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Happiness is ... UD
Design under way for chapel expansion

Working over the summer with an advisory board and a design team, the chapel renovation committee made measurable progress in discerning the optimal ways for the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception to meet the campus community’s needs.

“We had a healthy dialogue about the various merits of building a new chapel versus expanding the current chapel and came away from the June meeting with a strong preference for continuing the legacy of the current chapel by adding onto it,” said Father Chris Wittmann, S.M., co-chair of the committee and director of campus ministry. “We plan to expand the chapel by adding onto the eastern end with a style very sympathetic to the current building.”

Schematic designs are under development and will be available this fall, Wittmann said.

The committee and the design team — made up of architects, a liturgical consultant, an acoustician and other specialists — have followed the committee’s vision statement and guiding concepts (see http://ministry.udayton.edu) as well as the principles outlined in the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ document “Built of Living Stones: Art, Architecture, and Worship,” which guides church design and renovation. The advisory board — a group of more than 70 students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends — also has provided input in the design process.

UD contributes to shelter expansion

In July, UD pledged $250,000 to a new community effort to create a more effective “gateway” shelter system to help homeless adults and families in Montgomery County transition into permanent housing and jobs.

“We teach our students to lead through service to others,” said President Daniel J. Curran. “The University of Dayton is proud to affirm our Catholic, Marianist identity by contributing our resources to serve those in need in our community.”

In Dayton and Montgomery County on any given night, more than 800 people are considered homeless, and more than 70 families in Montgomery County transition into permanent housing and jobs.

“...considered homeless, and more than 70 people are considered to go unsheltered, according to our Catholic, Marianist identity by contributing our resources to serve those in need in our community.”

UD joins Miami Valley Hospital, Montgomery County and the cities of Dayton and Kettering as partners to fund the $5 million project that will create two new 24-hour shelters, set to open in mid-2009. Curran is a trustee on the community-led Homeless Solutions Policy Board, which approved the plan.

UD among best colleges to work for

UD was recognized in The Chronicle of Higher Education’s Great Colleges to Work For issue July 18.

In a survey conducted of 15,000 administrators, faculty and staff at 39 public and 60 private universities, UD excelled at career development opportunities and a strong benefits program. UD was recognized in three categories: professional/career development; tuition reimbursement; and disability insurance. The issue also featured an op-ed piece by Joseph Untener, UD’s associate provost for faculty and administrative affairs — “Giving Birth to a Good Policy: Here’s What to Consider in Drafting a Sound Maternity-Leave Plan for Faculty Members.”

New trustees excel in finance, management

UD has named four new trustees to three-year terms.

George Hanley ’77 is president of the Hanley Group and chair of Infinium Capital Management in Chicago. A gift from Hanley financed the design and construction of the Hanley Group Derivatives Trading Center in the School of Business Administration.

D. Darlene Gutmann owns D&G Manage-
ment, a real estate management firm that owns and manages a number of sites in the Oakwood, Ohio, business district. The Max and Darlene Gutmann Lectureship in Judaic Studies at UD promotes Jewish-Christian dialogue on campus and throughout the Dayton region.

John Riazzi, founder and principal of Riazzi Asset Management in Oakwood, is a chartered financial analyst.

Kurt Sanford, president of global operations for Reed Elsevier’s legal division, the LexisNexis Group, has an MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

**Campaign surpasses $55 million mark**

With gift commitments of $40 million in fiscal year 2008, UD has raised $55 million toward its comprehensive fundraising campaign, reports Deborah Read, vice president for University advancement.

“This puts us in a very good position for reaching our goals, not just for the campaign, but for the future of the University,” said President Daniel J. Curran. “It shows that we have strong support in the community and beyond for what we value and for what sets us apart from other universities — primarily, our Catholic, Marianist identity, our outstanding scholarship and the transformative education we provide.”

Joe Saliba, interim provost, attributes the growth to the connection that alumni and friends maintain with UD after they internalize the UD mission.

“The loyalty of our alumni and friends is truly exemplary,” Saliba said. “Their support and engagement is vital to our continued success ensuring we remain one of the finest institutions of higher learning and a leader in Catholic higher education. … They make it possible to sustain the momentum of new innovative programs, state-of-the-art facilities, and rich and unique academic experiences for students and faculty alike.”

Faculty have been playing an important role in UD’s fundraising, Saliba said. Geology professor Don Pair, for example, worked closely with development officer Rory Dahlinghaus in securing a recent gift to support students’ summer field research in earth science.

**Campus contributions top $800,000**

Faculty and staff contributed almost $825,000 to the annual fund in fiscal 2008, said Kelli Holmes, assistant director of annual giving. That’s a significantly higher amount than in previous years because of a large single contribution.

