvement with neighborhood activism, especially with the Edgemont Neighborhood Coalition, provided him the support he needed. He was elected to the Dayton City Commission, this time with the

Democratic endorsement.

During his political career, Lovelace has maintained his dedication to neighborhood empowerment and worked toward improved race relations and poverty reduction, achieving a “living wage” for Dayton and serving in groups such as the Parity 2000 Steering Committee. He has taught the UD class Urban Poverty with Steven Dandaneau since 1996 and has worked for the Institute for Neighborhood and Community Leadership at UD (INCLUD) for several years.

Lovelace said that the charged political atmosphere during his years at UD helped inspire his career in politics. Remembering the UD African-American Center and the black students’ controversial effort to gain representation on the Homecoming court, he said, “I don’t think folks are as polarized as they were 20 years ago.”

—Robin Dodsworth
Success in the job market requires more than just knowledge of an occupation; it also takes leadership abilities. This concept is what led Kathleen Henderson, director of African-American student services at the University of Dayton, to think of the idea for the Colors of Leadership conference.

"The goal of Colors of Leadership is to present a concept of leadership from a diverse perspective," said Henderson.

This year's conference, The New Millennium: What's in it for Me, which marked the second conference of its kind, had community, business and educational leaders speak to students from UD and nearby universities about issues and problems that are encountered in the business world. The messages delivered by the speakers gave the students in attendance a sense of what leadership and networking skills are needed in the business world today.

This two-day event, which was co-chaired by Rashad Young, president of Black Action Through Unity for the 1997-98 school year, and Teyon Florence, president-elect, began in the evening on Friday, Feb. 27, with panel discussions. The first panel, headed by Betty Youngkin of the UD English department and Jack Cox of the School of Law, helped students prepare for graduate school and law school.

"It gives the students a head start on getting into grad school," said Young.

Through Unity, led by Shirley Favors from the Career Placement Center, concerning transferring skills students learn in college to the job market, Friday's events finished with a fashion show and talent show designed to give the students a chance to get to know each other.

On Saturday, students could attend inclusive leadership workshops headed by Kevin Carreathers, director of the multicultural office at Texas A&M University. Also on Saturday keynote speaker, UD graduate and Dayton City Commissioner Idotha Bootsie Neal addressed the students. She spoke about preparing leaders to lead within a diverse community.

A celebration for the students later that night marked the end of the Colors of Leadership conference. Said Florence of the weekend, "It was a very good opportunity for students to get together with each other and build leadership skills."

As for the future of this conference, its colors seem bright. Both Young and Florence said it is part of their responsibility as co-chairs to ensure that Colors of Leadership becomes a semiannual event.

— Jake Gloehler

Trip realizes a dream

Tiffany Wyatt can't remember a time when she didn't long to visit Africa. A senior at UD, she was finally realizing her dream when she and five other UD students boarded a plane bound for Cameroon this summer.

The trip includes a month living with host families and performing community service at pediatric wards, universities and farming communities. Julius Amin, a UD history professor whose native country is Cameroon, accompanies the students.

"It's going to be a total revelation … to experience the culture that my ancestors missed for hundreds of years," said Wyatt.

Although the
Alabama challenges students

When eight UD students embarked on Project Alabama during spring break this year, their experiences taught them lessons that history books often do not.

The fourth UD group to take this trip since 1994, the students traveled by van to Birmingham, Ala., and stayed in dormitories at Birmingham Southern College for one week. During school hours every weekday, they tutored and helped with classes at Holy Family School, a Catholic elementary school in a low-income neighborhood.

The evenings, however, found them trekking across the South to visit civil rights memorials in Birmingham, Tuskegee, and Atlanta. They explored their heritage firsthand at sites including the Civil Rights Institute in Birmingham, Booker T. Washington’s home and the George Washington Carver Museum in Tuskegee, and the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, where Martin Luther King was pastor.

Graduate student Dana Owens, the coordinator of the trip, said the students learned about African-American contributions that most history books don’t mention. “We saw how America stole ideas and inventions away from African-Americans who had no vehicle to patent their inventions,” he said.

Students at the Tuskegee Institute, for instance, independently discovered how to equip Booker T. Washington’s home with electricity and running water before knowing about Thomas Edison’s work.

