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Colorful crèches pop up on campus
Late pledges bring UD over United Way goal
Post-deadline contributions to UD’s United Way campaign have brought total pledges to almost $131,000 — $17,000 over the goal, said campus campaign coordinator Mary Ann Dodaro. Universitywide, 28.3 percent of employees have contributed to the campaign.
Dodaro expressed thanks to the UD community for its generosity.

UD commemorates Marianists’ beatification
UD celebrated the beatification of four Marianist martyrs Nov. 27 with a prayer service in the Immaculate Conception Chapel.
Beatification is the first step in the process of canonization, or recognition of sainthood by the Catholic Church.
The four Marianists, Father Miguel Léibar Garay, Brother Sabino Ayastuy Errasti, Brother Joaquín Ochoa Salazar and Brother Florencio Arnáiz Cejudo were among almost 500 people beatified Oct. 28 for their martyrdom during the 1936-39 religious persecution in Spain. Garay was arrested and shot in July 1936; the others died that September along with two Dominican religious.

Study-abroad applications available this month; intent forms due Dec. 14
Faculty have until Friday, Dec. 14, to declare their intent to submit proposals to teach in the Center for International Programs’ 2009 summer study abroad program.
All faculty members, including lecturers and part-time faculty, are welcome to apply.
Intent-to-apply forms should include basic information such as site location, type of program, classes, program theme and other faculty who may participate.
Information from the intent-to-apply stage will give the center an early and more comprehensive overview of the potential curricular mix and geographic scope of faculty interests, said Sally Raymont, program director. It also may use the advance information to match faculty with similar interests and give feedback to support the development of a full proposal.
The intent forms are available on the center’s Web site, http://international.udayton.edu. To download the form, click on “Education abroad,” select “faculty and staff” in the left column and follow the prompts from there.
Full proposals are due Feb. 22. Applications will be available from the center or from the Web site this month. Sites, faculty and programs for 2009 will be announced in April.
For more information, contact Raymont at 229-3534 or via e-mail at Sally.Raymont@notes.udayton.edu.

Dayton-area junior high school students in an after-school science program with UD students came to campus Wednesday, Nov. 14, to tour the labs in UD’s Science Center.
The students, all participants in the Adventure Central program at Wesleyan MetroPark in Dayton, have been working with UD students since August on a study of Wolf Creek. They presented the results of their stream study on campus Dec. 5.
Geology instructor Katie Schoenenberger and biology instructor Kelly Bohrer oversee the interdisciplinary service-learning project at Adventure Central, which is funded by a $5,000 grant through Ohio Campus Compact secured by the University’s Fitz Center for Leadership in Community.
After the lab tours, the Adventure Central students had a pizza party with their UD mentors in the Keck Environmental Laboratory to discuss going to college, studying science and “what we all want to be when we grow up,” Schoenenberger said.
Mass notification system set for January launch

Public safety to gather contact data this month

With a new mass notification system that comes online in January, UD will be able to communicate critical safety alerts to the entire University community — and, when necessary, to parents hundreds or thousands of miles away — usually within minutes.

This type of system became a priority after the massacre at Virginia Tech last April forced colleges nationwide to consider how they would have responded in a similar situation. Most institutions had neither the technology nor a plan, said Bruce Burt, director of UD Public Safety.

UD purchased its system from 3n Corp., short for National Notification Network, which now provides emergency notification services to Virginia Tech and Pepperdine University. It uses text messaging, cell phones, BlackBerry-type devices, e-mail and instant messaging to deliver emergency messages to students, faculty, staff and parents; rapidly assemble crisis response teams; and provide reliable communication between public safety and administration.

"3n is the one of only a few systems designed specifically for the education community," said Lt. Randall Groesbeck, the UD public safety department’s director of physical security and campus communication. Authorized users of the system will sign in to a Web-based network and choose either a template message — such as a tornado warning — or a custom message tailored to a specific incident, such as a suspicious device, person or piece of mail. The message is delivered to the 3n data center, which then sends the message to any desk phones, cell phones, home phones, e-mail addresses or SMS devices noted in the appropriate delivery list.

3n is a leader in the field of mass notification, Groesbeck said, though hundreds of less established systems have been marketed aggressively to universities in the wake of Virginia Tech.

“During the week of the Virginia Tech shootings, I received telephone inquiries from more than 30 vendors and e-mails from at least 70 more, all with systems intended to improve our physical security posture,” Groesbeck said. “Some schools took the tack of, ‘Just get something in here fast.’ The fact is, emergency notification systems are a relatively new technology. With Y2K, Sept. 11 and Virginia Tech, the demand has increased, and some notification systems have just changed to adapt to the latest crisis. One wanted to adapt a reporting system for residential problems like a clogged sink. They offered us the chance to be a beta tester for free. We said, ‘No way. These are human lives we’re talking about.’"