Faculty and staff giving is important for meeting UD’s fundraising goals, Holmes said. Besides being a positive reflection on UD, strong participation by faculty, staff and alumni receives consideration in rankings and is one of the criteria many foundations use for making grant awards.

“For faculty and staff giving shows we’re committed to the University’s mission on a large scale,” Holmes said. “I hope more people on campus will consider it seriously in next year’s annual fund campaign. Our work here is important, and our gifts help UD to serve students and the community better.”

Happiness is ... UD

The Princeton Review’s 2009 edition of The Best 368 Colleges listed UD as one of the nation’s best institutions for undergraduate education with some of the happiest students in the nation.

For the first time, UD ranks No. 7 in the country in “Happiest Students.” UD retains its No. 11 ranking in “Everybody Plays Intramural Sports.”

The Princeton Review describes UD as academically challenging yet unpretentious, a campus where porches symbolize “community.”

The book’s definition of “happy” fits aptly with what UD students reported: “The happiest students are those who have found their place in a college that meets their academic and social needs, leaving them with so many activities that there’s just not enough time in the day to be homesick or stressed.”

**UD up 4 spots in ‘U.S. News’ ranking**

In U.S. News & World Report’s 2009 edition of America’s Best Colleges, UD moved up four spots to 108th among 262 universities nationally that offer a wide range of undergraduate, master’s and doctoral degrees. Among national Catholic universities, UD ties for eighth. Among national private universities, UD ranks No. 56 — up two spots from 2008.

“Our ranking affirms our status as a top-tier national, private Catholic university,” President Daniel J. Curran said. “This is a result of our distinctive faculty and students and UD’s offering of a transformative education, rich learning and living environment and curricular innovations.”
Prof studies theology of marriage, singleness

Jana Bennett has joined UD as an assistant professor of religious studies.

Her research is in the theology of marriage, family and singleness, and she studies ethics in relation to history, sacraments and ecclesiology. Her book Water is Thicker than Blood: An Augustinian Theology of Marriage and Singlehood was published in February by Oxford University Press.

Bennett generally teaches Christian ethics and faith and justice; this fall, she’s also teaching a class on Augustine of Hippo. Before coming to UD, she taught three years at Hampden-Sydney College in Farmville, Va. She earned her doctorate from Duke University in 2005.

Mathematician spent 20 years in Holy Land

Maher Qumsiyeh has joined the mathematics department as an assistant professor. He’s teaching the first and third courses in the analytic geometry and calculus series.

Before coming to UD, Qumsiyeh was an associate professor at Bethlehem University in the Holy Land for 20 years, serving the past nine as chair of the mathematics department.

He earned his doctorate in mathematical statistics from Indiana University in 1986 and now focuses his research on asymptotic expansions in regression, bootstrapping and comparisons between the bootstrap and empirical Edgeworth expansions.

A new foundation for Omega Point

Omega Point, the sculpture that has graced the main entrance of Roesch Library since its opening in 1973, has been relocated to a new base on the library lawn northwest of its original site.

The 42-inch sculpture by 1951 education graduate and former Marianist priest Henry Setter was cast in nine aluminum pieces by the Valentine Match Plate Co. in Dayton. The sculpture was installed on campus the week of Labor Day 1973.

On the sculpture’s base, a plaque explains the inspiration for the work in the words of French Jesuit philosopher Pierre Teilhard de Chardin: “Omega Point is the furthest point of the whole cosmic process: A final point where the law of universal love will have reached its climax and its crown — Christ.”

Setter also sculpted two other prominent works on campus — Eternal Flame, the bronze statue of John F. Kennedy in front of the Kennedy Union, and Seat of Wisdom, a Marian sculpture in cherry, mahogany and walnut. Now on display in the lobby of Roesch Library, Seat of Wisdom was Setter’s gift to the University. Setter and his wife, Martha, live in Georgia.

On the move ... ADAPT and advancement

The staff of the office of alcohol and drug abuse prevention (ADAPT) — Scott Markland, Brother Tom Farnsworth, S.M., Greg Hammell and Julie Hauer — has moved to the McGinnis Center. Markland said he hopes the new location will make the office more approachable and improve student perception of the University’s work to prevent alcohol and drug abuse. The phone number is now 229-1233; the campus zip is now 2610.

The advancement division has moved to the sixth floor of College Park Center on Brown Street. See story at http://campusreport.udayton.edu/News_Digest_Article/?contentId=15221.
In an area that was once an asphalt expanse outside the Powerhouse between Liberty Hall and Kennedy Union grows a garden whose visual appeal is but a secondary purpose.

It’s called a rain garden, designed to collect, retain and slowly absorb water runoff from surrounding surfaces or act as a natural filter so that by the time the water enters a storm sewer or stream, it’s clean.

“The hope for this one is that it won’t even have to enter a storm sewer,” said campus environmental sustainability coordinator Joel Brand.