Their history lessons especially could not have prepared them for the friendly and peaceful atmosphere they encountered in Birmingham, which was once known as the most segregated city in the nation. “The stereotype that African-American Northerners have of the South is that it’s lynch country,” said Owens.

Owens explained that Northern racial attitudes tend to be much more confident and ambiguous than those in the South. “[Southerners] either like you or they don’t,” said Owens. “You know who you’re dealing with.”

“Most of us were thinking, ‘Whites don’t like blacks, but they get along,’” said Owens.

While they grew closer to their heritage in the evenings, by day the students developed bonds with the children they met at Holy Family.

“It’s like they discovered a part of themselves in the children,” said Owens.

The students returned from Project Alabama with a more developed awareness of their African-American heritage and increased sensitivity to the importance of contributing to the community.

“We thank UD and the alumni for the chance to learn more about our heritage and do community service,” said Owens.

—Robin Dodsworth

They either like you or they don’t.
—Dana Owens.

Owens

multiple languages found in Cameroon may overwhelm even the French-speaking students, their host families are generally well-educated and speak English. And Wyatt, a communications major, remarked that 90 percent of communication is nonverbal. “Body language and expression is more important than words,” she said.

A history minor focusing on African-Americans, she chaired the Black History Month committee during her sophomore and junior years. She and Mary Williams became the first women to run a rhythm and blues Flyer Radio program when they founded “Blackberry Jam” as fresh-men. The pair then created and shared the position of R&B director. Blackberry Jam’s fund-raisers benefit Debbie’s Dayton Jammers, an inner-city youth drill team.

—Robin Dodsworth
Study abroad attracts more

Donna Cox, associate professor of music, was off to Dublin, Ireland, for the Interdepartmental Summer Study Abroad Program June 24 through July 24. Cox is teaching American Music Tradition, a music performance class. Students auditioned for the class before they left campus for the summer, and the selected group chose vocal solos, duets and small ensemble pieces to practice before leaving for Ireland. "I am really excited about this trip and especially this class," Cox said. "I really recruited some of my music students and the individuals that I knew I wanted to work and travel with." Cox said more African-Americans have signed up this year for ISSAP than in any past year. About seven individuals, including Cox and her own son and daughter, will constitute the UD African-American population in Dublin. "I think it is important to get African-Americans involved in programs such as ISSAP," she said. "As a group, African-Americans don't seem to think about getting involved in extra-curricular activities, and it is important that they realize they have the same opportunities as other students on campus." James Stiles, assistant director for international educational programs, said that the application for the program does not ask for the student's race and as a result, the exact number of African-Americans involved with the program is unknown. However, he said he believes African-Americans make up more than 10 percent of the students participating in the international programs. "Dublin is leading the pack with the number of African-American participants," Stiles said. "Dr. Cox's program did draw a lot of interest from African-American students, but the other locations and programs did too. We have a very strong minority representation this year."

—Kendra Smith

Dean looks to build community

As the August 1999 networking of the student neighborhood approaches, Carol Cummins-Collier, associate dean of students, looks forward to enhanced opportunities for community development at UD. "I'm committed to the concept of the learning village," she said. "My vision of that is not one big learning community ... but lots of small communities that are learning similar things." Cummins-Collier has worked in residence life at Indiana University and Virginia Commonwealth University as well as UD, where she received her Ph.D. in educational leadership in May. "I've developed an expertise of student development through community development," she said. Studying education has provoked Cummins-Collier's dedication to improving the atmosphere of campus residences in order to guide students toward greater independence. She also hopes students will learn to live harmoniously with others. "Part of what we do is help students learn those skills so they can be successful when they get out into their own neighborhoods," she said. In addition to designing the atmosphere of student life, Cummins-Collier works with the faculty to extend learning from the classroom to student residences. One of their recent efforts has culminated in humanities-based presentations in the residence halls and on the Flyernet television channel.

Cummins-Collier believes that the student neighborhood already has a "communal" atmosphere in which collective energy is evident. "We have not done enough to rally that energy toward learning," she said. Cummins-Collier is especially interested in student input. "Only students can speak for students," she said. "Our job is to listen."

—Robin Dodsworth
All graduated

Ted Wood graduated from the School of Law in May, had several job offers and will be working in patent law in Washington, D.C. He was one of eight black students in his class.