The mass notification service is just one part of an emergency response plan UD has designed according to the standards set forth in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Incident Management System, known as NIMS, which was developed so responders from different jurisdictions and disciplines can more easily collaborate in responding to natural disasters and emergencies, including acts of terrorism. UD’s plan is an “all-hazards” approach to incident management, providing guidelines for preparation for, response to and mitigation of a wide variety of incidents.

UD also has published an emergency response guide and distributed it as a “ready reference” to every member of the community. The guide provides information pertinent to 13 specific types of incidents, Groesbeck said.

Working closely with the Student Government Association, human resources and UDit, public safety will be gathering emergency contact information from the community. Anyone with a UD login name will be able to update emergency contact information online. People are encouraged to update the information anytime their e-mail, telephone or cellular phone contact information changes.

“Public safety will be judicious in its use of the system, Burt said. “It’s something we will use only if there is imminent threat to people or the property of the University.”

The system undergoes testing at its launch in January and then once per term after that, Burt said.

Related article online

UD No. 1 among international students

UD has the highest overall satisfaction rate among international students compared with other universities both in the United States and overseas, according to the International Student Barometer, the largest study of international student satisfaction.

ISB studies three areas to indicate student satisfaction: learning services, living services and support services. In offering comparative data, the ISB draws on feedback from more than 150,000 students during the last two years.

UD students reported a 95 percent satisfaction rate in support services offered by the international student and scholar services office; worship facilities; and faculty communication skills and expertise. International students at UD rated learning, living and support services significantly higher than students at any other school.

The survey revealed a need for improvement in transportation; in response, the Center for International Programs has established a shopping shuttle service to local food markets such as Meijer, Kroger, Jungle Jim’s and the local Halal and Asian markets. Shuttle services run twice a week.

UD has approximately 300 international students and visiting scholars, accounting for 3 percent of UD’s overall student population. About one-third responded to the survey.

Graduate program’s faculty productivity ranks third in nation

UD’s graduate materials engineering program ranks third in the nation, according to an index measuring faculty productivity.

UD finished behind the University of Alabama and the University of Wisconsin in the 2006-07 Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index. UD placed higher than perennial premier engineering programs at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and the University of Illinois.

The survey, released in mid-November, involved more than 200 research universities. It’s based on faculty publications, citations and financial and honorary awards.

Danny Eylon, chair of graduate materials engineering, said providing classes on cutting-edge materials topics and real-life research opportunities with the Air Force Research Laboratory and the University of Dayton Research Institute are among the program’s strengths.

UD currently ranks second in the nation in the amount of both federally funded and total materials research it performs, according to the National Science Foundation.

Campus visits, applications on the rise

Visits and applications to UD are up this fall, thanks to some new enrollment strategies designed to manage the impending drop in the number of U.S. high school students, said Rob Durkle, UD’s director of admission.

For the increase in applications — up 28.5 percent in November — Durkle attributes UD’s inclusion on Common Application, a Web site where a student can fill out one application and select from more than 300 institutions to which to send it. The Web site is http://www.commonapp.org.

The office also has launched a new communication campaign with guidance counselors nationwide and is working to bring about 25 guidance counselors a year to campus, particularly during distinctive events such as the RISE Forum and the Stander Symposium.

“We’re building brand recognition with them,” said Sundar Kumarasamy, vice president for enrollment management. “We’re trying to get them to remember one thing: UD is a top-tier, top-10 Catholic residential university in the United States. That’s our key message to 38,000 high school guidance counselors nationwide. We have a unique, intellectually stimulating environment that challenges the character of servant leadership. … We are starting boldly and clearly who we are. … It’s not enough just to communicate with students.”

Building diversity is a high priority as well, Kumarasamy said. He and his staff are working aggressively to sustain UD’s African American enrollment, which is up 61 percent in this year’s first-year class over last year’s, and boost enrollment of Asian and Hispanic students.

“It is a significant financial commitment worth hundreds of thousands of dollars, but it’s very important,” he said. “In private education, the educational experience is not complete unless students are in a diverse group.”

It’s starting to pay off, Kumarasamy said.

“We were more aggressive in recruiting minority students in 2006-07,” he said.

“This year, we are up 40 percent in African American students in graduate study.”

For more on UD’s enrollment strategies, see page 10.

“Our program has evolved to provide academic support for advanced materials development in the aerospace industry,” Eylon said.

“Many of the flying titanium alloys, ceramics, polymers, composites and nanostructured materials were conceived and developed in the Miami Valley.”

Academic Analytics, composed of Stony Brook University researchers and Educational Directories Unlimited Inc., developed the FSP Index. The index does not use reputation rankings in its assessments.