“The biggest role is that it slows down the flow of water instead of shooting off into sewer and river systems.”

It’s the first designated rain garden on campus, Brand said. Two more are planned, with one slated for completion this summer behind Virginia W. Kettering residence hall, said Beth Keyes, executive director of facilities management. A rain garden’s design is fairly simple, Keyes said. A shallow depression is layered with porous materials such as gravel, sand and mulch to allow water to infiltrate, and it’s planted with native wetland plants or wet-prairie wildflowers and grasses. It makes good use of stormwater runoff and protects water quality in lakes and streams, Keyes said.

Elsewhere on campus, the exterior and roof of the athletics practice facility have been renovated, and the new windows and roof façade are nearing completion on Kettering Laboratories, Keyes said. Chaminade Hall received new energy-efficient windows, and parking lots B and C have been repaired and resurfaced. Throughout campus, new concrete and pavers have been installed to improve safety, traffic and aesthetics. Crews also completed the first phase of a renovation of Virginia W. Kettering residence hall, Keyes said.

After a $4.7 million renovation to the Marycrest residence hall, the dining room now has the look and feel of a restaurant, said Paula Smith, director of dining services. Diners and her staff — particularly Mary Elbeck, general manager of the Marycrest dining room, and Kathy Browning, associate director of dining services — worked closely with designers to incorporate the concept, which provides food service to students through the day and late into the evening.

Marycrest — home to nearly 900 students — also received a new look for its first two floors. Changes include a new chapel and sacristy; new meeting rooms; new offices for campus ministry, residence education and residential properties; new restrooms; a new front desk; and new lobby furniture. These Marycrest upgrades, along with residence room remodeling, totaled $25 million during the past three years.

Work continues on the design process for the renovation and expansion of the Immaculate Conception Chapel; its committee and advisory board have met throughout the summer to assess needs, guide the design and ensure that the renovation balances the spiritual, sacramental and practical needs of the campus community.

Dorian Borbonus has joined the history department as an assistant professor after spending the past two years as a lecturer in the department.

He earned his doctorate at the University of Pennsylvania in Mediterranean archaeology.

“There are many crossovers between archaeology and history,” he said. “Much of what I do in my research is actually ancient history.”

Those intersections will be apparent to his students this term; besides teaching an introductory course, The West and the World, he’ll teach a seminar in European history focusing on Roman social history.

His research is apt to the seminar.

“I study the position of slaves and freed slaves in Roman society through their distinctive tombs, the so-called columbaria, that look a little like catacombs but predate them by about 200 years,” Borbonus said. “Columbaria are collective tombs reflecting the solidarity among their occupants who shared the experience of slavery.”
Marianist university leaders develop long-term strategy

At the Marianist Universities Meeting June 2-5 at UD, the presidents and senior leaders of the three U.S. Marianist universities gathered to develop a strategic plan and assess the Marianist character of the institutions.

Members of the Association of Marianist Universities declared lay leadership development a top priority, said Father Paul Marshall, S.M., UD’s rector. Attendees also discussed results of the most recent National Survey of Student Engagement to determine whether students are learning in a Marianist fashion.

The association is developing a survey similar to the NSSE that will assess civic engagement at the three universities. George Lisjak, director of Marianist educational studies and partnerships for the Marianist Province of the United States, is working with two faculty members in the UD sociology department to develop the instrument; the survey will be conducted independently of NSSE.

The AMU includes UD, Chaminade University of Honolulu and St. Mary’s University of San Antonio.

Priests, pastoral ministers consider Mary in parish life

The Marian Library/International Marian Research Institute sponsored Mary in the Life of the Parish, a symposium for priests and pastoral ministers, July 21–23 at UD. Organized by IMRI associate professor Father François Rossier, S.M., IMRI graduate student Michelle Foley and library staff, the conference addressed educating, celebrating and reaching out with Mary. It drew more than 50 attendees from the United States, Poland, Korea, Italy, India, Venezuela, Mexico, Kenya, the Philippines and Ivory Coast. Talks included:

- Speaking of Mary to non-Catholics
- Mary in contemporary catechesis
- Reaching out with Mary to immigrants, youth, family, elderly and shut-ins
- Speaking of Mary in homilies
- Art celebrating Mary

Father David Brinkmoeller of St. Helen’s Parish in Dayton gave the keynote address; besides Rossier, other speakers included Father Bertrand Buby, S.M.; Michael Duricy; Sister M. Jean Frisk, I.S.S.M.; Sister M. Danielle Peters, I.S.S.M.; Marian Library/IMRI director Father Johann Roten, S.M.; Father Timothy Sauppé; and Father Thomas Thompson, S.M.