“It was Oliver Wendell Holmes who said that a person who is not involved in the passions, the actions of his times, will have been deemed not to have lived. Lawyers need to be involved in the actions, the passions of our times.” — Nathaniel R. Jones, judge, 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, speaker at the University’s School of Law commencement May 16.

Moore honored

John E. Moore Sr. received a UD honorary degree of doctor of humane letters May 3. With service including chairing the board of Sinclair Community College, leading the Combined Federal Campaign and serving as president of the United Way of the Greater Dayton Area, Moore was praised as “a servant-leader and consummate volunteer.”

The University citation for Moore characterized him as “leading thousands of us to a better, more caring life.”

Before retiring, Moore had a distinguished civilian career at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

All graduated. This was the first year that every African-American in the class graduated, according to law professor Vernellia Randall, who attributed much of that success to the Academic Excellence Program, courses and workshops for first-year law students who are nontraditional, minority, economically or educationally disadvantaged, or disabled. Six of the eight black graduates participated in AEP.

“I think the AEP was absolutely necessary for me,” said Wood, who has bachelor’s and master’s degrees in electrical engineering. “It has been over 10 years since I’d been in a structured academic environment. Had I not done AEP, I wouldn’t have had a clue how to study for law exams.”

Impact player

Ryan Perryman ’98 made his mark. He
• led the nation this season in rebounding with 12.5 per game,
• finished his career as the greatest rebounder in A-10 history (best career average in league play, most in a season, best season average),
• led UD in rebounding four consecutive years (the only player to do so),
• finished his career at Dayton ranked 14th in career scoring and fourth in rebounding and
• in May became the 50th consecutive four-year player to graduate from the University of Dayton.

Student awards

Diverse Student Populations
Shining Star Award — Rashad Young, Laura Rivera

Graduates with honors — Magna cum laude: Bryan Britts, secondary education; Eric Bryant, chemical engineering; Darren Neal, communication. Cum laude: Kwesi Korre, history; Kojo McLenon, finance.

University honors program: Darren Neal

Dual majors: John “Chip” Moore III (grandson of honorary doctorate recipient John Moore)

Special awards

Kaamilya Davis — The Rev. Charles R. Kendall ’29 Memorial Award of Excellence for Achievement in Academic and Athletic Effort.

Eric Bryant (Co-winner) — The Edmund J. Rolinski Memorial Award of Excellence in Leadership and Service — Chemical and Materials Engineering

Darren Neal — The Si Burick Award of Excellence for Outstanding Academic and Curricular Achievement in Mass Media Arts — Communication Mass Media Arts

Kwesi Korre — The Steiner-Beauregard Phi Alpha Theta Service Award for Significant Service Promoting the Activities of the Delta Eta Chapter — History

Melissa Sanders — The Reynolds and Reynolds Co. Award of Excellence to the Outstanding Woman in the Department of Management — Management

Akil Rucker (Co-winner) — Design Project Award to the Team Producing the Best Senior Year MIS Project — Management Information Systems

Eric Bryant (Co-winner) — Music Senior Award for Outstanding Contribution to the University Bands — Music

Bryan Britts (Co-winner) — The Brother Louis J. Faerber, S.M., Award of Excellence to the Outstanding Student in Secondary School Teacher Education — Secondary Education
Students honor Hall for stance

"When a brother wrongs a brother he apologizes," said U.S. Rep. Tony P. Hall, D-Dayton. "This is the foundation for a beginning."

The beginning may have to wait awhile. Hall's one-sentence bill, if passed, would have been a congressional apology to African-Americans for slavery. Instead it drew criticism from some who said it would open old wounds and from others who said it did not go far enough.

Hall's proposal and his efforts to fight world hunger were among the reasons he received the Joseph Cinqué Social Justice Award from UD's Black Law Student Association. He accepted the award this March as part of the School of Law's annual Spiritual Enlightenment Program. Hall spoke then of the role his spirituality has played in his career. He quoted Scriptures that admonish man to feed the poor and aid the afflicted.

Of his proposal that Congress apologize for slavery, he said, "I don't think Congress is ready for it and I'm not sure the people of this country are ready for it," he said. But, he added, "someday we'll apologize for the terrible injustice we did."