—Shawn Robinson

Emerson gift to fund engineering-business program

Emerson Climate Technologies and its parent company, Emerson, are making a $1 million investment in the School of Engineering’s Product Innovation Laboratory.

Emerson Climate Technologies, based in Sidney, Ohio, manufactures Copeland compressors and other components used in air conditioning and refrigeration. It has a history of investing in higher education in Ohio. Emerson’s gift will provide opportunities for engineering and business students to work on product development, potentially spurring new businesses. Students participating in the interdisciplinary product innovation program are exposed to technical product issues, intellectual property potential, market evaluation and business plan development.

“Innovation and creativity are critical to the future of our profession, so this investment will help us remain at the forefront of engineering education,” said Joe Saliba, dean of the School of Engineering. “This investment enables us to create an integrated approach and work closely with our colleagues in business. It will affect the entire curriculum, truly transforming the way we teach.”

—Debra Juniewicz
Crèches popping up all over campus

Gallery showcases fragile paper scenes, antique pop-up books; offices display carvings, marionettes and molds

Mary and Joseph may have been turned away at the inn in Bethlehem on Christmas Eve, but this year the Holy Family has found dozens of places to stay across campus.

More than 40 Nativity scenes, or crèches, on loan from the Marian Library are on display in campus offices and departments ranging from the law school to human resources.

“I think it helps people here feel good about the Christmas season and the special meaning it has for the faculty, staff and students and those visiting the law school,” said Tim Stonecash, assistant dean for external relations in the School of Law.

The law school is featuring five crèches throughout Keller Hall, including a large crèche displayed outside the administrative offices on the second floor.

Other locations include the president’s office, the School of Engineering, the admissions office, parking services and the provost’s office, said Sister M. Jean Frisk, S.S.M., director of special exhibits for the Marian Library. Crèches from around the world will be on view and include handcrafted scenes from Haiti, Mexico and the Dominican Republic in materials ranging from china and porcelain to wood and plastic, she said.

“We were so thrilled at the response from the campus,” Frisk said.

The traditional display at the library, which opened the week after Thanksgiving, features more than 100 paper crèches. A large collection of three-dimensional, antique pop-up scenes from collector Bill Baker is especially noteworthy, said Father Johann Roten, S.M., director of the Marian Library.

“Many of our parents and grandparents will remember the pop-ups,” Roten said. The library display will be on view all year long, allowing for study, classroom field trips and assignments.

A brightly colored tin foil church, a Polish skopca, reflects the gallery’s lights, glinting in gold, silver, ruby, emerald and sapphire, and cozily hides Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. The castle-like structure is about 2 feet tall.

Large marionettes are featured in another crèche from the Slovak Republic. The wooden and artificial stone figures, dressed in cloth outfits, surround the baby Jesus.

The Marian Library gallery is on the seventh floor of Roesch Library. It is open to the public 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and by appointment Saturdays and Sundays. Admission is free.

The library, part of the International Marian Research Institute, has a collection of 1,500 crèches acquired by and donated to the library since 1993.

—Yvonne Teems ’09
Prevention 101
Efforts to curb alcohol abuse

Afer nearly two decades in alcohol and drug abuse prevention and student affairs work, Scott Markland knows very well what doesn’t work in curbing unhealthy drinking among college students: Fear.

Since arriving at UD seven years ago at the behest of a presidential task force led by sociology professor Pat Donnelly, Markland, assistant dean of student development, is finding out what does work, and he’s seeing results.

“Most of the prevention efforts in the ‘80s didn’t work,” he said, recalling the War on Drugs, “Just Say No” campaigns, accident re-enactments on high school front lawns and the memorable series of “This is your brain on drugs” public service announcements.

“This generation is better educated in health and wellness than any other generation before it, but that hasn’t solved the problem of the idea of invincibility, or, for some, the belief that privilege can protect them or insulate them from legal and other consequences,” Markland said. “The research over the last 10 to 15 years is that a coherent, comprehensive approach with multiple strategies is the only way to change the culture.”

At UD, that means combining education with motivation to combat higher-than-average levels of drinking.

“We can empathize with the situation they’re in as college students and act as coaches or partners rather than just talking at them,” Markland said. “We can identify what they want out of their drinking — such as to have fun or fit in socially — and not preach at them, but reflect on how the choices they’re making either fit or don’t fit with what they want to get out of it. For some people, the object is to get drunk. Usually there is an underlying reason for that. What we can do is work with them on dealing with the consequences of that choice.

‘Is this who you want to be? Is this what you want out of your college experience? … If they’re treated like an adult and feel understood, that elicits change.’

UD has seen marked progress since 1999, when Markland first gathered data on student drinking and its outcomes — such as missing class, blacking out and getting sick.

One of the biggest changes has been academic — what Markland has called “taking back Friday.”