UD presented the 2008 Marianist Service Awards

UD turned out to be an ideal environment for Chef Herbert Schotz: He’s always teaching. Raised and trained in Germany, Schotz came to the United States in 1975 after an apprenticeship and three years’ service working out of a mobile kitchen truck in the German army. When he landed in Tampa, Fla., on a temporary visa, he found a shortage of European-trained chefs, abundant options, and everywhere he turned, unprofessional kitchens.

“Food is the most important commodity for human survival, and here it was being done by the most unprofessional people,” he said. “Don Cesar, another German chef there, felt the same frustration in getting professional people.

It was like starting from scratch, he said.

“You must have quality, sanitation, fresh product,” he said. “You can’t just throw something in the skillet and that’s it. ... So I thought, ‘While I’m there, I’m going to train people.’ I’ve been training people ever since then.”

Schotz loves his work at UD, he said, particularly helping students learn the finer points of the profession. He’s precise — always reminding his workers of the importance of presentation and consistency — but he’s equally practical, with legal pads full of notes, tasks and schedules, and clipboards loaded with charts of quantities, guest counts, staffing needs and other data.

Events — from large wedding receptions and trustee dinners to the more intimate food and wine soirées he puts on with management information systems professor Tom Davis — bring him great joy when they run smoothly and have happy, satisfied diners. Consistently, they do.

“If I ever get to a point where I don’t like preparing for Reunion Weekend or freshman orientation, that’s the time to move on to something else. If you don’t like your job, you can’t be happy.”

“I know I am only as good as my last meal”

He is.

“All the places I’ve worked have been good,” he said. “Any place you work can be the best job or the worst job. The job is what you make of it. I give it my 110 percent. I give it my all. I have never had a job I didn’t like. If I did not like it, I moved on.” He’s been at UD 22 years.

He’s complimented regularly, but he credits his competent and well-trained staff.

“My staff has a say in how we do things,” he said. “They make sure it happens properly because they contribute. ... If in your absence the place falls apart, you are a bad manager.”
Awards to Herbert Schotz and Jill Talley.

Erect whose behavior, over a significant number of years, is Catholic and Marianist character of the University.

Service Awards

‘God gives you signs’

Honors and scholars program coordinator Jill Talley seems to have a way of connecting with students.

Some come to her office on official business — turning in paperwork or getting something signed; others park on the couch in her office for a few minutes while they wait for their advisors’ doors to open, sometimes intending nothing more than small talk. Before long, however, they’re making a point of stopping in to visit anytime they’re near the first floor of Alumni Hall.

Heidi Good Gauder, an associate professor in the Roesch Library and a 1990 honors program graduate, remembers doing the same.

“She put me at ease while I waited to talk to (history professor and then-program director) Pat Palermo about my coursework, the thesis and the usual academic stuff that causes angst,” Gauder said. “She has such an easy way with people. ... She just seems to get the students of the program and knows how to work with them.”

Talley, who came to UD in 1984, insists she’s just doing what she’s been taught her whole life.

“Being kind to others and treating others the way you want to be treated — I’m just doing what my parents taught me,” Talley said. “God gave it to my parents, my parents gave it to me, I gave it to my children, and now, I teach it to my grandchildren.”

The students who come into Talley’s office are among UD’s best and brightest undergraduates. When they’re feeling stressed, when they’re worked up about projects, presentations and deadlines, Talley’s calming manner consistently brings them back to earth. But they give her much more, she said, and they aren’t even aware of it.

“We talk,” said Talley, who earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology from UD in 1996 at Palermo’s encouragement. “I like learning from these students. They are learning so much, and I love to listen to them talk about it.”

Father Paul Marshall, S.M., University rector, said that what Talley decided to do with her $1,000 honorarium is an outstanding reflection of the Marianist charism.

“God gives you signs,” Talley said. “I wanted to award it to a student from the Dayton Public Schools, but I didn’t have anyone in mind at the time, so I told Father Paul we could just wait. Then Martell Gamble comes in my office to see (mechanical engineering professor) Drew Murray.”

Gamble, a mechanical engineering major, resident assistant and associate professor in the UD education program, sat on the couch in Talley’s office, waiting for Murray’s door to open. While he waited, Talley struck up a conversation and found out Gamble had graduated from Meadowdale High School in the Dayton Public Schools. His principal there had been a teacher of Talley’s at Roth High School, which is closed.

“He’s an example of the Dayton Public Schools, and I’m proud of him for getting as far as he has,” Talley said of Gamble, a co-op student with Toyota for the past three summers. Right then, she told him what she planned to do with her honorarium: give it to him to help pay for school.

“I told him, ‘Fly like a bird. You’d be surprised where you might end up,” Talley said. “I hope he will come back.”

MEA movement magnifies Marianist charism

UD’s fourth cohort of Marianist Educational Associates — a campus community of lay people dedicated to strengthening and developing UD’s Catholic and Marianist character and mission — began a year of spiritual formation over the summer after declaring their commitment in a service Tuesday, April 22.