“When I first came here, Friday nationwide had, for all intents and purposes, become the first day of the weekend,” he said, adding that the night before had become known as “Thirsty Thursday.”

“Our provost was very supportive early on in asking faculty to increase academic standards, have classes on Fridays, increase the academic profile of UD and reinforce that learning is the primary focus here,” he said. “They needed to hold students accountable, and the faculty came through. We have effectively reclaimed Friday as a serious academic day.”

He has the data to support it.

“Our research surveys have shown that the average number of drinks by individual students on Thursday night has been cut in half over the last five years,” he said. “In our most recent survey, 75 percent of students reported having zero drinks on the previous Thursday night.”

Friday night drinking also has decreased, though Saturday night consumption has not changed in a statistically significant way, he said.

High-risk groups — such as male students in the School of Business Administration — appear to be making some healthy changes as well, Markland said. In 2004, men in the business school reported almost double the average student’s use of alcohol. Their reported consumption has dropped almost 30 percent in three years.

The number of students engaging in frequent heavy episodic drinking has come down by about one-third since 2000. But the biggest difference has been among first-year students and students younger than 21. Half-way through their first year, 23 percent reported being non-drinkers.

One important step has been increasing the number of events on campus that don’t revolve around alcohol — such as the Campus Activities Board’s Weekend Scene program and activities at RecPlex.

“The RecPlex has been a great addition to campus,” Markland said. “But we do need more — and more frequent — activities and more variety to provide students with a better balance in their social life. Alcohol doesn’t have to be a necessary ingredient to a night out.”
rea encouraging results

Screening days bring risky habits to light

In October, UD held its first of two annual Alcohol Screening Day events to help students look objectively at their drinking habits and identify problem drinking or the potential for it.

“It’s all confidential, said Greg Hamell, a graduate student in UD’s college student personnel program. The survey — 14 questions about a person’s drinking habits during the previous 12 months — is based on the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test developed by the World Health Organization for the American Medical Association. Once the student completes the survey, a trained clinician scores the answers and discusses the responses with the student.

Its primary purpose is to help students become aware of their drinking habits and prompt reflection on those habits — whether good or bad.

“We talk about what their score means, both the negative and the positive aspects of it,” said Scott Markland, director of the alcohol and drug abuse prevention office. “We want to reinforce good levels and good choices and alert them to negative choices that could develop into problems.”

Participation has been strong, Hamell said, aided by both incentives from residential staff and implored by faculty.

Sometimes students are surprised that their surveys indicate the potential for problem drinking.

“All college students generally have a skewed notion of what level of use is normal,” Markland said. “They minimize the dangers and risks because of this skewed perception. What we are doing is helping to reset those to evidence-based levels, not perception-based levels.”

Markland reiterates that his office isn’t aiming to abolish alcohol, either.

“Sometimes students misperceive our efforts,” he said. “The truth is that we are trying to help people make the low-risk choices. … By building awareness of what constitutes problem drinking, we are hoping to marginalize high-risk drinking.”

Community approach bringing cultural change

Cultural change at UD has been slow but sure with respect to alcohol use and abuse, says UD’s chief of alcohol and drug abuse prevention.

“It’s a complex social problem, and it takes time,” said Scott Markland, director of the alcohol and drug abuse prevention office. He compares the effort to that of eliminating racism in the United States: It’s not solved, but it’s getting better.

“You acknowledge that it’s complex, and there’s no silver bullet,” he said. “There’s no single thing that will cure racism, and there’s no single thing that will cure alcohol abuse.”

But the changes are gaining momentum, largely due to the support of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Team — ADAPT — a coalition that formed from the same recommendations that brought about Markland’s office in 1999.

“They are bringing the stakeholders to the table and spreading ownership of alcohol abuse campuswide as an issue that affects faculty, staff, students and our neighbors,” he said. “We’re broadening the effort to address the whole environment. We can provide support and recovery for the individual, but if you don’t address the environment, you’re like a gerbil on a wheel, going nowhere.”

The community approach aligns well with the Marianist charism on campus, Markland said.

“It’s a charism of care and mutual understanding of the common good,” he said. “Living in community, we are building authentic community, and only with that and the work of lots of folks can you bring about a change on campus.”

He said he’s encouraged by an increasing interest among students for alcohol-free social events. A group called Club 6, named for the substance-free community of students that started on the sixth floor of Campus South, has grown enough that it now has its own social space in the basement of the apartment building.

“I would definitely classify it as a movement,” Markland said. “It’s a core of students interested in having fun without alcohol.

They’re not necessarily against alcohol or against drinking, and they do battle that perception. It’s more about avoiding the illegal behavior and, for some, promoting appreciation of alcohol rather than abuse.”
Diana Smith

Personal, professional experience converge for Bombeck Center director

Diana Smith is the director of the Bombeck Family Learning Center. She came to the center three years ago after 32 years as a teacher, principal and founder of the early childhood center in the West Carrollton (Ohio) School District and two years developing professional programs for Montgomery County. When she retires, she wants to be a party planner. Smith spent half an hour discussing her life and her career with Campus Report.

What do you do? I would call myself a facilitator. My main job is to make sure that everything works well so that the teachers are supported and have all the resources they need, and families are supported in meeting whatever needs their children have.

Do you have children? I have five, all grown with children of their own, and I have seven grandchildren. My kids’ ages range from 26 to 33, and my grandkids range from 4 months to 7 years. Those children are the light of my life. Besides the children here being the light of my life, my grandchildren are huge in my fun sphere. I always told my own children, “I raised you; I want to spoil the grandkids.” And that’s what I do. I spoil them. They come over, and I have a sign that says, “This is Nana’s kitchen, where memories are made and grandkids are spoiled.” And whatever they want, they get. It’s not anything you would do as a parent. “You want ice cream? Sure.”

What impact has having children and grandchildren had on your work? Having children gives you an understanding of that deep, deep, unconditional love that parents have for their children. You can know all the theory in the world, but when you actually deal with children, you’ve got to love them. So that care in education, that loving, is what came with having children. I always temper decisions with, “How would I want someone to treat my child?”

Has your work in education impacted how you reared your children? Being in education, I had all that theory. I had all that depth of experience. I was very tuned in to watching my children and understanding what they were going through and basically knowing how to deal with things to create positive ends. In the field, you’re trained to observe. So when you’re an educator and you’re a parent, you just naturally do that 24/7. It’s just part of who you are after a while.

How would you describe yourself as a mother? I would say supportive, proud and loving. The greatest joys I’ve had have been through my interactions with my kids. And also the greatest pains come from those that you love so much. I was a supportive parent, but I also had high expectations for them and a lot of respect for them.

How would you describe yourself as an educator? I think almost the same. I honestly feel like the mother here at the center.

—Yvonne Teems

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Bombeck center’s continuity-of-care model aids children, parents

A child says, “Hello,” to the receptionist on her way into the day care. There is no whining, no crying. Dad can leave for work with a feeling of security, with a clear conscience.

Is it getting easier?

The Bombeck Family Learning Center is trying to make it so. Five years ago, it introduced the continuity-of-care method, a cutting-edge strategy for caring for infants and toddlers. The method reinforces a feeling of security in children by allowing them to interact with one consistent teacher during their first three years at the center.

The center assigns teachers to a group of four similarly aged students, and that teacher moves with the students from classroom to classroom as they age and develop.

“Research indicates that security is the basis for all development,” said Diana Smith, director of the center. “What we’re trying to do is minimize … the inconsistency for them.”

The method seems to work, say teachers at the center. Children don’t cling to their parents in the morning when parents drop them off. Instead, they give hugs and say goodbye, said teacher Paula Klosterman.

And bad habits — such as biting — are minimized at ages 1 and 2, when aggressiveness typically rears its head, Klosterman said. The change is likely a result of the continuity-of-care method, she said.

“Trust is very important in the development of the child. Having a … constant caregiver, someone they feel comfortable with, is a very important developmental feature in their lives,” Klosterman said.

The center’s adoption of the continuity-of-care model allows students in the School of Education and Allied Professions to experience the practice of a new theory, said associate professor Shauna Adams, an associate chair for undergraduate curriculum and coordinator of the graduate early childhood education program.

“It’s so much easier to learn a theory when you can see what that theory looks like in practice,” Adams said.

And it’s much easier for parents to juggle jobs and family life when they know their children are happy and secure.

“For the parents to leave with their child feeling happy, that’s got to be such a plus for that mom or dad,” Klosterman said.

—Yvonne Teems
Marianist mission school benefits from beadwork’s bountiful sales

A project that started in March 2006 as a jewelry sale to raise funds for a Marianist school in Nairobi, Kenya, has to date raised more than $12,500 and supported more than 100 students with uniforms, meals and supplies.

The project, known as Beady Eyes, is the charitable brain-child of jewelry designer Chris McCann, a records auditor in the registrar’s office, and colleague Rosey Terzian, a registration systems operator.

Though McCann’s friends had been encouraging her to sell the high-fashion jewelry rather than give it away as gifts, McCann said she wouldn’t feel right profiting from such a venture. Terzian, now informally considered Beady Eyes’ marketing manager, asked her, “Why don’t you give the proceeds to charity?”

Registrar Tom Westendorf, standing in the vicinity during this exchange, asked, “How about Father Marty?”

Marianist missionary Marty Solma, a childhood friend of McCann, had been running Our Lady of Nazareth School in Nairobi and expressed a need for financial support for its 1,500 children ages 5 to 14, McCann said.