The new associates are Mary Buchwalder of the health center, Joyce Carter of human resources, John Courtney in advancement, Bill Hunt in advancement, Margaret Lisjak of the School of Business Administration, Jack O’Gorman of University libraries, Crystal Sullivan of campus ministry and Paul Vanderburgh of the School of Education and Allied Professions.

The MEA concept is a strategy for ensuring that the three Marianist universities sustain and strengthen the Catholic and Marianist traditions of education on each of the campuses.

“It’s a movement,” said Father Paul Marshall, S.M., UD rector. “It engenders the right kind of conversations about what our mission and our purposes are. ... It’s a vocation, a calling to live a certain way, to act according to certain virtues and do things in a certain methodology.”

President Daniel J. Curran, an MEA from the 2005-06 cohort, noted that the associates’ greatest influence is their presence and engagement.

“By their attitudes and values, their presence helps to shape the conversations and decisions,” Curran said. Those decisions, in turn, reflect UD’s Marianist character.

Marianist school leaders discuss marketing, mission

July 24-27 at UD, the Marianist Education Consortium held its 22nd annual summer workshop for teachers and administrators from Marianist high schools.

The workshop, which focused on the marketing of Marianist education, included sessions on understanding the mission of the Marianists in education; marketing from the perspective of mission; branding; developing marketing plans; collaborative marketing; media relations; and best practices. George Lisjak of the UD Center for Catholic Education, director of Marianist educational studies and partnerships for the Marianist Province of the United States, coordinated the event. Brother Stephen Glodek, S.M., provincial superior of the Marianist Province of the United States, gave the keynote address. The consortium is the association of Marianist high schools in the Society of Mary’s U.S. province.

The workshop drew about 60 participants.
News anchor kicks off Diversity Lecture Series Sept. 10

CNN newscaster Soledad O’Brien and Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, the first female bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, will headline UD’s 2008-09 Diversity Lecture Series.

O’Brien kicks off the series at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 10, in the Kennedy Union ballroom. She covers the presidential race and is an anchor and special correspondent for CNN: Special Investigations Unit. Her talk is free.

Gideon Yago, MTV News correspondent, and Reza Aslan, author of *No god but God: The Origins, Evolution and Future of Islam*, tour college campuses to explore the intersection of faith, politics and society in the Middle East. Their free talk is slated for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 11, in the Kennedy Union ballroom.

McKenzie comes to Dayton Jan. 19-20 to keynote two Martin Luther King Jr. Day events. Author of *Not Without a Struggle: Leadership Development for African American Women in Ministry*, McKenzie will speak at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 19, at the Dayton Convention Center (call 268-0051 for ticket information) and will headline UD’s Martin Luther King Jr. prayer breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20, in the Frericks Center (call 229-2545 for tickets).

Sweet Honey in the Rock, a Grammy Award-winning a cappella ensemble, rounds out the series at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 23, at the Benjamin and Marian Schuster Performing Arts Center. Tickets start at $15. Call 228-3630 or 229-2545. Sweet Honey in the Rock is presented by UD and the Victoria Theatre Association.

at the galleries

**UD ArtHop**

Take a self-guided tour to see recent works from the UD summer student artist-in-residence program. Artwork is up on all floors of Marianist Hall, the Founders Hall lobby, all lobbies of Marycrest Hall, the plaza and main entry of Virginia W. Kettering Hall, the lobby of Lawnview Apartments and the Studio R hallway of ArtStreet.

ArtHop also includes the following campus exhibitions:

- **Rike Center Gallery:** Works by Claire Sherwood
- **Marianist Hall Learning Space:** The Amazing Cut Paper Art of Mary Gaynier
- **ArtStreet Studio D Gallery:** Sculpture by UD senior art major Mark O’Brien (details below)
- **ArtStreet Café:** Collages by Jane Bickford

**Capable of Being: Mark O’Brien**

Through Sept. 10 in ArtStreet Studio D Gallery; exhibition features new sculptures and drawings by senior fine arts major Mark O’Brien created during a summer residency at the Penland School of Crafts.

**New Artwork from Antarctica: Chris Kannen**

Sept. 15-Oct. 11 in ArtStreet Studio D Gallery; exhibition features art from Antarctica by UD alumnus Chris Kannen on a National Science Foundation grant; artist lecture 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17, in Studio B.

**Light and Color: Works by Rina Thau**

Oct. 2-24 on the mezzanine of Roesch Library, second floor; exhibition features paintings by local Jewish artist Rina Thau, a native of Israel; a display of Thau’s smaller paintings is on view in Roesch Library’s first-floor display case through Oct. 1.
Free health assessment aims for wellness, prevention

In a project to boost employee wellness and reduce health care expenses, UD will hold free on-campus health screenings in October to determine what employees can do to stay well or whether they’re at risk of developing illnesses.

The health risk assessments, which include a blood sample and a lifestyle questionnaire, will be conducted in the Kennedy Union ballroom Tuesday and Wednesday, Oct. 7-8, by HealthWorks, an independent wellness consultant selected by UD.

They’re strictly confidential, said Joyce Carter, vice president for human resources. The results are not shared with the University or with any of UD’s health plans, and they in no way will affect an employee’s eligibility for health coverage.

“This is about employee wellness,” Carter said. “Good companies and organizations are doing this for their employees. If we catch health issues before they start, everyone wins. Employees benefit because they’re healthy and feel good; the University benefits because healthy employees can come to work; and, healthy employees have lower health care expenses, and the University benefits from that.”

The health profile, which will be mailed to the employee’s home, will include a lipid profile, glucose reading, blood pressure and body mass index. On campus, Healthworks will hold sessions explaining how to interpret the results; individual consultations also will be available.

HealthWorks will assemble all of the results into a cumulative health profile, and UD can then develop appropriate wellness programs that address areas that seem to be problems, said Beth Schwartz, employee benefits manager. For example, if a large number of UD employees show elevated risk for diabetes, UD can plan wellness programs about healthy eating, exercise and diabetes prevention.

Wellness is a sensible component of an employee health plan, Carter said. The cost of health care to the University is only going up, she said. Wellness, prevention and early detection of illness can go a long way to reducing future health costs.

Besides getting the free assessment during the workday without having to drive to a doctor’s office, each participant will receive a $25 gift card from Meijer and a book about healthy lifestyles.

Discussions explore Jewish literature

In a community reading program called Let’s Talk About It! Jewish Literature: Identity and Imagination, a UD English professor will facilitate Neighbors: The World Next Door, a series of discussions on literature by Jewish authors.

Miriamne Krummel, who specializes in medieval literature, will lead the monthly discussions, which take place 2 to 4 p.m. Sundays in the first-floor gallery of Roesch Library. They’re free and open to the public, but registration is required; call 229-4238. The reading group is full, but a waiting list is available.

At the first meeting Aug. 24, the group discussed Journey to the End of the Millennium, by Isaac Babel. The next meetings:

- Sept. 21: Red Cavalry, by Isaac Babel
- Oct. 19: Neighbors, by Jan T. Gross
- Nov. 16: The Assistant, by Bernard Malamud
- Dec. 14: Mona in the Promised Land, by Gish Jen

Roesch Library assistant professor Ione Damasco organized the community event, which is made possible by a grant from Nextbook and the American Library Association; other community partners include the Dayton Metro Library, Temple Israel and the Dayton Jewish Community Center.

Register online or by phone

See the HealthWorks Web site — http://www.cincyhealthworks.com/ — and click on “schedule an appointment.” Or, call 513-751-1288. Note: Registrants should eat nothing for 10 to 12 hours before their appointments. Drinking water is highly encouraged.

Prof specializes in political sociology

Jeremy Forbis has joined the sociology, anthropology and social work department as an assistant professor of sociology. He earned his doctorate in August from Ohio State University and spent the past year at UD as a sociology lecturer. He teaches research methods and data analysis. Specializing in political and comparative sociology, his interests also include civil society, political violence, social movements and corruption.

Music as a means of multiculturalism

Sharon Davis Gratto has joined the music faculty as department chair and professor. Before coming to UD, she was coordinator of music education at the Sunderman Conservatory of Music at Gettysburg College in Gettysburg, Pa., where she conducted the women’s choir, a world music ensemble, and the Gettysburg College children’s choir.

She has taught in Germany, Spain, Nigeria and the Washington, D.C., area. She is the national repertoire and standards chair for ethnic and multicultural perspectives for the American Choral Directors Association.
Beyond the basics: New-student orientation

New model blends pragmatism with charism

At many universities, new-student orientation does exactly what its practical moniker implies: It helps students find their way around — where to eat, where to buy books and where to pay the bills.

At UD this year, it was so much more, said Sister Annette Schmeling, R.S.C.J., vice president for student development and dean of students.

The four-day program, administered by 13 student leadership executives, included all of the pragmatic elements of traditional programs — move-in, welcome speeches, a resource fair, meet-and-greet events and a family picnic — plus a Sunday liturgy and seven small-group dialogues on topics ranging from diversity to UD's Catholic and Marianist identity.

“We’re trying to address, ‘What is the essence of this University that students need to know to get the most out of their University of Dayton experience?’” Schmeling said.

“It’s based on three sine qua non: Quality relationships, academic engagement and passionate purpose.”

More simply put: “Open heart, open mind, open will.”