McCann agreed, and with that, the service project was off. Since then, colleagues in the office and around the University have been contributing glass and gemstone beads and cash for supplies. Departments on campus have taken orders from friends and family, and some have held in-home shows. A sorority on campus, Theta Phi Alpha, adopted the project as its philanthropy for the 2006-07 academic year and sold thousands of dollars’ worth. The sorority has pledged its support for the coming year as well.

As demand outpaced supply, McCann had to enlist some help. She found it in the handiwork of alumna Amy Kappeler Powers ’92, daughter of registrar’s office colleague Kathy Kappeler. Powers does finishing work and some design on a volunteer basis.

“Every piece is unique, and every cent of the proceeds goes to Our Lady of Nazareth,” McCann said.

Those interested in buying the jewelry may contact Terzian by e-mail for a lunchtime show or come to the registrar’s office to see the inventory. For additional details, contact McCann by e-mail.

Crafters sending scarves to Standing Rock community

A new lunchtime group that convened for the first time in October has already donated 50 scarves to an American Indian reservation in North and South Dakota and meets weekly to produce more.

Crafters for a Cause, started by Melissa Flanagan, assistant director of student involvement and leadership, has about eight regular members who drop by to work on the scarves; others knit and crochet the scarves at home because they can’t make the Wednesday noon meetings, Flanagan said.

UD has been providing service to the Standing Rock reservation for about 17 years. Communication lecturer Mary Anne Angel, who became involved with Standing Rock in 1999, founded the Circle of Light organization in 2000 to engage local dialogue on Native American issues and provide service to the reservation. She also works with the UD service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega to coordinate a Spring Breakout project. For the past four years, volunteers from Alpha Phi Omega have gone to the reservation to serve large community meals, put on a sobriety dance, lead sports and craft activities with children, bring donations of essential goods to be distributed in a traditional gifting ceremony and participate in traditional Lakota Ceremonies, said Mike Horwath, the fraternity’s Spring Breakout chair. More than 8,000 people live on the Standing Rock reservation.

“Scarves are very easy to knit and crochet, and you don’t need an exact size, so they are very easy to donate and fit all kinds of different children and adults,” Flanagan said.

The group is in need of washable yarn; to donate it, drop it off in 307 Kennedy Union or contact Flanagan by e-mail.

Campus minister writes theme song for Catholic conference

The director of UD’s Center for Social Concern has just released a CD of original music and songs – one of them the theme song for the 2007 National Catholic Youth Conference.

Discover the Way is the third CD for Nick Cardilino, who wrote or co-wrote all of the songs on the album. The title song, which bears the same name as the conference, appears twice on the album — once as a rocking anthem and once as a prayerful meditation.

“I always think of my songs as my children, but Discover the Way is most like really having a kid, because it has managed to turn my life upside down — in lots of good ways,” Cardilino said. “One way was getting to perform it at NCYC. Ever since I was a little kid, I have fantasized about being a rock star, singing my songs, dancing around the stage in front of thousands of fans. … The rocking house band and 20,000 singing, cheering people at the Nationwide Arena made this fantasy come true.”

But the real reward, Cardilino said, was knowing that his song was a catalyst for a spiritual experience.

“Numerous times throughout the conference, high school students who were part of the conference choir would get on the stage and lead those same 20,000 people in singing the song, usually the slow version,” he said. “I don’t know if you can imagine 20,000 people ‘praying’ a song that you’ve written, but I have to tell you, watching God work this way has ended up being one of the greatest experiences of my life.”

The conference, organized by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, was held Nov. 8-10 in Columbus, Ohio.

Administrators share strategies for budget, enrollment challenges

This fall, what is projected to be the largest graduating class in U.S. history started its junior year of high school.

From the time these students start college in 2009 to the end of the 2015-16 year, the pool of prospective Ohio college students will drop by 9 percent.

Complicating matters for UD and universities nationwide, the fastest-growing groups in that shrinking age bracket are those with the lowest college participation rates and the greatest barriers to success.

That, said UD President Daniel Curran at a joint faculty and Academic Senate meeting Nov. 9, adds up to greater competition for a smaller number of students on a tighter budget — still with the goals of boosting application numbers, becoming more diverse, reducing acceptance rates, improving the academic profile of incoming classes and setting UD's discount rate at sustainable levels.

At the meeting, UD's top administrators addressed these issues, discussed the budget for fiscal 2009 and shared UD's long-term financial outlook. Thomas Burkhardt II, vice president of finance and administration, said UD had weathered some financial setbacks fairly well over the year. UD awarded $1.2 million more in financial aid than it budgeted and continues to face some higher-than-budgeted expenses for fuel costs including natural gas and increases to the minimum wage in January and July. On the upside, UD has an enrollment size 300 students higher than budgeted; enrolled a larger number of transfer students; purchased contracts that shield the campus from price hikes for three-quarters of its natural gas; and will reduce almost $1 million in costs through changes in its managed health care plans.