Each dialogue group of 30 to 40 people was led by what Schmeling called a family of five: a faculty member; a staff member; a peer academic leader; a resident adviser; and a member of student development’s “blue crew,” a cadre of students who help with late-night programs, social events, move-in, welcoming and community development.

“The goal of these dialogues is to frame what is important at UD,” she said. “It sets the expectations for the whole community and for themselves as individuals so that they can make the most of the college experience. ... Here, it’s important to us to have faculty, staff and students involved because learning here happens in the context of community.”

Really, it’s more like formation than orientation, Schmeling said, adding that as far as she can tell, UD’s approach is unique. The University of Denver and Willamette University in Oregon have incorporated dialogue, but it’s strictly faculty-led. At UD, the “families of five” support the dialogues under the guidance of the peer academic leaders, who received training from dialogue researcher and facilitator Glenna Gerard in the days leading up to orientation, Schmeling said.

Colloquium to consider energy’s economics, politics

In a six-session energy colloquium that starts Sept. 24, a UD faculty member aims to promote dialogue about the politics and economics of energy and the environment.

At the colloquium’s first session, which will be filmed before a live audience from 5 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 24, in Kennedy Union Ball Theatre, three scientists and a philosopher will consider geographical change, planet-friendly living and ecosystems’ response to climate change, said colloquium coordinator Glenn Walters, media executive-in-residence in the UD communications department.

Questions can be called in by telephone or sent by e-mail, instant message or SMS text messaging. Questions not read and answered on air will be posted to an online discussion forum, Walters said.

The remaining sessions will be filmed from the Flyer TV studio, broadcast live on FlyerTV and simulcast by public-access stations in Dayton, Xenia, Springfield and Oxford, Ohio, Walters said. They’ll also be replayed on Flyer TV and in streaming video.

Schedule
Sept. 24: Climate Change
Oct. 22: Good to the Last Drop? Depletion
Nov. 19: Energy and Environment in the Media
Jan. 28: Economics of Energy
Feb. 25: Politics of Energy
March 18: Renewable Energy Alternatives

25 lessons on nonviolence

In UD’s version of the National Endowment for the Arts’ Big Read, incoming first-year students are meeting regularly in their first term to discuss the book they read over the summer — Mark Kurlansky’s Nonviolence: Twenty-five Lessons from the History of a Dangerous Idea, winner of the 2007 Dayton Literary Peace Prize. Discussions focus on how the book’s lessons can apply to relationships, society, values, mission, spiritual growth and personal development, said Lori Phillips-Young, coordinator of the first-year read.

This term, faculty who teach first-year students have been asked to devote at least one class period to some aspect of the book, said Phillips-Young, who prepared materials for each of the book’s 25 lessons. Every Thursday night from orientation through October, small groups from orientation will gather to discuss it.

On Thursday, Sept. 25, Kurlansky will give a lecture in the Frericks Convocation Center on the book; small-group discussions will follow. Over the next three days, Kurlansky will be on campus for a series of smaller “lecture and learn” forums.

On Sunday, Sept. 29, Kurlansky will present the 2008 Dayton Literary Peace Prize for nonfiction in a ceremony at the Schuster Center in downtown Dayton.

For a book, contact Phillips-Young at 229-3449.
Nun, city manager, volunteer, engineers to garner alumni honors

Sept. 19, UD’s National Alumni Association honors an engineer, a nun, a city manager, a nanomaterials scholar and a community servant with its 2008 alumni awards.

For the Distinguished Alumnus Award, the association selected 1978 electrical engineering graduate John McHale for his achievements in business, technology advancement and innovation. Having built businesses with high value and profitability, he has sold his ventures to major worldwide companies and extended the reach of his products to much larger markets. McHale has remembered his alma mater generously as well, committing millions to programs that reflect his beliefs, his values and his passions — arts, diversity, education, leadership and athletics.

Sister Rosemary Wack, S.N.D. de N., a 1958 secondary education alumna, receives the Christian Service Award for living out the Marianist ideals in today’s society. Wack has spent her entire adult life in the service of others in the United States, Kenya and Zimbabwe as a teacher, administrator and nurse.

Dayton City Manager Rashad Young, a 1998 management graduate who earned his MBA from UD in 2004, receives the Joe Belle Memorial Award for volunteer service to students and early career achievement. Like the late Joe Belle, the longtime director of residential services at UD, Young places great value in community: “My ability to influence, direct, make things happen in the community is dependent on my ability to build consensus between people. Sometimes these groups agree, but more often they do not. You have to sift through all the competing interests to bring people together.” He’s also committed to youth in the community and to UD students, particularly minorities. He speaks at leadership conferences at UD and has been a mentor to several UD students, including a current engineering student who graduated from Young’s alma mater, Middletown High School.