At the end of the fiscal year June 30, UD's total assets exceeded $1 billion for the first time. UD plans to continue to supplement standard promotion raises centrally, Untener said, and in the next budget cycle, the provost will request funding again to raise the tenure-track salary minimum.

For staff, Burkhardt reported that the pool increase is budgeted to be 2.75 to 3 percent. For the current year, professional staff pay levels are at 97 percent of target levels, and technical and clerical staff pay levels are at 95 percent.

UD ahead of ‘perfect demographic storm’

In the next two years, colleges are sailing into what UD’s vice president for enrollment management is calling “a perfect demographic storm.”

Once the high school class of 2009 enters college, the United States will see a sudden drop in high school-age population and a significant change in that population’s ethnic makeup and college readiness, said Sundar Kumarasamy. Asian and Hispanic populations are the fastest-growing groups in that age category, and colleges will need to prepare to accommodate people with wider levels of preparedness in both academics and finances.

“We have to emulate the changes forced by the marketplace, and we are ahead of that change,” Kumarasamy said.

Because UD will no longer be able to expect Ohio students to make up 61 percent of the student body, Kumarasamy is setting aggressive goals for reducing that dependence. For the class entering UD in the fall of 2008, he wants out-of-state enrollment to be 45 percent — a significant jump from 39 percent this year.

Kumarasamy and his staff expect to meet or exceed that goal. After widening direct mail communication, launching a marketing campaign for high school guidance counselors, joining a leading multi-institution application program and improving follow-up contact to prospective students, the admissions office is lately seeing a marked increase in both applications and campus visits, said admission director Rob Durkle.

Campus visits by high school seniors are up 8 percent from last year, and almost half of them — 48 percent — are from outside Ohio. Total applications are up 28.5 percent, and applications from out-of-state students are up by about half.
Research-grade telescope puts distant planets in view

Practically invisible to the naked eye, Uranus glows as a light blue ball through the lens of the University of Dayton's first research-grade telescope.

The Meade LX200R, purchased by a team of physics and biology professors with a $6,000 grant from the Learning Teaching Center, has a 12-inch lens easily capable of magnifications higher than 200x — twice the power needed to see Saturn's rings, said Brother Dan Klco, S.M., a lecturer in the biology department.

Its power is not the only attractive feature. “It’s a smart telescope,” Klco said. “Once you align it, it’s programmed to find all sorts of things.”

The telescope is stored on the roof of the College Park Center in a space now dubbed the UD Flyer Observatory, or UFO.

It is currently being used with the Descriptive Astronomy course and Stargazing 101 mini-course, but the sky’s the limit for future uses, Klco said.

—Cameron Fullam

Honors art exhibition gets national exposure

Tricia Hart and Jeanne Palermo of the University Honors and John W. Berry Sr. Scholars programs made a presentation at the national conference of the National Collegiate Honors Council in Denver Nov. 2.

The presentation, “Avoiding Pitfalls While Celebrating the Visual Arts,” highlighted UD’s annual honors art exhibition, which started in 2000 as a collaborative project with the Graul Chair in the Humanities, art historian Roger Crum.

The exhibition showcases the artistic talents of honors and scholars program students; with it, they have a chance to display their creative accomplishments in a museum-like setting — a privilege normally available only to students majoring in fine arts, said Palermo, an assistant director of the honors and scholars programs and the curator and coordinator of the exhibition. Hart is the director of the honors and scholars programs.

This year’s exhibition opens with a reception on Friday, Jan. 11, in the honors and scholars offices, room 125 of Alumni Hall.

Stander Symposium registration opens

Registration is now open for the 2008 Stander Symposium, a showcase of student achievement in faculty-sponsored research, performance and artwork. It will be held on campus April 8-9.

Faculty proposals are due to the Stander Symposium staff March 6; student posters are due March 10. To register, see http://stander.udayton.edu.

The symposium is named in honor of the late UD mathematics professor and provost Brother Joseph W. Stander, S.M., who embodied the spirit of collaboration in the Marianist tradition of education through community.

Jan. 22 MLK breakfast to feature gospel songwriter

After being sold out for decades in the Kennedy Union ballroom, the annual Martin Luther King Jr. prayer breakfast is moving to a larger venue — the Frericks Convocation Center — and changing to a continental breakfast service.

The breakfast, set for 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 22, will feature a keynote address by gospel songwriter and musician Kirk Franklin, winner of two 2007 Grammy awards and founder of Fo Yo Soul Entertainment, an advertising agency and production company with a youth outreach initiative.