“Service is about giving back to your community in the Marianist tradition,” said Young, a W.S. McIntosh Scholar at UD. “It’s my responsibility as a community citizen. Here, I get to do that every day.”

William King, a 1996 mechanical engineering graduate, receives the Special Achievement Award for distinction in professional or civic activities. King, an eminent scholar in micro- and nano-scale thermal processing, received the 2005 Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the highest federal government award given to an untenured professor. Since 2006, he’s been an associate professor and the Kritzer Faculty Scholar in the mechanical engineering department at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Vicki Edwards Giambrone, a 1981 communications graduate who earned a master’s in public administration from UD in 2001, receives the Special Service Award for volunteer service to the National Alumni Association. Diagnosed with Hodgkin’s disease in 1978, her first year at UD, Giambrone didn’t want to drop out of college. With the support of faculty, family and her new UD friends, she didn’t have to. Then she did something even the healthiest students seldom achieve: She graduated early.

Grateful to UD for walking with her through her difficult recovery, Giambrone immediately began “paying it back.” For 10 years, she gave a guest lecture in a class on death and dying; she served on the association’s alumni services and public relations committees; she helped develop the first Erma Bombeck Writers’ Workshop and the national Leadership with Virtue awards program and symposium; she served eight years on the National Alumni Association board of directors, four of them as president; and as a trustee, she had a role in UD’s recent purchase of 50 acres from NCR Corp. She’s now an honorary member of the board of trustees, a member of the board’s athletics committee and an advisory board member for the renovation and expansion of the Immaculate Conception Chapel.

Bioengineering prof studying Third World illness

Eric Benbow has joined the biology department as an assistant professor and is teaching an introductory biology class for biology majors and a course on disease ecology.

Benbow earned his bachelor’s and doctoral degrees at UD. Before joining the faculty in August, he was an assistant professor of entomology at Michigan State University.

“I study how ecosystems are structured and how they function by focused research on community dynamics,” Benbow said. “My most recent research addresses how ecological processes are involved with outbreaks of a skin-eating disease in West Africa and Australia.” Benbow and other scientists are studying how the disease — known as Buruli ulcer, Mycobacterium ulcerans infection and the “mysterious disease” — is transmitted.

“It has been emerging rapidly for the last 30 years with major outbreaks in West Africa and southeastern Australia,” he said. “They can become very disfigured, and amputation is not uncommon. It generally doesn’t cause death, though, except in rare cases of untreated secondary infections. It is a horrible disease.”
Monday, Sept. 1
Labor Day
University closed.

Friday, Sept. 5
Faculty Meeting
3 p.m., Boll Theatre, Kennedy Union; meet new faculty at a reception afterward in the Torch Lounge.

Monday, Sept. 8
Friends of the Middle East reception
4-5:30 p.m., Kennedy Union Torch Lounge. Event assembles students, faculty and staff from the Middle East with individuals on campus who have an interest in this part of the world, either professionally or personally.

Tuesday, Sept. 9
Coffee Hour
3-4 p.m., World Exchange Lounge, Alumni Hall 16

Wednesday, Sept. 10
Diversity Lecture Series: Soledad O’Brien
7:30 p.m., Kennedy Union ballroom; free; see article on Page 8.

Thursday, Sept. 11
Friends of Africa reception
4-5:30 p.m., Kennedy Union Torch Lounge. Event assembles students, faculty and staff from Africa with individuals on campus who have an interest in this part of the world, either professionally or personally.

Tuesday, Sept. 16
Intercultural ‘speedmeet’
5-7 p.m., field outside Kennedy Union

Wednesday, Sept. 17
Study-abroad reunion
8:30 p.m., Kennedy Union Pub. All students and faculty who studied abroad during the winter and summer 2008 semesters are invited.

Thursday, Sept. 25
Lecture by Mark Kurlansky
7 p.m., Frericks Convocation Center; author of Nonviolence: Twenty-five Lessons from the History of a Dangerous Idea, see Page 10.

Friday, Sept. 26
Academic Senate Meeting
3 p.m., Kennedy Union 331

Wednesday, Oct. 1
Arts Series: Sacred Song: Estonia’s Heinavanker Choir
8 p.m., Immaculate Conception Chapel; this Estonian early-music vocal ensemble performs Estonian folk songs and sacred music by Renaissance composer Johannes Ockeghem. Tickets $14 general admission; $8 faculty, staff and alumni; $5 students; call 229-2545.

Saturday, Oct. 20
ArtBeat Festival of the Arts
5-8 p.m., ArtStreet amphitheater and plaza. Event features Dayton performing arts groups including Rhythm in Shoes, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, performers from the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra and the Dayton Jazz Ensemble; free and open to the public.

Tuesday, Oct. 7
Coffee Hour
3-4 p.m., World Exchange Lounge, Alumni Hall 16