Tickets are $8 for students, $10 for faculty and staff and $15 for community members; order tickets at http://tickets.udayton.edu.

Doyle presents on Eucharist, ecumenism at Belgian theological conference

With Christian churches divided in ritual and doctrine, the goal of Eucharistic sharing offers an important motivation to the ecumenical movement. Dennis Doyle, professor of religious studies, argues that the achievement of full, visible communion would be based upon the mutual recognition and acceptance of individual traditions, but not a complete merger.

Doyle’s paper “Full Visible Communion as the Sacramentum et Res of the Ecumenical Movement” was a perfect fit for the sixth international Leuven Encounters in Systematic Theology Conference at Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium.

The theme of the 2007 LEST Conference was “Believing in Community: Eumcnical Reflections on the Church.” In his paper, Doyle agrees that “the Church is a gift from Christ, and the Eucharist is as full as it can be,” which is attested to by historical doctrines concerned with juridical validity. However, separations among brothers and sisters worshiping Christ when the sacrament is considered in relation to lived experience. In order to resolve this conflict, Catholics must achieve a viewpoint that acknowledges both traditional claims to a certain juridical completeness and the many important ways in which Church and Eucharist are incomplete insofar as Catholics lack full communion with other Christians.

Doyle’s paper is expected to appear in a future issue of the academic journal Horizons.

Doyle was one of 12 professors who attended the conference, which was held Nov. 22-24 in Leuven. Doyle and Tricia Hart, who heads the honors and scholars portion of the LEST conference. Timothy Furry presented “The Church as Israel: Prolegomena for Figural and Ecumenical Ecclesiology.” Ethan Smith presented “The Church’s Identity: Between the Triune Life and Historical Others.” Wesley Arblaster presented “When the Societal Bond Breaks ... A Challenge to Differentiation and the Emergent Moral Sphere.”

UD was the only university besides the host to bring more than one student to present a paper, Doyle said. “Their papers were as good as many of the papers presented during the senior day.”

—Liz Sidor

Friday, Dec. 7
Christmas on Campus celebration; no classes in observation of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception; University closed.
Children arrive on campus by bus at 5:30 p.m. for games, activities and entertainment until 8:15 p.m. The Christmas on Campus Chorale begins a candlelight procession from the Humanities Plaza to the Frericks Convocation Center at 8:30 p.m.; Mass for the Vigil of the Immaculate Conception begins at 9:30 p.m. at the Frericks Center.

Friday, Jan. 18
Catacoustic Consort: ‘All the Mornings of the World’
8 p.m., Immaculate Conception Chapel; tickets $5 students; $8 faculty, staff and alumni; $14 general admission; the UD Arts Series presents this Cincinnati-based group directed by Annalisa Pappano, who leads the group on the viola da gamba; the musicians will perform 17th-century music made famous in the award-winning French film Tous les Matins du Monde (All the Mornings of the World); for information: 229-2545.

Tuesday, Jan. 22
Martin Luther King Jr. prayer breakfast
7:30 a.m., Frericks Convocation Center; tickets $8 students, $10 faculty and staff, $15 for community members; keynote address by gospel songwriter and musician Kirk Franklin, winner of two 2007 Grammy awards and founder of Fo Yo Soul Entertainment, an advertising agency and production company with a youth outreach initiative; order tickets at http://tickets.udayton.edu.

Saturday, Dec. 8
Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Celebrated every Dec. 8, this Catholic feast day honors the conception of the Blessed Virgin Mother without original sin.

Tuesday, Dec. 11
Advent reconciliation service
8 p.m., Immaculate Conception Chapel

Saturday, Dec. 15
Diploma exercises
10 a.m., UD Arena

Tuesday, Dec. 18
President’s Christmas celebration
3–5 p.m., Kennedy Union Torch Lounge and first-floor lobby; all faculty and staff are invited to partake in refreshments, music and fellowship.

Monday-Wednesday, Dec. 24-26
Christmas break; University closed

Monday-Tuesday, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1
New Year’s; University closed

Monday, Jan. 7
Classes resume

ArtStreet pots on eBay to aid urban service project
UD residential services facilities and operations manager David Chesar and local artists Kate Meinke and Shannon Crothers have collaborated on 12 pieces of pottery being auctioned online for charity through Dec. 14.

The ArtStreet fund-raising project, now in its third year, will benefit the Dayton Southeast Weed and Seed organization, which identifies neighborhoods as “safe havens” and provides recreation, education, counseling and other support or referrals as needed to reduce drug use and violence.

The pots will be on display in ArtStreet studio D gallery through Dec. 14. Bidding on the online auction site eBay began Dec. 4. To bid, see http://www.ebay.com. Using the search function, enter the keywords “ArtStreet pots.”

Chesar said the event raised $1,300 in its first two years. The goal for this year’s auction is $1,000.